

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 17 August 2017 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors MARK SALMOND, DEREK WANN, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, BEN LAWRIE, IAN McLAREN, MARK MCDONALD, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, GAVIN NICOL, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Church

Representatives: Miss LESLEY HOOD.

Teacher

Representatives: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN and Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

Councillor SALMOND, Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of the business, the Convener congratulated the many pupils, parents and teachers across Angus on their successes in this year's exams. A full breakdown and analysis of the results would be presented to a future meeting of this Committee however early indications were that recent achievements had been maintained.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Angus Macmillan Douglas OBE, Bob Myles and Tommy Stewart, with Councillors Ian McLaren, Craig Fotheringham and Gavin Nicol substituting 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 13 June 2017 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 31 May 2017, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Staffing Sub-Committee

The minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 13 June 2017, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX II**).

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 31 MAY TO 1 AUGUST 2017

There was submitted Report No 269/17 by the Strategic Director – People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 31 May to 1 August 2017.

Having heard that, in relation to Schedule 1 (Teacher Recruitment), every effort was being made to recruit secondary teachers, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

At this stage in the meeting and prior to consideration of Items 5 and 6 below, Dr Pauline Stephen gave a presentation on the successes and challenges in raising attainment in Angus. She gave a brief summary of the achievements of the young people when it was noted that pupils in Angus were consistently outperforming the national average and virtual comparators

for attainment in literacy and numeracy, as well as the percentage of school leavers achieving an initial positive destination.

5. ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT 2016/17

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 August 2016, there was submitted Report No 270/17 by the Strategic Director – People presenting the annual evaluation report for the Children and Learning Service.

The Report indicated that, as an integral part of the Directorate's arrangements for quality assurance, an annual evaluation report was prepared for submission to this Committee. The Report was a reflection upon the quality and impact of the work of the Children and Learning Service.

The Report reviewed progress with key actions and performance indicators in the 2016-2019 Children and Learning Directorate Improvement Plan, and was informed by the outcome from a series of collaborative self-evaluation workshops where a wide range of evidence in relation to the service provision had been reviewed.

Having heard from a number of members on the achievements made over the past year, the Committee agreed to endorse the contents of the annual evaluation report for 2016/2017, as appended to the Report.

6. ANNUAL EDUCATION PLAN

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 June 2017, there was submitted Report No 271/17 by the Chief Education Officer seeking approval of the Angus Annual Education Authority Plan in line with the legislative requirements.

The first Angus Annual Education Plan, as required by the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000, summarised proposed educational improvement activity for the period 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018 with a report on progress being brought back to a meeting of this Committee in August 2018.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Annual Education Plan and implementation of the plan and its priorities, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to note that the Annual Education Plan outlined improvement activity for the period 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018; and
- (iii) to instruct the Chief Education Officer to ensure that an evaluation report on progress with the Annual Education Plan be presented to a meeting of this Committee in August 2018.

7. VISIBLE LEARNING TRAINING

There was submitted Report No 272/17 by the Strategic Director – People advising members on the progress made in implementing the Visible Learning training programme within Angus schools, seeking homologation of the decision taken by officers to award a contract for the second cohort of the programme and approval to award, in due course, a contract for the third cohort.

The Schools and Learning Service had concluded that the Visible Learning programme uniquely met the specific Angus requirements for in-service training of teachers and school support staff in methods of improving learning.

OSIRIS Educational Limited had the sole intellectual property rights to deliver the programme in the UK and for that reason it had been considered that in respect of the procurement process to be followed, that the negotiated procedure without publication was appropriate in this particular case.

The programme would create a culture of learning within the school and would encourage reflective practice and collaboration between teachers. It also increased the level of language

used about learning with pupils, parents and staff. The programme was currently being delivered to two cohort of staff across schools, the first comprising 200 staff and the second comprising 448 staff. It was anticipated that a third cohort of staff would be trained however, at this point, the numbers of staff to be trained and the timescales had not been finalised.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in delivering the Visible Learning training programme to staff within the Schools and Learning Service;
- (ii) to homologate the decision taken by officers to award a contract to OSIRIS Educational Limited for the second cohort of the programme; and
- (iii) to approve the use of OSIRIS Educational Limited for future training cohorts as deemed necessary by the Head of Schools and Learning.