

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors DEREK WANN, LOIS SPEED, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN BEM, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BEN LAWRIE, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, MARK McDONALD, BOB MYLES, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, DAVID LUMGAIR, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

**Teacher**

**Representatives:** Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN and Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

## 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ronnie Proctor MBE and Tommy Stewart, with Councillors Craig Fotheringham and David Lumgair substituting respectively. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Miss Lesley Hood and Mr Eric Summers, Church Representatives.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

## 3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2019 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

## 4. PRESENTATION – SPORTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Convener introduced Beth and Rhiannon from Forfar Academy, and Mr Andy Garnett, Active Schools Angus Lead Coordinator.

Mr Garnett gave an overview of the Sports Leadership Academy which was a collaboration between Angus & Dundee Active Schools' teams, and Dundee & Angus College. During the Academy, a programme of workshops had been delivered covering over 20 courses and as a result, approximately 110 pupils were now actively volunteering and 12 pupils were accessing paid work. All secondary schools within Angus had been represented.

Beth and Rhiannon each provided an overview of the Sports Leadership Academy from their own perspective, shared their experiences of volunteering, and highlighted the opportunities that they had been given to develop a range of skills which had helped them in their volunteering roles.

Following a number of questions, members thanked Mr Garnett, Beth and Rhiannon for their attendance and excellent presentation.

## 5. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 23 JULY TO 3 SEPTEMBER 2019

There was submitted Report No 304/19 by the Depute Chief Executive providing key information to members with regard to services in the Schools and Learning, and Children, Families and Justice Service for the period 23 July to 3 September 2019 relating to:-

- Education Scotland Inspection of Auchterhouse Primary School (Schedule 1)
- Care Inspectorate Inspection of Bramble Cottages Care Home Service (Schedule 2)
- Holiday Fun and Food Programme (Schedule 3)
- Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) Progress and TRIC Plan (Phase 3) 2019 Reports (Schedule 4)

Having heard the Convener and a number of members congratulate the staff of Auchterhouse Primary School and Bramble Cottages on the excellent Inspection Reports (Schedules 1 & 2), and also welcome the valuable work being undertaken by staff (Schedules 3 & 4), the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

*At this stage in the meeting, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, paid tribute to Dr Pauline Stephen who was leaving the post of Director of Schools and Learning, and who was today attending her last meeting of the Children and Learning Committee. He thanked Dr Stephen for all her hard work for the children of Angus, and wished her every success for the future.*

## **6. ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT AND PLAN**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 18 September 2018, there was submitted Report No 305/19 by the Chief Education Officer summarising the progress made with regard to the education plan, and setting out the new plan for school session 2019-2020.

The Report indicated that the majority of actions included within the 2018-2019 plan had been completed or overtaken, and an analysis of the current performance had indicated that good progress had been made in meeting the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. The self-evaluation process had highlighted however where more, or different work was needed. The plan for session 2019-2020 highlighted planned educational improvement activity for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 with a Report on progress being brought back to a meeting of this Committee in September 2020.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress summarised in relation to the Annual Education Plan 2018-2019, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to approve the Annual Education Plan 2019-2020, and implementation of the plan and its priorities, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to instruct provision of the approved Plan to Scottish Ministers, as required in Section 3F(2) of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000;
- (iv) to note that the Annual Education Plan outlined improvement activity for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020;
- (v) 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 September 2020; and
- (vi) to instruct the Chief Education Officer to ensure that an information report on interim progress with the Annual Education Plan be presented to a meeting of this Committee in January 2020.

## **7. EARLY YEARS EXPANSION – ADMISSIONS CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS**

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 January 2019, there was submitted Report No 306/19 by the Director of Schools and Learning providing an update on the ongoing implementation of the new early learning and childcare admissions criteria and application process, and seeking approval to amend the method for prioritising applications.

The Report indicated that a process had been devised to support parents and carers who may have been unsuccessful in obtaining the exact session times they had requested upon their initial application, and who may wish to re-apply for a more preferential arrangement when an appropriate space became available at the next intake period. Applications could be made at any time but agreed changes would only be implemented at the beginning of the next term. This would ensure that the prioritisation methods were applied equitably to both new and existing children in the setting. Children for whom a change had been requested would therefore be part of Category 1, as existing children remaining in the setting. A need had therefore arisen to extend the secondary prioritisation method to all priority categories.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the additional information on the implementation of the new early learning and childcare admissions criteria and application process, as detailed in Section 4 of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the extension of the agreed secondary prioritisation method across all priority categories.

**8. EARLY YEARS CENTRES, CARNOUSTIE AND FORFAR – PROJECT UPDATE AND CONTRACT AWARD**

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 20 June 2019, there was submitted Report No 307/19 by the Director of Infrastructure providing an update on the progress to construct early learning and childcare centres in Carnoustie and Forfar, and seeking approval to enter into the construction contract for the early learning and childcare centres which was within the previously agreed budgetary arrangements.

The Report indicated that the contractor would require to start on site on 7 October 2019 to achieve completion by the end of June 2020 and currently, financial close was targeted for 23 September 2019 to accommodate this.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update as detailed in the Report; and
- (ii) to delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, or her nominee, following consultation with the Director of Infrastructure and the Director of Finance to agree the terms so as to protect the Council's interests and thereafter to execute, deliver and perform the Project Agreement, the Collateral Agreements and any other necessary documentation in respect of the project on behalf of the Council.