

Motherwell, 12 November 2019 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **EDUCATION AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McNally, Convener; Councillor Quigley, Vice-Convener; Councillors J. Ashraf, Barclay, Bonnar, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Burrows, Campbell, Castles, Douglas, Feeney, Fisher, Fotheringham, Gallacher, Graham, Hogg, C. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Larson, Lennon, Linden, Logue, Magowan, McKendrick, McManus, McPake, Mooney, Shevlin, Stephen, Stocks, Wilson and Woods; and Mr D Hannan, and Rev. P. J. O'Maoil Mheana, Religious Representatives, and Ms L McBride and Mr I Scott, Teacher Representatives.

CHAIR

Councillor McNally (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Executive Director (Education & Families); Head of Children, Families and Justice Social Work Services; Head of Education (Central); Head of Education (North), Head of Education (South); Business Finance Manager (Strategy); Head Lead Officer (Scottish Attainment Challenge); Continuous Improvement Officer (Developing the Young Workforce), Interim Continuous Improvement Officer; Service Manager (Corporate Parenting), and Committee Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ross Clark, student at the University of the West of Scotland.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Carragher, Goldsack and Kerr, and Mr W Cunningham.

Prior to the meeting, the Convener welcomed (1) Councillor Mooney and Rev. O'Maoil Mheana to their first meeting of the Committee, and (2) Ross Clark, who was shadowing Cllr Linden in the day to day work of a Councillor.

At this point, the Head of Children, Families and Justice Social Work Services advised the Committee that the Education and Families Service had recently launched a new recruitment campaign for fostering, adoptive and supported carers, and, in that connection, she presented a number of short film clips in which a number of carers, a care experienced young person, and a young person from a fostering family spoke about their experiences. The Head of Children, Families and Justice then (1) advised that the campaign, and the ongoing work to support the recruitment of carers, was key to being able to offer care within North Lanarkshire to as many looked after children and young people as possible, and (2) urged Members to assist in the promotion of the campaign.

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

1. Councillor McPake declared an interest in paragraph 11, by virtue of the nature of his employment, and did not participate in the consideration of the matter.

During consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Stephen, by virtue of being a Kinship Carer, declared an interest in this matter.

CORPORATE PARENTING – (1) VIRTUAL SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION, AND (2) RECONFIGURATION OF KINSHIP SUPPORT

2. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 September 2019 when, *inter alia*, the Committee had (1) approved the next steps for the further development of the Virtual School, and (2) noted that a further report providing a detailed Implementation Plan and evaluation framework for the initiative would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, there was submitted a report by the Head of Children, Families and Justice, Social Work Services (a) intimating that the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy and Improvement Plan 2019 to 2022 and the associated programme of work, together with a range of improvement activity, was being progressed with the aim of improving outcomes for looked after and care experienced children and young people; (b) summarising, in the Appendix to the report, the Implementation Plan 2019/20 for the Virtual School; (c) advising of the growth in the numbers of children and young people looked after within kinship care arrangements in North Lanarkshire; (d) outlining proposals to reconfigure arrangements for the assessment, review and support of kinship carers, including (A) the establishment of a Kinship Care Team to be in place for April 2020; (B) further engagement with kinship carers and partners, including the Third Sector, as part of the planning for the new service, together with steps being taken to seek the views of those carers who were not currently part of existing support networks, and (C) the continuation of parallel work to improve wider family supports; (e) indicating that these changes were intended to improve the experience of children and young people in kinship arrangements and to enhance the wider support available to kinship carers while making best use of available resources, and (f) informing that a report on the work being undertaken to improve wider family support, and the proposed expansion of family group decision-making, would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the Implementation Plan 2019/20 for the Virtual School, as summarised in the Appendix to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the proposal to establish a Kinship Care Team, and the next steps, as outlined in the report, be approved;
- (3) that it be noted that a report on the work being undertaken to improve family support and the proposed expansion of family group decision-making would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (4) that the report be otherwise noted.

DIGITALNL CLASSROOM – LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 May 2019 when, *inter alia*, the Committee had noted (1) the initial steps being taken by the Service in developing a Digital NL Classroom, including a pilot initiative in 2019/20, and (2) that a further report on the technical, operational, training and funding requirements would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee prior to the full roll out of the project, there was submitted a report by the Head of Education (North) (a) providing an overview of the actions being taken to develop the pilot initiative for the Digital NL Classroom; (b) advising that, following initial scoping of the project, the focus for the pilot initiative would initially be in a secondary school with a view to delivering a digital curriculum experience across the existing local consortium arrangement, and (c) attaching, in the Appendix to the report, a Practitioner's Guide to support school leaders of learning in schools and early years establishments in the development of digital solutions to enhance teaching and learning.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions to be taken to develop a pilot Digital NL Classroom within school session 2019/20, as outlined in the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2018/19

4. There was submitted a report by the Head of Education (North) (1) attaching, in the Appendix to the report, the Education and Families Standards and Quality Report 2018/19 which provided details of some of the key highlights in respect of improving the life chances for the children, young people and communities of North Lanarkshire; (2) intimating that a key driver for improvement in North Lanarkshire was to ensure that all learners could achieve their full potential regardless of where they came from; (3) stating that the Standards and Quality Report set out some of the Service's achievements in delivering on that ambition, and also highlighted some of the highly effective and innovative practice taking place in classrooms and schools, across education establishments, and with families and local communities to combat the effects of poverty on children and their families; (4) outlining details of the six National Improvement Framework drivers which had been used to document evidence of improvement, and (5) providing details of key areas for development and the next steps in order to deliver excellence and equity to ensure better outcomes for children, young people, families and communities.

Decided:

- (1) that further update reports on the Standards and Quality Report 2018/19 be submitted to future meetings of the Committee, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

THE PLAN FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE - STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee held on 26 September 2019, when, *inter alia*, that Committee had approved The Plan for North Lanarkshire, the Programme of Work, and the four supporting Strategic Frameworks there was submitted a report by the Head of Business Solutions (1) outlining the next steps in terms of the reporting arrangements to service committees for the Strategic Performance Frameworks, the aim of which was to ensure that evidence was presented to committee that allowed for day to day activities, and progress towards achieving the shared ambition, to be regularly reported, monitored, assessed, and scrutinised, and (2) advising that this process would also enable performance issues to be identified and remedial action undertaken to ensure that the Council remained on track towards achieving the shared ambition.

Decided:

- (1) that the performance information presented be reviewed in order to identify where further information was required to understand or investigate performance further;
 - (2) that the next steps, as outlined in the report, be noted, and
 - (3) that the report be otherwise noted.
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REVENUE MONITORING REPORT – 1 APRIL TO 11 OCTOBER 2019

6. There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Families) (1) providing a summary of the financial performance of the Education and Families Service for the period from 1 April to 11 October 2019; (2) outlining details of the projected outturn as at 31 March 2020, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained; (3) indicating that the Service had a net revenue budget of £414.858m, and that it was anticipated that there would be an overspend of £0.901m for the financial year; (4) intimating that the budget also incorporated £8.477m of savings which had previously been approved by the Council, and that it was anticipated that £7.023m of those savings would be achieved by the financial year end, and (5) attaching, as Appendices 1 to 5 to the report, a number of documents supporting the information contained within the narrative of the report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

1140 HOURS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE EXPANSION PROGRAMME

7. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 17 September 2019 when, *inter alia*, the Committee had (1) approved the proposed Workforce Strategy to meet the requirements of the 1140 Hours Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme, and (2) noted (a) that the design and build development agreement with HubCo for the design and construction of nine new Family Learning Centres would be on terms to be agreed by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions, subject to those terms representing Best Value; (b) the progress of the Interim Procurement Framework to support delivery of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare, and (c) the approach to phasing in 1140 hours of early learning and childcare in 2019/20, there was submitted a report by the Head of Education (Central) (a) advising (A) that the contract for the construction of six of the nine new build Family Learning Centre projects had been finalised and that arrangements were being put in place for the commencement of the work; (B) that agreement had now been reached with Scottish Water with regard to the surface water drainage on the sites of two of the remaining projects, and that it was anticipated that work on these projects would commence in January 2020; (C) that, for the reasons detailed therein, there was a need for the Council to submit a new planning application for the final remaining new build project on the site of the former Cumbernauld Village Primary School, and (D) that a contingency plan had been put in place to allocate places to families from Cumbernauld Village, temporarily, in order to deal with any potential delay, and to ensure that they would be allocated their statutory 1140 hours entitlement from August 2020; (b) intimating that contingency plans for the allocation of childcare places were in place to support pressure areas within the new build programme where projects would not be completed on time, and that there was a requirement for these plans to be submitted to the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Boards by mid-November 2019, and, thereafter, to the Scottish Government, and (c) providing details of (A) the three year procurement framework for eligible two year old children and all children aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school; (B) the deferred entry process for 2020/21; (C) the on-going consultation relating to Nursery Teachers; (D) the continued engagement with various internal and external stakeholders; (E) the progress of the Early Learning and Childcare (1140 hours) phasing strategy and the next steps, and (F) providing an update in respect of the Council's decision, at its meeting held on 20 June 2019, regarding Give Them Time (Deferred Entry), and advising that a further report detailing the full cost of implementing the terms of the Council's decision would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that a further report detailing the full cost of implementing the terms of the Council's decision in relation to Deferred Entry would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, and.
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE 2018/19

8. There was submitted a report by the Head of Education (South) (1) providing details therein of progress made in the Scottish Attainment Challenge in primary and secondary schools in North Lanarkshire during school session 2018/19; (2) highlighting details of areas of improvement within literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, and signposting developments and connections to further integrated working across the Education and Families Service and partners, and (3) setting out, in the Appendix to the report, the Council's End of the Academic Year Report which had been submitted to the Scottish Government in September 2019.

During consideration of this item of business, the Committee was advised that a workshop in the Scottish Attainment Challenge, and on the Standards and Quality Report, would be held for Elected Members in the near future.

Decided: that the report be noted.

DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE DELIVERY PLAN 2019 - 2021 – EMPLOYABILITY REVIEW

9. With reference to paragraph 6 of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 May 2019 when, *inter alia*, the Committee had (1) approved the Developing the Young Workforce Delivery Plan 2019-2021, and (2) noted that further reports highlighting the programmes and options that the Service would offer in future years, including the outcome of the Review of Employability, would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee, there was submitted a report by the Head of Education (North) (a) providing details therein of the work which had been undertaken by the Service since the approval of the Developing the Young Workforce Delivery Plan; (b) advising that the Delivery Plan was a Council-Wide approach to ensure effective delivery of the National Improvement Framework priority : "improvement in employability skills and sustained positive post - school leaver destinations for all young people", and (c) intimating that the publication and promotion of the Delivery Plan was one of the first key actions undertaken as part of the Council's Employability Review.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made to date in promoting the Developing the Young Workforce Delivery Plan 2019-2021 to internal and external stakeholders, and in executing actions detailed therein, be noted, and
(2) that the report be otherwise noted.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT

10. There was submitted a report by the Head of Children, Families and Justice Services/ Chief Social Work Officer (1) advising of the Community Payback Order Annual Report for the financial year 2018/19; (2) informing that the Criminal (Procedure) Scotland Act 1995 placed a duty on local authorities to prepare an annual report outlining the operation of Community Payback Orders; (3) intimating that there was a requirement for annual reports to be submitted both to the Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland by the end of October each year; (4) summarising the activity which had been undertaken in relation to the supervision of Community Payback Orders in North Lanarkshire over the past year, the ongoing development of the service and the progress secured against agreed targets, full details of which were set out in the Community Payback Order Annual Report, and (5) attaching, as the Appendix to the report, the Annual Report.

Decided: that the report be noted.

Cllr McPake, by virtue of the nature of his employment, had declared an interest in the matter prior to consideration of the following item of business. Cllr McPake had already left the meeting at this point.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS FOR THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 2019 TO JUNE 2022

11. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 February 2019 when, *inter alia*, the Head of Education (South) had been authorised, on behalf of the Council, to invite tenders for the provision of school transport for pupils with additional support needs for the period from August 2019 to June 2022, there was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Families) (1) advising of action taken by him in approving contract awards for the provision of school transport for pupils with additional support needs for periods of up to three years, and that the maximum potential total value of all of the contracts was £5,355,159; (2) indicating that the tender recommended for award for each individual contract had been evaluated as providing the most economically advantageous tender in terms of cost and quality for the Council, and (3) providing, in Appendices 2 and 3 to the report, details of the contract awards.

Decided: that the action taken by the Executive Director (Education and Families) on awarding contracts for the provision of school transport for pupils with additional support needs for the period from August 2019 to June 2022, at a maximum potential total value of £5,355,159, as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 to the report, be noted.

CONTRACT AWARDED BELOW THE COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

12. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions providing, in the Appendix to the report, details of a contract with a value in excess of £50,000, but less than £500,000, for services, which had been awarded by him in accordance with the Council's General Contract Standing Orders, during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2019.

Decided: that the report be noted.