

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Minute of the Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 17 August 2005 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Baird, Bushby, Coburn, Culliven, Doig, A Grant, Hayton, Howie, Lennie, MacLellan, Robertson (substituting for Councillor Simpson) and Stewart and Mr I Jackson, Mr C Mackie, Father Mulholland, Mr F Shewan and Mr D Stewart.

In Attendance: Councillors Barrett, and Hunter; L McConnell, Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), S Watson, I Mason, B Renton, J Finnie, P McAvoy, G Bruce, M Walker, A Turnbull, M Allen, J Clark, A Young, S Farrer, C Archibald, A Taylor, M Campbell, H MacRae, (all Education and Children's Services), F MacKay (Performance Planning and Management); Jim Cochrane, L Brown and A Wilson (all Corporate Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Simpson, Mrs J Whitfield.

Councillor Hayton, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener introduced to the Committee Maggi Allen, Interim Depute Director (Education and Children's Services).

573. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

574. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 25 May 2005 (Arts. 393-408) was submitted, noted and authorised for signature.

575. MINUTE OF MEETING OF ATTENDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Attendance Sub-Committee of 2 June 2005 was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

576. PETITION FOR FAIRTRADE GOODS IN SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/501) advising of actions being taken in response to a petition from approximately 800 pupils in five secondary schools throughout Perth and Kinross calling for the provision of Fairtrade goods in Perth and Kinross schools.

The Convener welcomed the organiser of the petition to the meeting, Miss Jill Miller, a pupil at Kinross High School.

Resolved:

- (i) To note that the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) would undertake an option appraisal regarding the opportunity for the inclusion of a suitable range of Fairtrade goods to be made available through the school meals service.
- (ii) To note that the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) would request the Council's operating partner, Tayside Contracts, to assess the supply chain and pricing impact of such provision in Perth and Kinross schools.
- (iii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to the Lifelong Learning Committee by November 2005 on the outcome of the assessment.

577. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2005/2008

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/492) seeking approval of the Education and Children's Services Management and Improvement Plan 2005/2008.

Resolved:

- (i) The Education and Children's Services Management and Improvement Plan 2005/2008, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 05/492, be approved.
- (ii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to provide a progress report on the implementation of the 2005-2006 actions contained within the Plan.

578. FRAMEWORK FOR INTERVENTION – DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY FOR IMPROVEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/493) seeking to implement recommendations for improvement on the Framework for Intervention policy and the proposed funding allocations in support of those improvements.

Resolved:

- (i) The recommendations for improvement in the development of the policy on the Framework for Intervention, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 05/493, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed funding allocations in support of the improvements, as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 05/493, be approved, being new resources within the National Priorities Action Fund 'Support Staff in Schools' grant funding, and amounting to in 2005/06, £179,959; in 2006/07 £271,139; and in 2007/08, £410,307.
- (iii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit a progress report to the Lifelong Learning Committee by December 2006.

579. INVESTMENT IN LEARNING PROGRAMME – PROPOSALS FOR MERGER OF SCHOOLS AT TWO PERTH CAMPUSES

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/502) (1) seeking approval of the merger of St. John's Primary School with St. Columba's High School and of Caledonian Road Primary School with Friarton Nursery School into single establishments as a result of the Investment in Learning Programme; and (2) outlining consultation arrangements on the proposals.

Resolved:

- (i) The merger of St. Columba's High School with St. John's Primary School into a single establishment, as detailed in Report 05/502, be approved in principle.
- (ii) The merger of Caledonian Road Primary School and Friarton Nursery School into a single establishment, as detailed in Report 05/502, be approved in principle.
- (iii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be authorised to consult with the School Boards, parents and the wider public on these proposals.
- (iv) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be authorised to conduct formal consultation with the relevant Trades Unions and the Roman Catholic Church on these proposals.
- (v) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to the Lifelong Learning Committee in accordance with the timetable attached at Appendix 1 to Report (05/502), and running from 17 August to 23 November 2005.

580. DRAFT VOLUNTEERING POLICY – CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/494) introducing a new policy on volunteering for Cultural and Community Services and seeking approval for its implementation.

Resolved:

- (i) The implementation of the Volunteering Policy as a standard to be followed throughout Cultural and Community Services, as detailed in the Appendix to Report 05/494, be approved.
- (ii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to adopt similar policies for volunteers across all aspects of Education and Children's Services by June 2006.

581. CUSTOMER CARE POLICY FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/495) advising of feedback received from the formal consultation exercise on the draft Customer Care Policy and recommending the way forward for Customer Care within Education and Children's Services.

Resolved:

- (i) The Customer Care Policy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 05/495, be approved.
- (ii) The implementation of the Customer Care Policy throughout Education and Children's Services, from 1 October 2005, be approved.
- (iii) Education and Children's Services' plans for training and publicity for the launch of the policy be noted.
- (iv) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be requested to provide relevant performance information on the implementation of the policy on an annual basis.

582. FUNDING TO IMPROVE FOSTERING SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/496) advising of a new funding package over three years to enhance and improve fostering services and setting out a plan for the distribution of the funding in line with the criteria set out by the Scottish Executive.

Resolved:

- (i) The arrangements for the distribution of funding, as detailed in Report 05/496, be noted.
- (ii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to work in partnership with foster carers to meet the stated objectives of the funding.
- (iii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit a report to the Lifelong Learning Committee by March 2006 on proposals for years two and three of the funding.

***583. THE DRAFT TAYSIDE SEXUAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS STRATEGY**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Performance Planning and Management (05/503) recommending a response from Perth and Kinross Council to the draft Tayside Sexual Health and Relationships Strategy, produced by NHS Tayside.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of Report 05/503 and the Appendix attached thereto be approved and submitted as the Council's response to NHS Tayside on the draft Tayside Sexual Health and Relationships Strategy.
- (ii) The approval of Report 05/503 by the Housing and Health Committee earlier this day, be noted.

584. HOME FROM HOME SCHEME

There was submitted and noted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/497) providing an update on progress with the Home from Home Scheme in providing a family-based alternative to Breadalbane Academy Hostels following their closure in June 2004; members expressed their congratulations to officers on the success of the scheme since its introduction.

COUNCILLOR BUSHBY LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

585. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE YEAR 3

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/498) advising of progress with the Scottish Executive's Youth Music Initiative in Perth and Kinross and, following confirmation of Year 3 funding, outlining its future scope.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress of the scheme to date, as detailed in Report 05/498, be noted.
- (ii) The three year proposals for the delivery of the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) in Perth and Kinross be approved.

- (iii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to submit a report on the results of Year 3 projects to the Lifelong Learning Committee in August 2006.

586. CARE COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORTS REGARDING RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/499) advising of (1) an inspection visit to two residential units undertaken by the Care Commission; and (2) the findings of the inspection together with actions to address areas identified for improvement. The report had been previously submitted to the Standards and Scrutiny Committee of Perth and Kinross Council in June 2005.

Resolved:

- (i) The Inspection Report, as appended to Report 05/499, be noted.
- (ii) The Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to ensure that areas for development are included within Service and Improvement Plans.
- (iii) To note that the Standards and Scrutiny Committee of 8 June 2005 had welcomed the positive nature of the Care Commission report.

587. 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 Interim Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (05/500) advising of the key findings and progress with the main points for action as set out in three summary reports (Appendices 1-3) from her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Care Commission and Education Authorities.

Resolved:

- (i) The summary reports of the Care Commission/HMIE integrated inspection reports on the following three establishments be noted:
 - Braco Primary School Nursery
 - Crieff Primary School Nursery
 - North Muirton Primary School Nursery
- (ii) It be noted that the positive nature of the HMIE/Care Commission reports had been welcomed by the Standards and Scrutiny Committee on 8 June 2005.