

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES –  
BLENDED MEETING**

**24 January 2023**

**10.00 am - 11.55 am**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Kathleen Leslie (Convener), Naz Anis-Miah, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, Ian Cameron, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Linda Erskine, Alycia Hayes, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Daniel Wilson, Mr. Alastair Crockett and Ms. Mary Caldwell, Religious Advisors.

**ATTENDING:** Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Education and Children's Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education & Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support); Kevin Funnell, Service Manager (Operations); Deborah Davidson, Education Manager; Rona Weir, Education Manager; Pamela Colburn, Quality Improvement Officer (PE, Physical Activity & Sports), Education & Children's Services; Adam Brown, Depute Principal Psychologist (Strategy), Education Psychological Service; Alison Binnie, Finance Business Partner; and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services, Finance & Corporate Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor John Caffrey and Mr. Brian Blanchflower, Religious Advisor.

**23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**24. MINUTE**

The Committee considered the minute of the Education Scrutiny Committee of 15 November 2022.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**25. REPORT ON THE EDUCATION LED TEST OF CHANGE –  
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAY UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services providing an update on the progress made since the previous report was considered by the Education, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 8 February 2022. That report outlined the work of the Multi-agency Strategic Oversight Group Focus: Neurodevelopmental Pathway. The terms of reference and purpose of the group were outlined in the initial Committee report to the Education and Children's Services Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 9th February, 2020.

The report provided an update on the progress to date of the 'Test of Change' (ToC) which, although in partnership with the NHS, had been led by the Education Service. There were also references to the other two 'Tests of Change' that were also being overseen by the Oversight Group as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) acknowledged the progress of the education-led test of change;
- (2) considered the possible next steps outlined in the report;
- (3) agreed to scrutinise a further report on the ongoing progress on the implementation of the neurodevelopment pathway by education, within six months of the completion of the test of change; and
- (4) agreed that the report at (3) above would include comparative information between referrals through the Neurodevelopmental (ND) Pathway and those made via existing arrangements.

## **26. EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DEFERRAL PILOT**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education and Children's Services providing details of the impact of Fife Council's participation in the Scottish Government pilot scheme to extend the automatic right to receive an additional year of funded ELC to all children eligible to defer entry into Primary 1, providing details of those children accessing a deferred year of Early Learning and Childcare during session 2022/23.

### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the information provided regarding children accessing a deferred year of Early Learning and Childcare during session 2022/23 and the impact of participation in the deferral pilot on the numbers of children accessing this; and
- (2) requested a further update report be submitted to this Committee for scrutiny around October this year, on a date to be confirmed.

## **27. STRATEGIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING APPROACHES – CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education and Children's Services outlining progress with the strategic approaches in place, coordinated through the Education Service, for supporting children and young people's Health and Wellbeing.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the current context relating to Fife young people's health and wellbeing;
- (2) acknowledged the strategic approaches being implemented; and
- (3) noted the next steps outlined in the report on areas that could be addressed within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

**28. SCHOOLS WORKFORCE PLANNING: ACADEMIC SESSION 2022/23**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education and Children's Services providing information on the position regarding teacher, early years and pupil support assistant staffing for the current academic session, 2022/23, and providing details of progress in relation to workforce planning activities for 2023/24.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the content of the report and the progress with workforce planning approaches.

**29. 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 noted:-

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

**30. 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 as well as informing on progress on major projects.

**Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the financial position as detailed in the report, and
- (2) 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.

**31. 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, to include the following:

- (1) as referenced at Para. 25. (3) above, an update report on the implementation of the neurodevelopmental pathway - on a date to be advised;
- (2) as reference at Para. 26 (2) above, a further report on the uptake of the Deferral Pilot scheme - on a date to be advised;
- (3) in light of recent media interest, a report relating to violence in schools across Fife - to be submitted by the end of the school year (on a date to be advised);
- (4) a separate, but related report to (3) above, with a focus on violence and aggression toward school staff - on a date to be advised; and
- (5) having agreed to the setting up of a Committee working group relating to the attainment gap (starting with early years, nursery and P1), the Committee would consider a report on the working group's findings at a future meeting of the Committee - on a date to be advised.