

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors DEREK WANN, LOIS SPEED, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, 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:** Mr ERIC SUMMERS.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

### **1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Colin Brown BEM, with Councillor Craig Fotheringham substituting. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Miss Lesley Hood, Church Representative and Mr Mike Callaghan, Teacher Representative.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **(a) Previous Meeting**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 17 September 2019 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### **(b) Special Meeting**

The minute of special meeting of this Committee of 5 September 2019 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### **(c) Staffing Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of this Committee of 17 September 2019, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**Appendix I**).

### **4. PRESENTATION – ARBROATH ACADEMY LINKS WITH RWANDA**

The Convener introduced Saul and Igor, a pupil and former pupil of Arbroath Academy, and Mr Kenny Hare, Principal Teacher of Health Improvement.

Mr Hare provided an introduction to Arbroath Academy's links with Rwanda and the charity Comfort International, working with street children and genocide survivors.

Saul and Igor, two pupils who had been selected to go on the volunteering trip, spoke of the life changing experiences following their visit to Rwanda, and highlighted the wide variety of work that they had taken part in, including the Street Kids Project, meeting children who had been abandoned or lost their families in the genocide, and children who were living in ditches with no food or clean water. The charity helped to give the children a sponsor and to live in communities where they were given a home and an education, and where they were helped to become self-sufficient.

Following questions and answers, the Convener and members of the Committee thanked Mr Hare, Saul and Igor for their attendance and excellent presentation.

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

There was submitted Report No 353/19 by the Depute Chief Executive providing key information to members with regard to services in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 3 September to 23 October 2019 relating to:-

- The National Early Learning and Childcare Partnership Summit 2019 (Schedule 1)
- Angus Virtual School – National Recognition (Schedule 2)
- Care Inspectorate Inspection of Strathmore Centre Care Home Service (Schedule 3)

At this stage in the meeting, Mrs Leila Martin, Head Teacher, Angus Virtual School (AVS), provided an overview of AVS which was a local improvement collaborative with colleagues supporting schools to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Angus. AVS was made up of four core staff who were supplemented by seconded staff to help to develop and nurture sustainable networks, and provide specific support to schools, responding to their needs and helping to progress improvement priorities.

The Convener and a number of members congratulated Mrs Martin and the AVS team on receiving an Excellence in Professional Learning Award from the General Teaching Council for Scotland (Schedule 2), and thanked Mrs Martin for her presentation.

Thereafter, having heard the Committee welcome the valuable work being undertaken by the Directorate and the very good Inspection Report (Schedules 1 & 3), the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

## **6. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT – OPEN FRAMEWORK FOR FUNDED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE**

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 April 2019, there was submitted Report No 354/19 by the Depute Chief Executive outlining the procurement strategy for the provision of funded early learning and childcare in non-local authority settings from August 2020 when entitlement would be increased from 600 hours to up to 1,140 hours per eligible child per year, and seeking approval to implement the strategy via a major procurement exercise.

The proposals sought to establish an approved list of third party providers of funded early learning and childcare in Angus which would serve to increase flexibility for parents when considering funded early learning and childcare options for their children. Payment of a 'sustainable rate' would also ensure high quality funded early learning and childcare provision in the settings, with the proposed hourly rates having been calculated using a new sustainable rate calculator.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the background information as detailed in Sections 3 and 4 of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the undertaking of a major procurement exercise to establish an 'open' framework for funded early learning and childcare provision in non-local authority settings from August 2020, in line with the procurement strategy summary detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to approve the implementation of new hourly rates from August 2020 as detailed in Section 5 of the Report, with provision in the new contract to review the rates annually to ensure alignment with the latest published inflationary measures;
- (iv) to approve a nominal reduction in the funded rate of 10p per hour of funded early learning and childcare from August 2020 to voluntary playgroups who operated from within Council buildings, as no ongoing building costs were incurred by those providers, as a contribution to the Council's ongoing building costs;
- (v) to delegate authority to the Director of Children, Families and Justice, or their nominated representative, to award contracts for the provision of funded early learning and childcare, initially to providers who submitted successful bids by the stated deadline for a contract start of 1 August 2020, and subsequently to providers who submitted successful bids to join the open framework after the stated deadline;

- (vi) to delegate authority to the Director of Children, Families & Justice, or their nominated representative, following consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to agree and sign the individual contracts and any associated variations to the contracts thereafter; and
- (vii) to approve this procurement authority report as sufficient for the planned major procurement exercise to proceed to a conclusion.