

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 19 May 2010 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors B Band, G Hayton, P Barrett (substituting for S Miller), A Cowan, A Gaunt (substituting for L Simpson), C Gillies (substituting for A MacLellan), T Gray (substituting for E Grant), E Maclachlan, D Melloy, A Stewart, B Vaughan, W Wilson and A Wylie; Mr I Jackson, Mrs A McAuley, Monsignor K McCaffrey and Mr D Stewart.

In attendance: M Walker, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); B Atkinson, P McAvoy, A Taylor, K Robertson, S Devlin, J Clow, S Farrer, A Turnbull, J Gilchrist, G Boland and J Cockburn (all Education and Children's Services); A Wilson, S Hendry and R Muller (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors E Grant, A MacLellan, S Miller and L Simpson and Mrs H Bridge.

Councillor G Hayton, Vice Convener, Presiding.

292. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

293. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Lifelong Learning Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee of 10 March 2010 (Arts. 156-161) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

(ii) Attendance Sub-Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Attendance Sub-Committee of 18 February 2010 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

(iii) Executive Sub-Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of 3 February 2010 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix II*)

294. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES EARLY YEARS STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/259), (1) introducing the Education and Children's Services Early Years Strategy; and (2) seeking approval for the implementation of the

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Strategy. Jacqueline Clow, Service Manager (School Improvement Services), gave a short presentation on the report and provided background to the aims and objectives of the Early Years Strategy.

Resolved:

- (i) The Early Years Strategy be approved for implementation.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to present an update to the Lifelong Learning Committee on the progress of the implementation of the Strategy in August 2011.

295. REDUCING CLASS SIZES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/260) summarising the projected position within Perth and Kinross Council relating to Primary 1–3 class sizes of 18 pupils or fewer from August 2010.

Councillor B Vaughan, seconded by Councillor A Cowan, moved that whilst any additional funding for primary schools from Scottish Government to increase the number of teachers in primary schools would be welcome, head teachers should have flexibility to use teaching staff as they saw fit and that the Committee should reject any move toward a limit of 18 for primary class sizes.

In terms of Standing Order 24, the Vice Convener ruled that this motion was not competent, since the Council was a signatory to the Concordat between the Scottish Government and CoSLA, which included a commitment to reducing class sizes in P1 to P3 to a maximum of 18.

Resolved:

The projected progress, as detailed in Section 3 of Report 10/260, be noted.

296. BREAKFAST CLUBS FOR PRIMARY 1 TO 3 IN TARGETED SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/261), (1) addressing the Scottish Government Concordat commitment on free school meals provision; and (2) confirming that Perth and Kinross Council would provide a free breakfast to all Primary 1 to 3 pupils on a pilot basis, based in schools with the highest free school meal entitlement, and within areas designated in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposals set out in Paragraph 3 of Report 10/261 be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to report back to the Lifelong Learning Committee on the pilot by August 2011.

297. ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/262) advising on the additional duties placed on the Authority by the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 to provide adoption support services.

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Resolved:

- (i) The new provisions of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 be noted and the revised range of services provided by the Council be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) be instructed to prepare a plan for the adoption service to be contained within the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

298. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES JOINT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2010-2013

There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/263) presenting the Joint Business Management and Improvement Plan and Annual Performance Report 2010-2013 for Education and Children's Services which had been approved by Perth and Kinross Council on 11 May 2010 (Art. 258(i) refers)

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

299. SIGNIFICANT CASE REVIEW

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and Child Protection Committee Chair (10/264), (1) informing the Committee of a recent Significant Case Review; and (2) seeking endorsement of the procedure, findings, conclusions and recommendations from the Significant Case Review.

Resolved:

The procedure be endorsed, and the findings, conclusions and recommendations from the Significant Case Review, as contained in Report 10/264, be noted.

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