



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

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Committee Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar (Convener)
Provost L Broun-Lindsay
Councillor S Brown
Councillor J Caldwell
Councillor A Forrest
Councillor D Grant
Councillor J Gillies
Councillor W Innes
Councillor M Libberton
Councillor P MacKenzie
Councillor F McAllister
Councillor P McLennan
Councillor J McNeil
Councillor J Williamson
Ms G Gillan
Mrs M Goldsmith
Mr M McHugh

Council Officials Present:

Mr D Nightingale, Head of Education
Mrs M Ferguson, Service Manager – Legal & Procurement
Mr R Parker, Education Service Manager (Strat & Ops)
Ms L Neri, Lead Officer GIRFEC (Item 5)
Ms J Ogden-Smith, Communications Officer
Mr G Clark, Head Teacher at Preston Lodge High School (Item 2)
Mr C Gerrie, Head Teacher at Musselburgh Grammar School (Item 2)

Clerk:

Ms F Currie, Committees Assistant

Apologies:

Councillor D Berry
Councillor S Currie
Councillor J Goodfellow
Councillor M Veitch
Mr S Bunyan

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JUNE 2015 FOR APPROVAL

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 16 June 2015 were presented for approval.

Referring to Item 6 of the minutes, Councillor MacKenzie asked whether the Committee would receive the agreed updates on progress against key attainment goals. The Convenor confirmed that this would be provided under Item 2 of the meeting.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minutes.

2. SUMMARY OF ATTAINMENT IN SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS IN EAST LoTHIAN SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2015

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) to inform the Committee of overall pass rates levels in East Lothian in SQA Examinations 2014/15 and the level of attainment of secondary pupils in S5 and S6. The report also informed the Committee of subsequent reports on the attainment and achievement of all pupils in the senior phase (S4 to S6) in East Lothian, using information from Insight.

The Head of Education, Darrin Nightingale, presented the report providing a brief outline of the new reporting arrangements, an update on the transition to the new national exam structure and the background to the latest attainment figures.

Mr Nightingale responded to a number of questions from Members providing clarification on the level of exam presentations within different schools and the figures for overall pass rates. When asked to address variations in levels of attainment, he said that many factors could affect overall attainment and that these would vary from school to school and pupil to pupil. He explained that attainment meetings would be taking place with each school to discuss their results and identify what needed to be done to improve attainment levels for their pupils.

Mr Nightingale then introduced Colin Gerrie, Head Teacher at Musselburgh Grammar School, and Gavin Clark, Head Teacher at Preston Lodge High School, who provided summaries of progress within their schools.

Mr Gerrie began with a brief summary of his experiences at previous schools and went on to outline some of the initiatives which had been put in place since his arrival at Musselburgh Grammar School. He explained that pupils and parents were actively engaged in monitoring progress throughout the year and received reports at 5 key stages. He maintained that this greater level of accountability allowed staff to more quickly identify the challenges facing individual pupils and to put in place measures to improve performance.

Mr Clark outlined his experiences at Preston Lodge High School and how it had benefited from examples provided by schools in the west of Scotland. He agreed that improving attainment required monitoring and tracking, as well as raising the aspirations and expectations of pupils. He referred to examples of good practice from

around the country and to the benefits of national tools such as 'Insight'. He said that pupils at Preston Lodge had been encouraged to sit qualifications over 2 years and this had helped to increase the level of presentations and improve performance in the Higher exams.

Mr Gerrie and Mr Clark responded to questions from Members on various aspects of their presentations outlining aspects of parental involvement at each school, the transition process from primary to secondary and addressing concerns about the potential for increased pressure on senior pupils. Mr Nightingale also summarised changes to school inspection procedures.

Councillor McAllister observed that the Curriculum for Excellence encouraged staff and pupils to develop an innovative approach to learning and it was unfortunate that there remained a lack of understanding among the general public. He said more should be done to promote the benefits of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Councillor MacKenzie offered his congratulations to teaching staff across the county for the tremendous results documented in the report. However, referring to the recent Audit Scotland report on education, he emphasised the importance of the Council allocating sufficient resources to address continuing gaps in attainment levels. He also said that, in his view, the report did not fully address the reasons for difference in attainment levels between schools and the actions needed to address this.

Councillor McNeil pointed out that the Council spends around half of its budget on education with part of this given directly to individual schools to address issues at a local level. He also reflected on the changes at Musselburgh Grammar School in recent months which had resulted in such a marked improvement.

Councillor Innes welcomed the report noting the very positive results. He referred in particular to the significant improvements at Musselburgh Grammar School and Ross High School, offering his congratulations to the staff and pupils.

Councillor Libberton commented that, in addition to the evidence provided in the figures, Preston Lodge High School was clearly a very happy place with both staff and pupils fully engaged in the learning process.

The Convenor drew the discussion to a close and, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr Gerrie and Mr Clark, and their colleagues throughout the county for their innovative leadership. She said that it was reassuring to see the level accountability and engagement from staff, pupils and parents and she reiterated the Council's commitment to raising attainment and improving opportunities and outcomes for all pupils.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the contents of the report;
- (ii) receive two further reports on attainment in the senior phase following publication of 2015 data through the Scottish Government national benchmarking tool, 'Insight':
 - in November focusing on the Local Benchmarking Measure and Breadth & Depth data to 2015 based on the attainment and achievement of all young people at the end of S4, S5 or S6; and

- in March focusing on the National Benchmarking Measure” and Breadth & Depth data to 2015 based on the attainment and achievement of all school leavers;
- (iii) note the examination results continue to inform and guide actions in each of the six secondary schools’ School Improvement Plans.

3. EDUCATION LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY 2014-2018

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) to update and inform the Committee on the development and implementation of the programme of work in relation to the Department’s Education Local Improvement Plan and Strategy 2014-2018.

Mr Nightingale presented the report explaining that this new plan and strategy had been prepared under the auspices of the Senior Management Education Board (SMEB) and had received the support of schools across the county. He said that the document provided an overview at local authority level while also offering a variety of options which schools could incorporate into their own improvement plans. Mr Nightingale advised that the plan and strategy were currently being updated to reflect changes to the Service and to detail which objectives had been completed.

Responding to questions from Members, Mr Nightingale confirmed that information could be made available on progress against targets for developmental outcomes in 27-30 month assessments; all schools were now providing 2 hours of quality PE to pupils each week; and that the professional update for teachers had been rolled out to all schools. He provided examples of the strategies which were in place to ensure continued improvement in the levels of literacy and numeracy and outlined aspects of the ‘Bring Your Own Device’ initiative to encourage the use of IT in the classroom.

Referring to the Scottish Government paper ‘Creating a Smarter Scotland’, Councillor MacKenzie commented that the Education Local Improvement Plan and Strategy should be particular, precise and have singular plans for each school and the departments within each school. He said that it should also address the attainment gap.

The Convenor welcomed the paper as an important document prepared in collaboration with school staff and in response to a request from schools for less prescriptive guidance.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the Department’s Education Local Improvement Plan and Strategy 2014-2018; and
- (ii) support the detailed activity, whilst acknowledging the document is currently being reviewed and updated.

4. SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2016/17 AND 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) to obtain the Committee’s approval for School Session dates for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Richard Parker, Education Service Manager (Strat & Ops), presented the report advising Members that discussions had taken place with City of Edinburgh Council and Midlothian Council in an attempt to align dates as far as possible across the three Local Authorities. This had been achieved for the majority of dates in 2016/17 and between East Lothian and Edinburgh for 2017/18. Midlothian Council had decided not to set session dates for 2017/18 at the present time.

Mr Parker said that consultation had taken place with Head Teachers, Teachers' Associations, UNISON, Educational Establishments, Parent Councils and the wider community. Of the 31 responses, 24 were content that the session dates aligned with those of City of Edinburgh Council and Midlothian Council.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- (i) Approve the school session dates for 2016/17 and 2017/18;
- (ii) Authorise notification to Head Teachers, Teachers' Associations, Heads of Establishments and Parent Councils; and
- (iii) Authorise notification to the Scottish Government Education Department.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) to update the Committee on the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Mr Nightingale presented the report providing an update on progress towards implementation of the Named Person Service for children aged 0 – 18 years by August 2016. He reminded Members that Local Authorities, and in particular Education Departments, would have responsibility for providing a Named Person for every child aged 5 – 18 within their area.

Lara Neri, Lead Officer GIRFEC, responded to a number of questions from Members on the ethos of the legislation, proposed supervision arrangements, the timing of statutory guidance due to be published by the Scottish Government and whether the current timetable for implementation could be achieved.

Decision

The Committee agreed to consider the implications that the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 will have on the Education Department and schools across East Lothian.

6. HEAD TEACHER APPOINTMENTS

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) to inform the Committee of the Head Teacher appointments made by the Appointments Sub-Committee.

Mr Nightingale presented the report advising Members that, following these appointments, there were no further Head Teacher vacancies in East Lothian.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the Head Teacher appointments.

7. EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL PLACING APPEALS 2015

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) to inform the Committee of the outcome of East Lothian Council's Placing Appeals in 2015.

Mr Nightingale presented the report indicating that of the 18 appeals heard by the Education Appeals Committee in 2015, 17 had resulted in the decision of the Education Authority being upheld and 1 had led to the Authority's decision being overturned.

Responding to a question from Councillor Williamson, Mr Nightingale advised that details of individual appeals could not be provided as this information was often of a confidential nature and, as such, subject to Data Protection rules.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the outcome of the Placing Appeals.

Signed

Councillor Shamin Akhtar
Convener of the Education Committee

REPORT TO: Education Committee

MEETING DATE: 10 November 2015

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – Update on 600 hours of early learning and childcare for priority 2 year olds (2014-15)

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the uptake of places for Priority 2 year olds receiving 600 hours of early learning and childcare as detailed in Part 6 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 which was passed on 19 February 2014 and received Royal Assent on 27 March 2014.
- 1.2 To make the Committee aware of the uptake and future demand for places for priority 2 year olds living in East Lothian following the changes to the qualifying criteria introduced by the Scottish Government that has been implemented since August 2015.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Between 1 August 2014 and 31 July 2015 85 applications were received and approved for priority 2 years for 600 hours of early learning and child care. 84 have been offered places in partner provider settings and other community childcare settings.
- 3.2 The number of applications received equates to 70% of the Scottish Government's predicted number of 120 children in East Lothian who meet the qualifying criteria.
- 3.3 Of the 85 applications received, 8 children are 'looked after', all of whom but one are Edinburgh children. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Scottish Government dictates that the "home" authority is responsible for funding placements identified and agreed by both the "host" and "home" authority.

- 3.4 Of the 85 applications received, 3 children have severe and complex needs with another 3 having identified additional support needs.
- 3.5 The breakdown of the 85 applications received is as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Musselburgh Cluster: | 23 applications |
| Tranent Cluster: | 21 applications |
| Prestonpans Cluster: | 20 applications |
| Haddington Cluster: | 13 applications |
| Dunbar Cluster: | 6 applications |
| North Berwick Cluster: | 2 applications |
- 3.6 15 of the applicants have been offered and accepted places at Olivebank Children & Family Centre. Places have been allocated via the Early Years Internal Panel rather than applications being made directly by parents.
- 3.7 The majority of parents/carers have requested a place at partner provider settings for their child. A small number of parents have asked that their child attends their local playgroup, Wraparound Care at either Dunbar or Tranent or Tots & Teens at Knox Academy or Preston Lodge High School. There were no requests for children to be placed with Childminders despite this being one of the early learning and childcare options.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE DEMAND

- 3.8 The Scottish Government changed the eligibility criteria to be implemented at the start of the academic year August 2015. This now includes Tax Credits with an income below £16,105 and maximum Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income below £6,420.
- 3.9 The above, along with the Scottish Government's advertising campaign, has resulted in an increase in the number of applications received. Applications received between 01/08/15 and 30/10/15 now stands at 34 of which 33 meet the criteria, 2 are Looked After and Accommodated Children (LAAC), 4 applications are incomplete and 28 have been allocated a place in an early learning and childcare setting of their choice.
- 3.10 The Scottish Government predicts that 296 priority 2 year olds will be eligible for a place in 2015-16, 76% (225 children) of whom will take up a place across the academic year. It is predicted that 8 of these children will be LAAC. To reach this target, it requires 18 applications a month to be made month on month. The Early Learning and Childcare team works closely with other professions and colleagues to promote this opportunity for parents and children.
- 3.11 As demand for places increase, choice for parents diminishes given that some areas across the county are better served than others for early learning and childcare provision. We anticipate a lack of places being available for priority 2

year olds in Prestonpans, Musselburgh East, Whitecraig and our rural areas including Pencaitland, Ormiston and other outlying areas.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The implementation of Part 6 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as described above, complies with legislation and Scottish Government Guidance.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and no negative impacts have been found.
- 5.2 A partial equality impact assessment (EQIA) was included in the public consultation on the Act in summer 2012. The final EQIA builds on and updates this document to reflect responses to the consultation and extensive discussion with stakeholders that was undertaken as part of the EQIA process.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – The costs of the policy will be contained within existing budgets.
- 6.2 Once a child has been allocated a place as a priority 2 year old, that place continues regardless of any change in family circumstances until the child moves into a nursery setting the term after their 3rd birthday.
- 6.3 The challenge evolving is a lack of Local Authority nursery places across some areas of the County for children to move into at age 3.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Early Years Framework, Pre-Birth to Three, National Parenting Strategy, GIRFEC, Corporate Parenting Strategy, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) , Building The Ambition

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REPORT TO: Education Committee
MEETING DATE: 10 November 2015
BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)
SUBJECT: Attainment Challenge and the Attainment Scotland Fund

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the Attainment Challenge, a Scottish Government initiative, and the Attainment Scotland Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to authorise me to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning to put forward a case for East Lothian to be considered for future allocations of the Attainment Scotland Fund.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 9 February 2015 the First Minister announced the Scottish Attainment Challenge.
- 3.2 The Attainment Challenge is supported by an Attainment Scotland Fund of £100 million over four years.
- 3.3 The aim of the Attainment Scotland Fund is to take forward improvements on educational outcomes in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities.
- 3.4 It was outlined that the four year fund would initially target schools in local authorities with the biggest concentrations of households in deprived areas.
- 3.5 Its focus is to improve literacy, numeracy, health & well-being in primary schools in these areas. With the objective being to give all primary-school age pupils regardless of their background the best start in life.
- 3.6 The first allocation from the fund was announced on 2 July 2015 and included seven local authorities. The seven local authorities were as follows: Glasgow, North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire and Dundee.

- 3.7. On the current criteria set for the Attainment Scotland Fund East Lothian Council is not able to access any of the funding. Other Local Authorities in a similar position are making representations to the Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning.
- 3.8 There is a strong case to be put forward for East Lothian to be considered for future allocations from the Attainment Scotland Fund as certain areas within the authority fall within the 20% most deprived communities in Scotland.
- 3.9 The aim of the fund reflects the priorities of East Lothian Council's Education Committee having recently agreed strategies on literacy, numeracy and health & well-being in order to improve the educational outcomes of all our young people.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. This report is not applicable to the well-being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Finance - none.
- 6.2 Personnel – none.
- 6.3. Other – none.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Raising Attainment Press Release outlining the first schools to be allocated resources from Attainment Challenge Fund 2nd July 2015
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Focus-on-raising-attainment-1add.aspx>
- 7.2 World Leader in Education Press Release outlining a further 57 schools to be allocated Attainment Challenge Fund 18th August 2015
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/A-world-leader-in-education-1c10.aspx>
- 7.3 East Lothian Strategic Assessment
[http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/695/council_information_performance_and_statistics/1666/information_statistics_and_data_about_east_lothian/7ast Lothian Strategic Assessment 2015.](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/695/council_information_performance_and_statistics/1666/information_statistics_and_data_about_east_lothian/7ast%20Lothian%20Strategic%20Assessment%202015)

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REPORT TO: Education Committee
MEETING DATE: 10 November 2015
BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)
SUBJECT: New Prevocational Offers and Post School Provision

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Committee regarding updates to the 2016/17 prevocational prospectus and to seek the Committee's support for further increased provision for post school pupils.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- i) note the updates to the 2016/17 prevocational prospectus and further increased provision for post school pupils; and
 - ii) agree to support the new early intervention programmes planned for the S3 cohort and the post school LAC specific programme, Learn 2 Work.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 To assist schools with improving pupil engagement and helping contribute to improved positive destinations, 2 new early intervention programmes have been established for S3 pupils, both of which will be piloted during 2016. This report details the aforementioned early intervention offer in addition to new prevocational provision for 2016/17.

The report also details 2 new post school options –

- Learn 2 Work, a programme specifically targeted for the LAC cohort
- A co-investment paid work experience programme established between East Lothian Council's Infrastructure Department and East Lothian Works for 16 – 24 year olds.

3.2 New Early Intervention Programmes (S3) for 2016/17

Kickstarter

This programme is specifically targeted at male pupils who are at risk of disengaging with education. The programme runs from January – May (half a day per week) and will be delivered in partnership with Hibernian Football Club. The programme will include confidence building, health and wellbeing, IT skills, teamwork and input from other agencies.

Stars in Their Eyes

This programme is specifically targeted at female pupils who are at risk of disengaging with education. The programme runs from January to May (half day per week) and will be delivered in partnership with Dance Division. The focus of the programme is to utilise the medium of performing arts to engage this cohort. The sessions will work towards building confidence, self esteem and team work by planning and taking part in a unique musical experience.

3.3 New Prevocational programmes for 2016/17

Bikefix Leadership Award

Pilot project planned in partnership with RUTS to deliver an accredited SCQF Level 5 programme with a focus on bicycle/motorcycle riding, servicing and maintenance. The programme (S3 – S5) will include motorcycle/bicycle maintenance and safe riding practices, health and safety within a workplace environment. In addition, pupils will develop leadership skills by gaining an understanding of how to be successful working in groups or teams, including leading activities.

3.4 New post school provision

Learn 2 Work

This programme has been specifically developed to work with the LAC cohort, aged 16 – 20 who are not currently in a positive destination. The programme commences on a part time basis (from as little as 3 hours per week with an expectation that participants will progress to 3 days per week). There is an expectation that participants will engage in both learning and work experience including the opportunity to achieve SQA accredited employability units and other sector specific qualifications where appropriate.

Paid Work Experience

A co-investment model has been established matching Developing Scotland's Young Workforce funding with budget made available by East Lothian Council's Infrastructure Department to offer a range of work experience opportunities to East Lothian young people aged 16 – 24 who are not in a positive destination. Similar to the Youth Employment

Scotland (YES) Fund Paid Work Experience programme, young people will be offered 6 months work experience (based on NMW rates) with a compulsory learning element. Plans are to deliver the Certificate of Work Readiness as an entire qualification or stand alone units, dependant on the capability of the participant. The full Certificate of Work Readiness qualification is accredited to SCQF Level 4.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance - Programmes will be delivered within existing budget allocation.

6.2 Personnel - East Lothian Works current staffing resource will support the programmes.

6.3 Other – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

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