

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
20 August 2008

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 20 August 2008 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors E Grant, K Baird, B Band, G Hayton, E Maclachlan, D Melloy, S Miller, C Shiers (substituting for Councillor A Stewart), L Simpson, B Vaughan, W Wilson and A Wylie; Mrs H Bridge, Monsignor McCaffrey, Mr I Jackson and Mr D Stewart.

In attendance: J Fyffe, Executive Director, (Education and Children's Services); M Walker, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); C Webb, B Atkinson, A Taylor, H Smout, M Anderson, A Turnbull, A Young, K Robertson, P Illsley, and D Lingley, V Clark, C Gahan, G Innes, A McEwen, W O'Neill (all Education and Children's Services) D Burke, Depute Director (Housing and Community Care), G Taylor, J Dickson (Chief Executive Services)

Apologies for Absence: Councillor A MacLellan and B Henderson.

Councillor E Grant, Convener, Presiding

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener referred to the industrial action taking place today across the Council. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils, schools had been closed and the situation had been handled appropriately and sensitively.

441. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

442. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 21 May 2008 was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

(ii) Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff

The Minute of Meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff of 29 April 2008 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
20 August 2008

(iii) Lifelong Learning School Estate Sub-Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the School Estate Sub-Committee of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 29 May 2008 was submitted and noted (*Appendix II*).

443. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND POLICY ON SMOKING AND FOSTER CARE (Art. 155)

There was submitted a report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/396) on progress made in implementing the Strategy for Looked After Children to address the needs of these children and proposing the introduction of a Policy on Smoking and Foster Care.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made so far on different actions within the Strategy for Looked After Children, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 08/396, be noted.
- (ii) The Policy on Smoking and Foster Care, as set out in Appendix 2 to Report 08/396, be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit a report to the Lifelong Learning Committee in August 2009 on the impact of the Strategy on service users.

444. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FOSTERING AND KINSHIP CARE: KINSHIP CARE ACTION PLAN (Art. 154)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/397) outlining proposals for implementing revised allowances and supports for kinship carers in line with the objectives of the National Strategy for Foster and Kinship Care.

Resolved:

- (i) The National Strategy in Perth and Kinross be implemented through:
 - (a) enhanced allowances to the level of the Fostering Network recommended allowances, less child benefit, being paid to kinship carers of looked after children from January 2009, as set out in Report 08/397.
 - (b) maintaining the existing rate of payment for kinship carers of children who are not formally looked after.
 - (c) rates of payment being increased annually for all kinship carers in line with standard inflationary percentage increases
 - (d) drawing up a Service Level Agreement for Family Group Conferencing commencing by January 2009
 - (e) the appointment of a senior social worker and a senior clerical assistant with effect from April 2009.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit a report to the Lifelong Learning Committee in August 2009 on delivery of the National Strategy in Perth and Kinross.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
20 August 2008

445. PERTH AND KINROSS PARENTING STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/398) seeking approval to implement the Perth and Kinross Parenting Strategy, as a further development of closer working relationships with partners to benefit children and their families.

Resolved:

- (i) The Perth and Kinross Parenting Strategy, as set out in the Appendix to Report 08/398, be implemented.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Service) be instructed to submit a progress report on implementation of the Strategy to the Lifelong Learning Committee in December 2009.
- (iii) It be noted that the Strategy would be launched at a partnership event at the end of October 2008.

COUNCILLOR B BAND TOOK THE CHAIR.

446. STATUTORY CONSULTATION – GLENEARN CAMPUS, PERTH (Art. 18)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/399) outlining the issues arising from the statutory consultation on the redelineation of the existing Caledonian Road, Moncrieffe and Craigie Primary Schools' Catchment areas.

Resolved:

- (i) The Issues raised during the statutory consultation exercise on redelineation of the existing Caledonian Road, Moncrieffe, and Craigie Primary Schools, Perth be noted.
- (ii) The catchment areas, outlined in Appendix 2 to Report 08/399, be approved with effect from Session 2009/2010.
- (iii) To reassure existing Craigie Primary Schools Parents, the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be authorised to consult on revision of the Perth and Kinross Schools' Admission Policy so where requested, and where possible to do so, that younger siblings of current pupils who reside in the present catchment area would be allocated a place at Craigie Primary School.

COUNCILLOR G HAYTON TOOK THE CHAIR.

447. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE YEAR 6 (Art. 488/07)

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Service) (08/340) detailing the activities undertaken during Year 5 of the Youth Music Initiative and seeking approval of the proposed activities of the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative funding for Year 6.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the scheme to date be noted.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE
20 August 2008

- (ii) The Year 6 proposals for the delivery of the Youth Music Initiative in Perth and Kinross, as detailed in Report 08/340, be agreed.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit a report to the Lifelong Learning Committee in August 2009 on the results of Year 6 projects and proposals for Year 7 of the Initiative.

COUNCILLOR E GRANT RESUMED THE CHAIR.

448. SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS (2009/2010 AND 2010/2011) AND SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (08/341) for sessions 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

Resolved:

- (i) The draft scheme of school terms and holidays for session 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, as detailed in Appendix to Report 08/341, be approved.
- (ii) The proposals for additional closure days for particular schools, where necessary, to facilitate school moves and decant moves, be approved.
- (iii) It be noted that with effect from 2010 the October break would commence on the second Monday in October to better harmonise the October break with neighbouring authorities.

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