

THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

15 November 2022.

10.00 am – 1.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Kathleen Leslie (Convener), Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, John Caffrey, Ian Cameron, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Linda Erskine, Alycia Hayes, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Lea McLelland (substituting for Councillor Mowatt), Sarah Neal and Daniel Wilson; and religious interest representatives – Mr. Brian Blanchflower, Ms. Mary Caldwell and Mr. Alastair Crockett.

ATTENDING: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Maria Lloyd, Head of Education and Children's Services (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support), Angela Logue, Head of Education and Children's Services (Primary Schools and Improvement Support), Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support), Stuart Booker, Quality Improvement Officer, Pamela Colburn, Quality Improvement Officer, Murray McBain, Policy Co-ordinator and Zoe Thomson, Quality Improvement Officer, Education and Children's Services; Alison Binnie, Finance Business Partner and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Finance and Corporate Services.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Lynn Mowatt.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

15. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the Education Scrutiny Committee of 28 September 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

16. STAFF WELFARE REPORT - EDUCATION SERVICE STAFFWISE SURVEY 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an analysis of the Staffwise survey undertaken across all educational establishments and centrally based services/teams in February 2022. Detail and an analysis of key results was provided, as well as identification of recommendations and future plans.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the results and analysis of the survey;
- (2) noted the comparisons between the 2022 and 2019 results;
- (3) noted the conclusions and proposed actions as outlined in the report;
- (4) requested a progress report for this Committee's consideration on the Staff Wellbeing Strategy in 6 months' time; and
- (5) agreed that an invitation be extended to the Joint Secretary of Education Trade Unions or their nominated representative to attend this Committee to contribute to future discussion relating to staff surveys.

17. SENIOR PHASE STAGE-BASED OUTCOMES

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Service, Education and Children's Services providing an update on current progress in improving attainment in the senior phase of secondary schooling (stages S4 – S6).

The report provided an overview and brief commentary on the outcomes for Fife for 2022 for cohorts of learners and for specific groups of learners. The report analysed these outcomes in relation to the 5-year attainment trends for Fife and provided further analysis of Fife outcomes in relation to National attainment. The report also described the ongoing work in improving outcomes for learners in the Senior Phase of Secondary school.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the senior phase attainment for session 2021/22 in the context of Fife's 5-year attainment trends;
- (2) acknowledged the next steps identified for Session 2022-23;
- (3) agreed to encourage local elected members to meet with Secondary School Headteachers to discuss their individual school's 2021/22 attainment outcomes and their approaches to improving attainment; and
- (4) requested an update report in 6 months' time on improvement for this Committee's consideration to ensure that the next steps were working.

Councillor Caffrey left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

The Committee adjourned at 11.40 am and reconvened at 11.55 am.

18. ATTAINMENT SCOTLAND FUND 2021-22

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the progress made in the use of the Attainment Scotland Fund (ASF), which encompassed the Schools Programme, Pupil Equity Funding and the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund, during session 2021/2022.

The report provided an update on the work of schools and teams to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap and to support families by reducing the Cost of the School Day.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the progress made by Fife's schools and teams in the use of the Attainment Scotland Fund to positively impact on the educational outcomes of children and young people;
- (2) noted the work of schools in developing approaches to reduce the Cost of the School Day;
- (3) agreed to seek updates on the impact of approaches and interventions on improving educational outcomes for children and young people locally, through individual schools and via Area Committee reports or workshops; and
- (4) requested an update report on spending of the Attainment Scotland Fund for this Committee's consideration, following scheduled discussion with Schools.

19. NATIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING CENSUS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services relating to the arrangements in place for Fife Council to undertake a Survey of Young People's Health and Wellbeing in Fife, based on the Scottish Government National Health and Wellbeing Census, and to respond to the decision of Fife Council by providing information on the proposed content and processes associated with implementation, requiring a decision.

Motion

Councillor Erskine, seconded by Councillor Davidson, moved to recommend to the Cabinet Committee that the Council reject the entire survey, i.e., the Council does not undertake any part of the survey.

Amendment

Councillor Hayes, seconded by Councillor Neal, moved as an amendment to recommend to the Cabinet Committee:-

- (1) considering the range of age-appropriate questions that children and young people would be asked, the approval of Fife undertaking the survey; and

- (2) to include the current set of census sexual health questions in the Fife Young People Health and Wellbeing Survey.

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion - 9 votes

Councillors Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, Ian Cameron, Dave Dempsey, Colin Davidson, Dillon, Linda Erskine, Kathleen Leslie and Mr. Crockett, religious interest representative.

For the Amendment - 6 votes

Councillors Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, Alycia Hayes, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Lea McLelland, Sarah Neal and Daniel Wilson.

The motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the reasons for implementing a Survey within Fife on the Health and Wellbeing of Young People;
- (2) noted the Data Protection arrangements and that data about children and young people would be collected for statistical and research purposes only, as part of Fife Council's duty as a local authority to plan for children's services in our area;
- (3) noted the overall range of key themes included within the questions; and
- (4) notwithstanding the above, agreed to recommend to the Cabinet Committee that the Council reject the entire survey, i.e., the Council did not undertake any part of the survey.

Mr. Blanchflower left the meeting during consideration of the above item, prior to the roll call vote being taken.

20. EDUCATION SERVICE REVENUE BUDGET 2022-23: PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services and the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing an update on the forecast financial position for the 2022-23 financial year, for the areas in scope of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) considered the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report; and
- (2) noted the projected outturn position and the relevant areas of projected over and under spend in the Service.

21. EDUCATION SERVICE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2022-23: PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services and the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing information on the overall progress of the Education Service capital programme for the current financial year 2022-23, including information relating to progress on major projects.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the financial position as detailed in the report; and
- (2) noted that the budget had been revised to reflect the outcome of the Capital Plan review undertaken in February 2021 and the subsequent re-phasing exercise carried out in May 2022.

22. EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Education Scrutiny Committee draft Forward Work Programme.

Decision

The Committee noted the Education Scrutiny Committee draft Forward Work programme which would be updated as required, including:

- Staff Wellbeing Strategy progress report (Para. 16 (4) above refers).
- Senior Phase Stage-Based Outcomes update report (Para. 17 (4) above refers).
- Attainment Scotland Fund 2021-22 update report (Para. 18 (4) above refers).