

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors SHEENA WELSH, IAIN GAUL, BRIAN BOYD, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, MARTYN GEDDES, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, MAIRI EVANS, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, MARK SALMOND, EWAN SMITH, MARGARET THOMSON and PAUL VALENTINE.

**Church Representatives:** MR DAVID ADAMS

**Teacher Representatives:** Mr PHILIP JACKSON

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

### 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Lynne Devine, Colin Brown, David Fairweather and Donald Morrison, with Councillors Iain Gaul, Brian Boyd, Craig Fotheringham and Mairi Evans substituting, respectively.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

### 3. MINUTES

#### (a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 April 2015 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 25 February 2015, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted. **(APPENDIX I)**

### 4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 16 MARCH TO 5 MAY 2015

There was submitted and noted Report No 200/15 by the Strategic Director – People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered to the People Directorate for the period 16 March to 5 May 2015.

In relation to the inspection of the Angus Council Supported Lodging Scheme for Care Leavers, the Committee congratulated all the staff for such an excellent report.

### 5. CONSULTATION ON THE SCHOOL DAY FOR P1-P3 PUPILS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 February 2015, there was submitted Report No 201/15 by the Strategic Director – People summarising the main findings of a recent consultation undertaken with parents and teachers relating to the structure of the school day for children in primary 1-3 classes in Angus schools.

The consultation had considered parental and staff opinions regarding the value of play and physical activity for young children and had asked for their views on the links between play and learning in the early years of school. Proposals for changes to the structure of the school day and four models to increase time directed towards play and physical activity were outlined in the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the main findings of the parental survey;
- (ii) to note the main findings of the staff survey;
- (iii) to approve the arrangements to standardise the school day for all pupils in Angus primary schools as detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the Report;
- (iv) to approve the decision not to proceed to reduce teacher contact time for primary 1-3 pupils to 22.5 hours per week; and
- (v) to approve the decision to develop local play guidelines for Angus taking full cognisance of the national play strategy guidance.

## **6. SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2017/18 AND 2018/19**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 September 2014, there was submitted Report No 202/15 by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval to finalise dates for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 school terms and holiday dates arising from a consultation exercise with school staff, Parent Councils and Trade Unions.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this matter to allow for more extensive consultation to take place with parents.

## **7. ANGUS SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTAINMENT 2013-14**

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 February 2015, there was submitted Report No 203/15 by the Strategic Director – People providing members with a summary of the attainment outcomes in Angus Council Secondary Schools in the Senior Phase for academic session 2013/14.

The Report indicated that the new benchmarking tool, Insight presented the data in a significantly different way and focused on looking at the performance in the senior phase across the four key national benchmarking measures and encouraged taking a holistic approach to evaluating attainment and achievement, taking into account performance across all four measures.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the attainment results as detailed in the Report following the February Insight Update;
- (ii) that future Reports would be based on the new attainment benchmarks, as defined by the Insight tool;
- (iii) to acknowledge the continued hard work of pupils, staff and parents to support the ongoing implementation of the new qualifications;
- (iv) to request further attainment Reports annually in this format, following confirmation of the data in the February Insight update; and
- (v) to approve further Insight briefing sessions, the first of which was planned to take place prior to the meeting of this Committee on 22 September 2015.

## **8. CHILDREN'S WELLBEING RESEARCH PROJECT**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee of 3 September 2013, there was submitted Report No 204/15 by the Strategic Director – People advising members of the initial outcomes of the Children's Wellbeing Research undertaken in September 2014.

The Report indicated that on the basis of the initial outcomes from the research it was proposed that three key development outcomes were identified as priorities for the Angus Community Planning Partnership, namely:-

- Poor Early Social and Emotional Development (0-5 years)
- Poor Engagement with School (9-16)
- Early Initiation of Substance Use (12-16)

Addressing these issues at an early stage would help promote better outcomes for all children and young people in Angus. It was also proposed that these three key developmental outcomes were set as priorities for the revised Children's Services Plan for Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcomes of the Children's Wellbeing Research;
- (ii) to approve the three key developmental outcomes identified in section 5 of the Report as priorities for the revised Children's Services Plan; and
- (iii) to request that the Strategic Director report back to Committee on progress in addressing the three key developmental outcomes.