

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 15 August 2019 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DEREK WANN, LOIS SPEED, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BEN LAWRIE, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, MARK McDONALD, BOB MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Church

Representatives: Miss LESLEY HOOD and Mr ERIC SUMMERS.

Teacher

Representative: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs Anna Cheyne, Teacher Representative.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 May 2019 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 8 MAY TO 23 JULY 2019

There was submitted Report No 241/19 by the Depute Chief Executive providing key information to members with regard to services in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 8 May to 23 July 2019 relating to:-

- Care Inspectorate Inspection of Carseburn Road Care Home Service (Schedule 1)
- Additional In-Service Days School Session 2019-2020 (Schedule 2)

Having heard the Convener and Councillor Devine welcome the positive Inspection Report (Schedule 1), the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

5. EARLY YEARS EXPANSION PROGRAMME – GRANT APPLICATION SCHEME

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 May 2019, there was submitted Report No 242/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning updating members on the grant application scheme administered as part of the early years expansion programme, and seeking approval to increase the initial budget for the scheme following discussions with grantees and the Council's professional adviser.

The Report indicated that discussions with several of the grantees had since led to further refinement and development of their proposals. The initial reports compiled by the professional adviser had raised the possibility that some of the applicants' cost estimates were conservative. It was therefore necessary to request a budget that ensured the expansion programme could meet the eventual costs of the grant projects without the need for further Committee approval, as any delays in the completion of these projects could result in a failure to meet the new statutory requirements from August 2020. The requested budget was above the current projected spend on the approved grant projects, having taken account of the professional advisers comments regarding potentially conservative cost estimates from some of the applicants. Costs for the grants were contained within the overall Scottish Government grant for the expansion programme.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the additional information on the successful grant projects, as detailed in Section 4 of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the reallocation of existing funds from elsewhere within the expansion programme to increase the scheme budget from £500,000 to £1,000,000;
- (iii) to delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Director of Schools and Learning, to agree the terms and conditions of the individual grants as detailed in Section 4 of the Report, so as to protect the Council's interests in line with the measures noted in Report No 158/19, and to sign the agreements on behalf of the Council;
- (iv) to delegate authority to the Director of Schools and Learning, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to pay out the individual grants in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions; and
- (v) to delegate authority to the Director of Schools and Learning to approve any further grant scheme budget variations, up to a maximum additional allocation of 25%, and within the overall programme budget allocated by Scottish Government.

6. EARLY YEARS EXPANSION PROGRAMME – REVENUE GRANTS TO PROVIDERS

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 April 2018, there was submitted Report No 243/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning seeking approval for the payment of grants to all early learning and childcare providers in Angus in academic year 2019/2020, to support the preparation for the expansion from 600 to 1140 hours in August 2020.

As part of the Angus allocation of revenue grant from the Scottish Government, provision had been made for the allocation of grants to early learning and childcare settings across all sectors to support preparation for the implementation of the expanded entitlement in August 2020. The grants would be aimed at supporting providers to ensure that they were sufficiently prepared for increased capacity and longer hours of provision and could be used to buy consumables, technology or any other resources required to support expansion.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the background information as detailed in Sections 3 and 4 of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the allocation of revenue grants to all early learning and childcare providers in Angus, in line with the process as detailed in Section 5 of the Report; and
- (iii) to delegate authority to the Director of Schools and Learning, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to agree the terms and conditions of the individual grants, to sign the grant agreements on behalf of the Council, and to pay out the individual grants, all in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions.

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee agreed that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item so as to avoid the disclosure of information which is exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 6, 8 and 9.

8. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT – PUBLIC TO PUBLIC CONTRACT FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 August 2016, there was submitted Report No 244/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning seeking approval to award a public to public co-operation contract for the provision of a speech and language therapy service to children and young people in Angus.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report.