

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 4 September 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, Sally Page and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Karen McKinlay and Ms Julia Strang.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement; Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Kathy Morrison, Lead Officer - Early Years; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie and John Mooney, and Mr Gavin Corrigan, Miss Sheila Rennie and Ms Michelle Stuart.

Councillor Karen Conaghan in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 5 June 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 18 June 2019 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved, subject to the name 'Christopher Lloyd' in the sederunt being amended to 'Campbell Lloyd'.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/Improving Learning and relevant officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2019

The Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement provided a verbal update in relation to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Examination Results 2019. In so doing, he informed the Committee:-

- (a) that 2,117 candidates had been presented for 9,601 qualifications from National 2 to Advanced Higher and that 82% of these presentations had resulted in a passing grade, in comparison to 83% in 2018;
- (b) that compared to last year's results the performance at Advanced Higher and National 5 had improved by 2% and decreased by 2% at Higher;
- (c) that at Higher and National 5, the levels with the highest number of presentations, West Dunbartonshire performed above the national average;
- (d) that all West Dunbartonshire schools offered a broader range of qualifications in the senior phase outwith the National Qualifications, including Skills for Work courses, Group Awards, presentations at Units only, National Progression Awards and Foundation Apprenticeships;

- (e) that in 2019, 16 pupils at St Peter the Apostle High School undertook Foundation Apprenticeships, the second highest number from any one school in Scotland;
- (f) that closer links were being developed between schools and employers in delivering qualifications in the senior phase;
- (g) that Insight, the national benchmarking tool for the senior phase, would be updated in late September 2019 with data from the full suite of presentations undertaken in 2019 and that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee providing a detailed analysis of the performance of each establishment in terms of the four key national measures, namely: (i) performance in literacy and numeracy; (ii) average total tariff; (iii) performance versus deprivation; and (iv) positive destinations; and
- (h) that the report would also show performance across curricular areas and how qualifications gained by school leavers prepares them for future destinations beyond school, giving a more complete picture of attainment the senior phase than by looking solely at the data relating to the National Qualifications.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the position in respect of the examination results.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY – BENCHMARKING

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer advising on the performance of literacy and numeracy in West Dunbartonshire at Early Years, P1, P4, P7 and S3.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/ Improving Learning in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that improvements planned would be implemented as part of the Authority's strategy to raise attainment, improve learning and narrow the poverty related attainment gap; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EARLY YEARS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update of the plan for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in West Dunbartonshire Council.

After discussion and having heard the Lead Officer - Early Years in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the current phasing of the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion, as detailed in the Appendix to the report; and
- (2) that a further update be provided to the next meeting of the Committee in December 2019.

Note: Councillor Docherty left the meeting during consideration of this item.

SUMMER PROGRAMME EVALUATION

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) providing an update on the impact of plans to reduce holiday hunger across West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) during Summer 2019; and
- (b) informing and updating on the governance of funding allocations, spend and impact of projects.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress and impact of authority-wide plans by partners to reduce holiday hunger; and
- (2) to note the ways in which the fund had been administered and governed.

POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR SUPPORTING LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PLUS (LGBTi+) PUPILS IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOLS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) informing of the inclusive support practices in West Dunbartonshire schools; and
- (b) informing of the Council's policy and guidance for supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Plus (LGBTi+) pupils in West Dunbartonshire schools, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the report and that officers should carry out a full review of LGBT policies when the Scottish Government issues updated guidance and submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee seeking agreement of updated policies.

EDUCATION, LEARNING & ATTAINMENT DELIVERY PLAN 2018/19 – YEAR-END PROGRESS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing information on the year-end progress on the 2018/19 Plan.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note the progress in delivering the 2018/19 Plan.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JULY 2019 (PERIOD 4)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 July 2019 (Period 4).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) in further explanation and in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently shows a projected annual adverse revenue variance of £0.058m (less than 0.1%); and
- (2) to note that the capital account shows a projected annual adverse variance of £0.284m (5.6% of the budget), relating to an in year overspend primarily at Kilpatrick.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Conaghan, Chair, informed the Committee that this was the first meeting of the Committee which Ms Karen McKinlay had attended since her appointment as a parent representatives and welcomed her to the Committee.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.