

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 27 September 2006 at 3.00pm.

Present: Councillors Hayton, Baird, Bushby, Culliven, Doig, A Grant, E Grant, D Scott (substituting for Councillor Howie), Simpson, Stewart, Mr A Dunlop, Mr I Jackson, Mr C Mackie and Father K McCaffrey.

In Attendance: Jennifer Turpie (HMIe); S Powell, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), J Cessford, J Cockburn, B Kirkpatrick, P McAvoy, L McConnell, W McCullough, M Walker, S Watson and B M Atkinson (all Education and Children's Services); D Burke (Community Care); B Renton (Chief Executive's); S Thornton and A Wilson (both Corporate Services)

Apologies for Absence were received from: Councillors Coburn and Lennie and Messrs Shewan, Stewart and Young.

Councillor Hayton, Convener, Presiding.

620. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

621. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 16 August 2006 (Arts 514-521) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

622. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHING STAFF OF 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

The Minute of Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 4 September 2006 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

623. INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN (2006-09)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/679) seeking approval for the revised "Integrated Children's Services Plan 2006-09" to be adopted for Perth and Kinross. Peter McAvoy, Lead Officer, Education and Children's Services, also gave a presentation on the Plan, highlighting a number of issues in the Plan. Peter McAvoy then answered a number of questions on the paper.

Resolved:

- (i) The Integrated Children's Services Plan 2006-09 be adopted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to provide an update report on progress made by June 2007.
- (iii) It be noted that the Integrated Children's Services Strategic Partnership would provide the leadership and direction in relation to the planning and delivery of integrated children's services within Perth and Kinross.

624. CHILD PROTECTION INTER-AGENCY GUIDELINES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/671) advising the Committee of the production and launch of the Child Protection Inter-Agency Guidelines produced by the Child Protection Committee. A full indexed copy of the Guidelines was also submitted.

Resolved:

- (i) The Inter-Agency Guidelines be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) submit a further report in September 2007 on the Guidelines' effectiveness.

625. IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/672) seeking approval for the Improvement Framework for Education and Children's Services, which, following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, would underpin the policy for continuous improvement and provide a rigorous approach to self evaluation across the Service.

Resolved:

- (i) The Improvement Framework for Education and Children's Services be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) bring back an update on the strategic direction and implementation of the Framework by December 2007.

626. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL – THE RAISING ACHIEVEMENT STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/673) presenting the final revision of the Raising Achievement Strategy which took account of the views expressed during the consultation period and experience gained to date.

Resolved:

- (i) The Raising Achievement Strategy be adopted as a policy under the Learning Opportunities section of the Service's Statement of Intent.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) report back to the Lifelong Learning Committee in October 2007.

627. "DETERMINED TO SUCCEED" PROGRESS REPORT 2005/2006 AND SUPPORT PLAN FOR 2006/2007

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/674) updating the Committee on the progress of the Scottish Executive's "Determined to Succeed Initiative" in Perth and Kinross for session 2005/2006 and setting out a plan of support for 2006/2007.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the "Determined to Succeed Initiative" in session 2005/2006 and the plan for central support for the initiative in the forthcoming session be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report on progress made by September 2007.

628. CHILD PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/675) asking the Committee to endorse the Child Protection Committee's Annual Report and Business Plan.

Resolved:

The Child Protection Committee's Annual Report and Business Plan, which was approved by the Child Protection Strategic Forum on 15 September 2006, be endorsed.

629. STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2005-2006

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/676) seeking approval for a report on Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services in Perth and Kinross for 2005-06.

Resolved:

- (i) The report on Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services in Perth and Kinross 2005-2006, as attached at Appendix 1 to Report 06/676, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that at the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2006, the report was approved and the format and language were welcomed.
- (iii) The report be published and made available to staff, parents, carers, School Boards, external agencies and the wider community in Perth and Kinross.

630. FOLLOW UP REPORT BY HM INSPECTORS ON COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH PERTH AREA

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/677) informing the Committee on the findings of HMIE on their follow up visit to Perth and Kinross on 6 March 2006 and detailing the progress made on the five main points for action identified by HMIE from the inspection of the functions of Community Learning and Development in the North Perth area in March 2004.

Resolved:

- (i) The evaluation made by HM Inspectors on the progress made on the five main points for action, as recommended in their report, be noted.
- (ii) The comment that very effective action had been taken to implement the recommendations of the report with very good progress being made on three action points and good progress on two action points, be noted.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to bring forward a further report on the two main action points on which good progress had been made, within six months from the date of the published follow through report.
- (iv) It be noted that the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2006 welcomed the report and commented very positively on the progress made.

631. HMIE, CARE COMMISSION AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY REPORTS ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN SCHOOLS, PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (06/678) advising the Committee of the key findings and progress with main points of action, as set out in five summary reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Care Commission and Education Authorities.

Resolved:

- (i) The summary reports, as attached in Appendices 1-5 of Report 06/678, be noted:
 - (a) Summary of the HMIE Inspection Report on Kinross Primary School (Appendix 1)
 - (b) Summary of the HMIE Inspection Report on Robert Douglas Memorial Primary School (Appendix 2)
 - (c) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Fossoway Pre-School Group (Appendix 3)
 - (d) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on Muirton Community Nursery (Appendix 4)
 - (e) Summary of the HMIE/Care Commission Integrated Inspection Report on The Toddle Inn, Methven (Appendix 5)
- (ii) It be noted that the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2006 welcomed the reports.

632. INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF PERTH AND KINROSS – FOLLOW-THROUGH VISIT BY HM INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION

There was submitted and noted a letter from the HM Inspectorate of Education (06/680) advising of the outcome of the follow-through inspection of the education functions during March to May 2006.