

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 12 March 2008 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors E Grant, K Baird, B Band, I Campbell, G Hayton, E MacLachlan, A MacLellan, S Miller, L Simpson, A Stewart, B Vaughan, W Wilson, A Wylie; Mrs H Bridge, Mr I Jackson and Monsignor McCaffrey.

In Attendance: Councillor B Ellis; J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Service), W Atkinson, G Boland, P McAvoy, K Robertson, A Turnbull, M Walker and C Webb (all Education and Children's Services); A Wilson and J Adamson (both Chief Executive's Service).

Councillor E Grant, Convener, Presiding

Prior to the commencement of the business the Convener:

- (a) Welcomed Councillor Band as a member and Vice Convener of this Committee;
- (b) intimated that Maria Walker, Head of Cultural and Community Services, had been appointed Depute Director (Education and Children's Services);
- (c) announced that Perth and Kinross Council youth worker, Colin Hay had been named National Youth Worker of the Year at an awards ceremony in Edinburgh and the Committee congratulated him on winning this prestigious national award; and
- (d) advised that Perth and Kinross Council youth worker Karen Gracie had been given the Bronze Award in the National Youth Worker of the Year category.

150. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors MacLellan, Miller and Wilson declared non-financial interests in Arts. 163 (Best Value Review of Leisure and Active Recreation Provision) and 164 (Cultural and Leisure Services – Contracting Arrangements).

151. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 16 January 2008 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

(ii) Lifelong Learning Executive Sub-Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 27 February 2008 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

(iii) Attendance Sub-Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Attendance Sub-Committee of 24 January 2008 was submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).

152. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF

- (i) The Minute of Meeting of the JNC for Teaching Staff of 13 November 2007 was submitted and noted (**Appendix III**).
- (ii) The Minute of Meeting of the JNC for Teaching Staff of 18 December 2007 was submitted and noted (**Appendix IV**).

153. PRESENTATION ON LANGUAGE PROJECT

The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) introduced Meryl James who co-ordinated a special presentation to the Committee highlighting the creative approach to modern languages learning by Perth and Kinross Council schools. Three of the Council's secondary schools (Perth and Blairgowrie High Schools and Breadalbane Academy) had written, directed and provided short films in different languages, with Breadalbane Academy's film in both Gaelic and Chinese believed to be the first of its kind.

The films, with introductions to the Committee from pupils at Perth and Blairgowrie High Schools, had been developed following an initial proposal to all modern language departments in June 2006 to look at making a short film in either French or German. Pupils had put their ICT skills, and talents in writing, art and animation, to good use to make the films, supported by modern languages, art and English teaching staff in schools and officers from Education and Children's Services.

Inspiration and advice on film making had come through visits to the Discovery Film Festival for children and young people held at Dundee Contemporary Arts and meetings with scriptwriters and film industry professionals.

The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the pupils and schools involved on their creativity and commitment and the excellence of the films which exemplified the collaborative work being taken forward in Perth and Kinross schools.

154. NATIONAL STRATEGY ON FOSTERING AND KINSHIP CARE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/136) on the announcement by the Scottish Government of a major overhaul of the system to support children looked after by foster and kinship carers following publication of the National Strategy for Foster and Kinship Care. The Strategy set out what needed to be in place to provide a truly child-centred response and approach to the provision of foster and kinship care. One of the aims of the Strategy, over time, would be to reduce the number of children who need to be looked after away from home. Implementing increased allowances for kinship carers was the first step in taking forward the proposals and intentions of the Strategy.

Resolved

- (i) The publication of the National Strategy for Foster and Kinship Care, 'Getting it Right for Every Child in Kinship and Foster Care' be noted.
- (ii) An increase in allowances to kinship carers in line with Scottish Government expectations from 1 October 2008 at the earliest, be authorised.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to prepare revised draft protocols for kinship care which took account of the National Strategy.
- (iv) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to provide a further report to the August meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee with a complete action plan to take forward the other identified goals within the strategy.

155. STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN – PROGRESS REPORT (Art. 320/07)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/137) updating the Committee on the Strategy for Looked After Children which, although at a relatively early stage of implementation, had made measurable progress in a way which would have better outcomes for Service users.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made so far on different actions with the Strategy be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to report annually on the progress of the Strategy to the Lifelong Learning Committee.

156. CORPORATE PARENTING

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/138) (1) presenting proposals on the need for local authorities to face up to the challenge of their role as

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corporate parents and to discharge their responsibilities in a new and more effective way within the context of the national action currently being considered; and (2) noting that recent reports had highlighted the need to improve outcomes for 'Looked After' children.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made to date be noted.
- (ii) Corporate Parenting be adopted as a positive way forward to address the needs of Looked After Children.
- (iii) The establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group be authorised, comprising 3 members of the Administration, 2 members of the Opposition and 2 Non-Elected Members, to provide scrutiny mechanisms to monitor outcomes.
- (iv) Senior Managers be requested to fulfil an advocate role on behalf of Looked After and accommodated children.

157. LEADERSHIP IN ALL-THROUGH SCHOOLS AGE 3-18

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/139) advising that, within Education and Children's Services, there was a need to establish agreed and appropriate management structures for All Through Schools which provided education services for children and young people from 3-18 through from pre-school and Primary to Secondary age pupils; and (2) proposing the adoption of a common approach to school leadership across All Through Schools in Perth and Kinross, requiring a change to leadership and management of the Community School of Auchterarder (CSA) in that there should be an appointment of a single Headteacher from August 2008 upon the retirement of the current Headteacher of the secondary school.

Resolved:

- (i) The adoption of a common approach to school leadership across all-through schools, be approved.
- (ii) The appointment of a single Headteacher to the Community School of Auchterarder to manage education functions age 3-18 from August 2008, be approved.

158. FRAMEWORK FOR PUPIL SUPPORT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Art 130/06)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/140) , (1) proposing a 'Framework for Pupil Support' in the secondary sector of Perth and Kinross schools which would bring together the functions of Guidance, Support for Learning (including what was previously known as SEN) and Behaviour Support, (2) advising that within this framework, the Guidance System would be further developed and guidance staff would play a central role in providing personal support to pupils to help them realise their full potential and prepare them for adult life, and (3) noting that to move towards a consistent approach to Secondary School Support for pupils would ensure improved continuity and progression in curriculum planning, personal support and school improvement processes.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposal contained in the Framework for Pupil Support in secondary schools, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to report on progress made in implementing the Framework by June 2009.

159. RESERVED PLACES AND REVISED CAPACITIES IN SCHOOLS 2008/2009

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/141), (1) proposing the number of reserved places for session 2008/2009 within primary and secondary schools in accordance with Section 28A of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended, allowing places to be protected for local children in their local school; and (2) outlining the revised capacities for primary schools to incorporate the Investment in Learning Programme schools, schools which had undergone building work as part of the Schools Building Programme and minor adjustments to previously agreed capacities.

Resolved:

- (i) The number of reserved places within schools which appeared to be close to capacity for session 2008/2009, as shown in Appendix 1 to Report 08/141, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to revise these numbers each year to reflect historical or anticipated patterns of migration, information about

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- known movements of families into (or out of) an area, and any current residential development.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be delegated powers to review the reserved places for all schools in light of any building work and in light of residential development.
 - (iv) The revised school capacities, as shown in Appendix 2 to Report 08/141 be approved.

160. STATUTORY CONSULTATION – OUDENARDE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's) Services (08/142) seeking authority to enter into formal consultations on the proposal to determine Perth Academy as the secondary school provision identified for Oudenarde catchment area.

Resolved:

- (i) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to consult formally the appropriate bodies and persons listed in Schedule 1 of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 (as amended 1987, 1988 and 1989) on the proposal to establish Perth Academy as the secondary school provision for the Oudenarde catchment area.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to the August 2008 meeting of this Committee on the outcome of these consultations.

161. STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2006-07

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/143) appending the Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services Report for 2006-07 which, subject to approval, would be published and made widely available within Perth and Kinross as part of Education and Children's Services statutory requirement to report to the public on the performance of the services provided.

Resolved:

- (i) The Report on Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services in Perth and Kinross 2006-2007, as contained in Appendix 1 to Report 08/143, be accepted.
- (ii) The Report be published and made available to staff, parents, carers, Parent Councils, external agencies and the wider community in Perth and Kinross.
- (iii) The Report be submitted to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 16 April 2008.

162. REVIEW OF CHARGES 2008/2009

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/144) detailing the proposed service charges for financial year 2008/2009 affecting the following areas:-

Resolved

The proposed 2008/09 charges be agreed as detailed below:

- (i) Blairgowrie High School Recreation Centre as outlined at Appendix 1 to Report 08/144.
- (ii) Consultancy, Staff Development Opportunities and Curriculum Materials as outlined at Appendix 2 to Report 08/144.
- (iii) Cultural and Community Services as outlined at Appendices 3 to 11 to Report 08/144.
- (iv) New School Meal Charges as outlined at Appendix 12 to Report 08/144.
- (v) School Lets Charges as outlined at Appendix 13 to Report 08/144.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973

163. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF LEISURE AND ACTIVE RECREATION PROVISION

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/145) detailing the findings of the Best Value Review report of Leisure and Active Recreation provision in Perth and Kinross which pointed the way forward for developing this area of activity.

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Resolved:

- (i) The Best Value Review of Leisure and Active Recreation Provision be approved.
- (ii) The recommendations as outlined in pages 3-6 of Appendix 1 of Report 08/145 be agreed.
- (iii) Report 08/145 be submitted to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 16 April 2008.

164. CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES – CONTRACTING ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/146) providing details of the proposed contract for 2008/09 between Perth and Kinross Council, Horsecross and Perth and Kinross Leisure.

Resolved:

- (i) The monitoring arrangements within the contract with Perth and Kinross Leisure for 2008/09 be agreed.
- (ii) The targets set within the contract with Perth and Kinross Leisure be agreed.
- (iii) The monitoring arrangements within the Service Level Agreement with Horsecross for 2008/09 be agreed.
- (iv) The targets set within the Service Level Agreement with Horsecross be agreed.