

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 23 September 2014 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors SHEENA WELSH, LYNNE DEVINE, COLIN BROWN, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, MARTYN GEDDES, SHEILA HANDS, JIM HOUSTON, DAVID MAY, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, BRIAN BOYD, EWAN SMITH, CRIAG FOTHERINGHAM and PAUL VALENTINE.

**Church**

**Representatives:** Mr DAVID ADAMS and Mr BILL SIMPSON.

**Teacher**

**Representatives:** Mr DAVID DRYSDALE

Councillor WELSH, Convener, in the Chair.

### 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mark Salmond and Margaret Thomson, with Councillors Brian Boyd and Craig Fotheringham substituting, respectively. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Mr Jim Hammond and Mrs Georgina Mallie.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

### 3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 August 2014](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

### 4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 24 JULY TO 8 SEPTEMBER 2014

There was submitted and noted [Report No 387/14](#) by the Strategic Director – People providing key background information to members with regard to services delivered in the People Directorate for the period 24 July to 8 September 2014.

### 5. CHILDREN EDUCATED AT HOME

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 26 May 2005, there was submitted [Report No 388/14](#) by the Strategic Director – People advising members of an update to the current arrangements for dealing with requests from parents who wished to educate their children at home, taking account of the revised management arrangements within the Council.

The Report indicated that the policy would be reviewed following the commencement of the statutory duties associated with the Children's and Young People (Scotland) Act 2013 and thereafter every three years. All further reviews would include home educating organisations and home educating parents.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the revised policy in respect of children educated at home.

### 6. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR ANGUS LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 April 2014, there was submitted [Report No 389/14](#) by the Strategic Director – People advising members of the educational outcomes for looked after children and young people in 2012/2013.

As at 30 June 2014, there were 270 looked after children and young people in Angus, 186 of whom were between the ages of 5 and 16.

The Report detailed the educational attainment of looked after children along with information in relation to school attendance and exclusion rates. The national statistics showed that the educational attainment amongst looked after children had slightly improved over the past four years, however the rate of improvement had been greater amongst non-looked after children. In general, the average tariff scores had been increasing in recent years but the gap between looked after children and all children remained. This was reflected in the Angus information, as detailed in paragraph 4.11 of the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to request that progress on the educational outcomes for looked after children were monitored by the newly constituted Corporate Parenting Board.

## **7. SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2017/2018 AND 2018/2019**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 22 August 2013, there was submitted [Report No 390/14](#) by the Strategic Director – People seeking approval for a consultation exercise on proposals for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 school terms and holiday dates.

The Report indicated that it was the duty of the Council to set a schedule of school terms and holiday dates. These dates would be set following consultation and had to comprise a total pupil school year of 190 days, unless exceptional circumstances applied. In addition, the Council had to set aside five days within the school year for the purposes of in-service training for staff.

It was proposed that a consultation exercise inviting comments on the specific issues detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the Report from Parent Councils, from Trade Unions recognised by the Council and from any individual member of staff who wished to comment. The draft schedule would be shared for information and comment with neighbouring Councils.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise a consultation exercise on the draft schedule of School Terms and Holiday Dates for session 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 detailed in Appendix I and 2 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note that the outcomes of this exercise would be the subject of a future report to this Committee.