

Motherwell, 25 August 2016 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the YOUTH AND EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Griffin, Convener; Councillors Beveridge, Lyle, McCulloch, McNally and McVey.

CHAIR

Councillor Griffin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Officer; Community Learning and Inclusion Manager; Youth Work Manager; Development Officer (Equalities); Service Manager (Young People), and Employability Service Team Leader.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Jade Kilkenny, Housing and Social Work Services in respect of paragraph 5.

APOLOGY

Councillor Sullivan.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. There were no declarations of interest.

WORKSHOP/DEVELOPMENT SESSION FOR YOUTH AND EQUALITIES COMMITTEE – ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND NEXT STEPS

2. There was submitted a report dated 8 August 2016 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) advising that following the last meeting of the Committee, a workshop session had been held to consider key equality themes which focused on (a) Youth Engagement and Participation; (b) Strategy for Working with Young People, and (c) Equalities and Human Rights Strategic Priorities; (2) summarising the findings from each of the themed discussions that emerged from the workshop and the relevant actions to be taken, and (3) proposing a timeline for a series of workshop sessions and future dates of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the feedback from the workshop discussions and the relevant actions to be taken be noted, and
- (2) that the proposed timetable of workshop sessions and future dates be approved.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

3. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 28 April 2016, there was submitted a report dated 8 August 2016 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) providing an overview of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015;

(2) informing that the main aim of the Act was to promote and facilitate the use and understanding of the British Sign Language (BSL) across the Scottish public sector; (3) advising that Scottish Ministers were required to prepare and publish BSL National Plans, the first of which was due to be published by 22 October 2017 and, thereafter, every six years, with progress to be reported every three years; (4) setting out in the Appendix to the report, details of the draft ambitions and long term aims of the National Plans; (5) intimating that the Scottish Government had established a National Advisory Group to ensure that the National Plan focused on the priorities of deaf and deaf blind people who use BSL; (6) indicating that, within a year of the publication of the National Plan, the Council was required to publish an authority action plan to set out the measures that the Council would take in relation to the use of BSL; (7) detailing within the report the Council's approach in engaging with deaf BSL users and examples of work undertaken so far, and (8) outlining the next steps to ensure that services and communication would be accessible and inclusive to deaf and deaf blind BSL users.

Decided: that the report be noted.

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UNCRPD) – SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT DELIVERY PLAN

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 28 April 2016, there was submitted a report dated 8 August 2016 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) regarding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Scottish Local Government Delivery Plan and its implications for the Council; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) advising that disabled people were subject to higher levels of inequality and disadvantage compared to non-disabled people in many aspects of life; (4) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report, the Scottish Local Government Delivery Plan on the UNCRPD 2015-2018; (5) informing of a series of areas where the Plan had identified inequality for disabled people and the appropriate actions required; (6) summarising the Council's current position and areas where improvement action had been identified and delivered, and (7) intimating that the Council was currently reviewing its equality outcomes, as required by the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Decided: that the report be noted.

DELIVERING OUR CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY (1) DEVELOPING A CHAMPIONS BOARD AND (2) IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

5. There was submitted a report dated 25 August 2016 by the Head of Children, Families and Justice Social Work Services (1) outlining proposals to develop (a) a Champions Board to enable the direct influence of care experienced young people on the development of initiatives to improve outcomes for all care experienced young people within North Lanarkshire, and (b) employment opportunities locally for care experienced young people; (2) informing of actions undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group to improve the assessment of, and response to, the health needs of looked after young people; (3) advising that the creation of a Champions Board would provide an opportunity for young people to have a voice and to make a significant contribution towards transforming the quality of life and wellbeing of all care experienced young people; (4) highlighting the obstacles which impacted on the employment opportunities of care experienced young people, and (5) intimating that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee detailing further information on the proposals and the financial implications thereof.

Thereon, the Service Manager (Young People) spoke to the report, and advised that Miss Jade Kilkenny, Housing and Social Work Services, was present at the meeting to give a brief presentation on life as a care experienced young person. Miss Kilkenny then spoke about the difficulties that many young people came across and also of her own experiences growing up as a care experienced young person within North Lanarkshire.

The Convener thanked Ms. Kilkenny for her presentation.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to develop a Champions Board be approved;
- (2) that a plan to develop employment opportunities for care experienced young people in North Lanarkshire be approved, and
- (3) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing further information on the proposals and the financial implications thereof.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND – HORIZONTAL THEMES – EQUALITIES

6. There was submitted a report dated 8 August 2016 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) regarding the equalities commitments within the Council's European Social Fund (ESF) employability projects; (2) providing details of two applications which had been approved by the Scottish Government for ESF support namely (a) the North Lanarkshire's Youth Employment Initiative, and (b) the North Lanarkshire's Working Employability Pipeline, the total cost of which was £11.75 m, with a contribution of £6.05 m coming from the ESF; (3) summarising, in Table 1 of the report, the targets for each project from 2016 to 2018; (4) advising that, as well as delivering the targets within the budgets agreed, applicants were required to integrate across their projects particular commitments to social inclusion, equalities and environmental sustainability which were known as 'horizontal themes'; (5) informing of the requirement to report on the implementation of these 'horizontal themes' on a regular basis; (6) advising that the Council had made a commitment (a) to ensure that equal opportunity policies were implemented, providing support that was flexible and met the needs of those North Lanarkshire Residents that the projects engaged with, and (b) to ensure that under-represented groups were appropriately supported and accommodated, and (7) intimating that the first report on the progress of the equalities requirements of the project would be submitted to the Scottish Government towards the end of the year.

Decided: that the report be noted.

SYRIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

7. There was submitted a report dated August 2016 by the Head of Housing Solutions providing an update on the progress made in relation to the resettlement of Syrian refugees through the Syrian Resettlement Programme in North Lanarkshire, as measured through the "Indicators of Integration" approach and the key indicators of: Housing; Education; Health; Employment and Social Connections.

Decided: that the report be noted.