

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 12 MAY 2009

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Tuesday 12 May 2009 at 4.00 pm

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, Grieve, Loughran, McCabe, McKenzie, Osborne and Wilson, Rev W Hamilton, Rev C McGranaghan and Father M McMahon, Church Representatives, Mr G Miller, Parent Representative and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor McKenzie presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Schools, Head of Lifelong Learning & Educational Support, Head of Support & Development, Head of School Estate Projects, School Estate Manager, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr H McNeilly (for Head of Legal & Administration) and Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs.

With the exception of the decision marked “C” which is open for confirmation or otherwise, the following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

327 HMIe Report on Kelly Street Children’s Centre

327

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising the Committee of the results of the HMIe and Care Commission Inspection of the pre-school provision at the Kelly Street Children’s Centre, Greenock. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality recently amended by the HMIe, two had been evaluated as “excellent” and three as “very good”.

Ms Anne-Marie Boyd and Ms Tricia Wylie, Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher of the Centre were present together with two pupils and Ms Boyd addressed the Committee relative to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made following the HMIe and Care Commission inspection of Kelly Street Children’s Centre; and
- (2) that the Committee’s appreciation be conveyed to the Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher, staff and pupils of the Centre as well as staff within Education Services Headquarters for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

328 Capital Programme 2008/11 - Progress

328

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care and the Chief Financial Officer on the progress of the Capital Programme 2008/11.

Noted

329 Education Service - Performance Report: March to April 2009

329

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising of the progress made by Education Services during the period March to April 2009 in relation to achieving the service objectives and (2) explaining how this contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

Decided: that the report be approved.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 12 MAY 2009

330 Consultation on Additional Support Needs 330

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information on the consultation arrangements relative to additional support needs, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 3 March 2009.

(Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the Committee in August 2009.

331 Consultation on School Transport - Paying for Privilege Passes 331

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the results of the consultation with head teachers and parents/carers on the introduction of a scheme to allow payment for a privilege pass on a school transport contract, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 17 March 2009.

(Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the results of the consultation both for and against the paying for privilege passes together with the potential to offset other transport costs; and
- (2) that given the savings identified in the budget process, it be agreed to proceed as planned and effect the savings.

332 Results of the Wider Consultation on the Future of the School Age Language Unit (SALU) in Highlanders Academy Primary School 332

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) providing details of the responses received to the wider consultation on the future of the School Age Language Unit (SALU) in Highlanders Academy Primary School, (2) highlighting the issues raised during the consultation and their implications and (3) seeking approval for the adoption of Option 4 as detailed in the report.

Following discussion, Councillor McKenzie moved that Option 4 (pupils needs are met in their mainstream school with visiting support from speech and language impairment teacher and therapist) be approved and that as responsibility for developing the best provision for young people with speech and language impairments lies with Education Services, the views of professionals should be taken into account. As an amendment, Mr Tracey moved that Option 1 (the status quo) be approved and that as responsibility for developing the best provision for young people with speech and language impairments lies with Education Services, the views of professionals should be taken into account. On a vote, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 6 for the motion. There being equality in voting, the Convener exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Those Members who had voted in favour of the amendment then requested in terms of the relevant Standing Order that the matter be referred to The Inverclyde Council for decision in terms of the amendment.

C Decided: that Option 4 (pupils needs are met in their mainstream school with visiting support from speech and language impairment teacher and therapist) be approved and that as responsibility for developing the best provision for young people with speech and language impairments lies with Education Services, the views of professionals should be taken into account. **C**

Mr Tracey asked that his dissent at the decision be recorded.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 12 MAY 2009

- 333 Implementing New Timetables in Secondary Schools 333**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing an update on how schools are progressing with the implementation of a reconfigured school day in secondary schools.
Decided: that the Committee approve the progress made as detailed in the report.
- 334 Amendment to Term Dates for Session 2010/11 334**
- It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.
 Rev Hamilton left the meeting at this juncture.
- 335 Early Years Framework 335**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) providing information on the Early Years Framework and (2) proposing that a new strategic group be established to progress the recommendations of the Early Years Framework.
Decided: that the Committee approve the policy imperatives within the Early Years Framework and support the development of a strategic group to progress the recommendations made.
- 336 Additional Support for Learning Bill 2009 336**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising of changes to the Additional Support Needs legislation proposed in the Additional Support for Learning Bill 2009.
 (Councillor Osborne left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
Decided: that the Committee note the changes to Additional Support Needs legislation introduced by the Additional Support for Learning Bill 2009, as detailed in the report.
- 337 St Stephen's Enterprise Centre - Progress Report 337**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information on St Stephen's Enterprise Centre, Port Glasgow.
Decided:
 (1) that the report be noted; and
 (2) that approval in principle be given to the scope for development at the Enterprise Centre, as detailed in the report.
- 338 Gibshill Children's Centre 338**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information on the development of Family Support Services in Gibshill Children's Centre.
Noted
- 339 A Leadership Strategy for Education Services 339**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care appending a proposed strategy for School Leadership.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 12 MAY 2009

Decided: that the Leadership Strategy set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

340 Education Services - Priorities 2009/2010 340

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care appending the priorities for Education Services in session 2009/2010.

Decided: that the priorities for Education Services in session 2009/2010 appended to the report be approved in order that they can inform the Service and Directorate Plans for 2009/2010.

341 Priorities for Admission when Transferring from Primary School to Secondary School 341

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

342 Proposal to Create Principal Teacher Posts in the Visual Impairment (VI) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Services 342

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care requesting approval to create Principal Teacher posts in both the Visual Impairment and English as an Additional Language Services; and

Decided:

(1) that approval be given to the creation of Principal Teacher posts in the Visual Impairment (VI) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Services; and

(2) that Education Services in consultation with Human Resources and other partners carry out an evaluation of the posts and arrange for appropriate specifications and advertisements to be prepared with a view to filling the posts.

343 Strategies to Improve Attendance in Inverclyde Schools 343

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the strategies which will be used within Inverclyde schools to build on attendance figures in future academic sessions.

Decided:

(1) that approval be given to implementing the range of strategies detailed in the report to improve attendance figures in the sessions ahead; and

(2) that a progress report be submitted to the Committee in due course, the report also to include a breakdown of authorised and unauthorised absences from school.

344 Update on the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award (DFSA) and Provision for Pupils Suffering from Mearls Irlen Syndrome 344

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing an update on progress made in relation to the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award (DFSA) and advising of provision for pupils suffering from Mearls Irlen Syndrome. (Councillor Clocherty left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

(1) that the report be noted; and

(2) that the Committee approve the continued involvement of Education Services in the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Awards and also the palliative work with pupils suffering from Mearls Irlen Syndrome.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 12 MAY 2009

- 345 Use of B-Active as a Supplier of a Unique Service to Education 345**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval to obtain the services of B-Active which provides sports coaching and associated transport services for young people whose behaviour causes concern at times within schools.
(Rev McGranaghan left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
Decided: that approval be given to the use of B-Active as a unique supplier in 2008/09 and that the company be added to the list of unique suppliers submitted to the Committee in the next financial year.
- 346 Provision of Wrapround and Out of School Care 346**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising of the increase in wrapround provision within early years establishments and (2) seeking approval to increase the charges for out of school care.
Decided:
(1) that the report be noted; and
(2) that approval be given to increase the charges for out of school care as detailed in the report.
- 347 Sports Strategy Update 347**
- There was submitted a replacement report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the progress being made to implement the Inverclyde Sports Strategy.
Decided:
(1) that the Committee approve the progress being made by Education Services to implement the Inverclyde Sports Strategy; and
(2) that a report be submitted to the Committee at the start of the new school session setting out the initiatives in place within Inverclyde schools.
- 348 St Columba's High School Transport 348**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing details of the transport arrangements for St Columba's High School for the period of the school's relocation within the former Greenock High School building.
Decided:
(1) that the Council's current policy for secondary schools be applied; and
(2) that the current transport arrangements for St Columba's High School be maintained and expanded if required, it being noted that paying for privilege passes as agreed at paragraph 331 above is an option for those not entitled to transport.
- 349 Items for Noting 349**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information for noting on (1) Teachers in Scotland 2008, (2) Expenditure on School Education in Scotland 2008, (3) the Scottish Survey of Achievement in Mathematics and Numeracy 2008 and (4) the Scottish Design Awards.
Noted