

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 10.00 am.

Present: Councillors SHEENA WELSH, LYNNE DEVINE, MARTYN GEDDES, JIM HOUSTON, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, MARK SALMOND, EWAN SMITH, BOB MYLES and BILL DUFF.

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David Fairweather, Ronnie Proctor MBE, Margaret Thomson and Paul Valentine, with Councillors Craig Fotheringham, Bob Myles and Bill Duff substituting for Councillors Proctor, Thomson and Valentine, respectively.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. **MINUTES**

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 February 2016 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers

The minute of meeting of the Angus Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers of 24 February 2016, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. **INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 8 FEBRUARY TO 28 MARCH 2016**

There was submitted and noted Report No 139/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning providing key information to members with regard to services delivered to the People Directorate for the period 8 February to 28 March 2016.

5. **PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPACITIES**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 April 2015, there was submitted Report No 140/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning providing details of the planning and working capacities, and the projected rolls of primary schools for 2016/2017, and seeking approval to extend the caps on the rolls of Inverbrothock, St Thomas, Timmergreens and Woodlands Primary Schools and to remove the caps on Hayshead and Langlands Primary Schools.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the roll capping of the schools outlined in section 5.1 of the Report for session 2016/2017; and
- (ii) to remove the roll cap from Hayshead and Langlands Primary Schools, as outlined in section 5.2 of the Report.

6. TEACHER NUMBERS AND RECRUITMENT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 January 2016, there was submitted Report No 141/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning updating members with regard to teacher numbers, recruitment and vacancies; summarising recent correspondence from the Scottish Government in relation to the maintenance of teacher ratios and outlining proposed further action.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that a further report on possible incentives to encourage new teachers to Angus be provided to the next meeting of this Committee;
- (ii) to request the continuance of an information schedule on teacher numbers, recruitment and vacancies to each Children and Learning Committee until census this year;
- (iii) to approve a full evaluation of both the D'Lite and Learn to Teach programmes; and
- (iv) to consider the establishment of a partnership agreement with providers to deliver D'Lite and Learn to Teach programmes.

7. CONTRACTS WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2016/2017

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 February 2015, there was submitted Report No 142/16 by the Strategic Director – Children and Learning seeking approval of the proposed contracts with voluntary sector providers for children's services, and providing details of other third party agreements for information.

The Report indicated that entering into the contracts, as detailed in the Report, would help ensure the provision of a range of essential services through partnership working. Working in partnership with the voluntary sector was essential to the provision of effective and efficient services and brought a range of added benefits for the people of Angus in terms of sharing skills and experience, generating new insights and solutions, and attracting additional sources of revenue funding.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the contracts for children's services for 2016/17, as detailed in the Report, and to authorise the Head of Quality and Performance to enter into these contracts on behalf of Angus Council; and
- (ii) to note that there were 33 contracts for the Provision of Early Learning and Childcare due for renewal in June 2016, which would be the subject of a further Report to the next meeting of this Committee.

Following conclusion of the business, the Convener referred to the safety issues discovered in a number of Edinburgh schools. Whilst no schools within Angus had been constructed by the contractor associated with the Edinburgh schools, Angus Council would work with partners to check the construction of the recently built schools with inspections being carried out in a discreet and unobtrusive way.