

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held in the Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 10 February 2010 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors K Baird, J Law, I Campbell, A Gaunt, W Lumsden, D Scott and B Vaughan.

In Attendance: B Malone (Chief Executive); G Taylor, T Yule, F Mackay, M Cochlan and M Kay (all Chief Executives); M Walker and J Gilchrist (both Education and Children's Services); B Renton (Environment Service) and L Cameron (Housing and Community Care).

Apology for Absence: Mr I Jackson.

Councillor Baird, Convener, Presiding.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

74. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Scrutiny Committee

The Minute of Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of 2 December 2009 (Arts. 615 – 620) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature, subject to noting Mr I Jackson's apology for absence.

(ii) Audit Sub-Committee of 18 November 2009

The Minute of Meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of 18 November 2009 was submitted and noted. (*Appendix I*)

75. STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2008-09

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (10/1) together with further information provided in relation to performance reporting (1) setting out Education and Children's Services' key strengths and identifying areas for improvement which will be used to inform the development of the Service's Business Management and Improvement Plan 2010-2013 and (2) reflecting on some of the diverse and innovative work which the Services have delivered over the past year.

M Walker, Depute Director, Education and Children's Services was present and provided information in response to a number of questions from members on:

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(1) provision of figures relating to the percentage reductions in exclusions in Perth and Kinross schools; (2) action being taken to improve attendance levels, including (a) the introduction of more vocational skills courses, providing training courses relevant to S3 and S4, (b) the use of the SEEMIS system to track attendance for each class in secondary schools and to identify patterns at an early stage and (c) reinforcing the importance of attendance; (3) the absence management programme for teachers (4) action being taken to support children to reduce exclusions (5) improved information being obtained using standard categorisation across Scotland; (6) the introduction of the new qualifications framework; (7) engagement with parents; (8) action being taken to address themes identified in Inspection Reports in relation to stretching of more able pupils and supporting head teachers; including innovative measures being taken in peer support and Extended Learning and Achievement visits; (9) the wide range of services in place to support gypsy travellers at Double Dykes to gain access to learning; (10) breakfast clubs; (11) the move to Curriculum for Excellence; (12) the pilot project being carried out in conjunction with the Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre on child internet safety; (13) length of time and levels of re-registration on the child protection register; (14) assessment of outcomes for different cohorts of pupils and (15) the Corporate Parenting Scheme for looked after children.

Resolved:

- (i) The report on Standards and Quality in Education and Children's Services in Perth and Kinross for 2008-09 be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that the report will be made available to staff, parents, carers, Parent Councils, external agencies and the wider community in Perth and Kinross.

J GILCHRIST LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

76. DRAFT GUIDE TO SCRUTINY AT PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

There was submitted a report by the Head of Business Transformation and Improvement (10/67) presenting the draft Guide to Scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council for consideration and comment by the Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) The draft Guide to Scrutiny at Perth and Kinross Council contained at Appendix 1 of Report 10/67 be approved.
- (ii) A copy of the Guide be circulated to all elected members and senior officers.

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