

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 18 February 2020 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, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Church

Representative: Mr ERIC SUMMERS.

Teacher

Representatives: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN and Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Miss Lesley Hood, Church 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 5 November 2019 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 6 NOVEMBER 2019 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2020

There was submitted Report No 44/20 by the Depute Chief Executive providing key information to members with regard to services in the Schools and Learning Service for the period 6 November 2019 to 18 February 2020 relating to:-

- Education Scotland Inspection – Grange Primary School (Schedule 1)
- Education Scotland Inspection – Inverarity Primary School (Schedule 2)

Having heard the Convener and a number of members congratulate the Head Teacher, staff, pupils and parents of both Grange and Inverarity Primary Schools on the excellent Inspection Reports, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

Prior to consideration of the following item (Report No 45/20), the Convener welcomed members of the 'Think Before You Type' Campaign Youth Advisory Group, a joint anti-bullying campaign developed in partnership between Angus Council, Respectme and NSPCC Scotland, and led by young people from across Angus. The pupils provided an update in relation to the campaign and their recent visit to the Scottish Parliament where they had shown the success of the campaign and how their work could influence others at a national level. The 'Think before you Type' campaign had made 12 recommendations and had engaged young people, parents/carers and practitioners in renewed efforts to address online bullying, helping to contribute to positive relationships, behaviour change and cultures of respect in their communities. The revised anti-bullying policy had also taken into consideration the 12 recommendations.

Following questions and answers, the Convener and members of the Committee congratulated the members of the Youth Advisory Group on their excellent campaign and thanked all those pupils involved for their attendance.

5. ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 3 June 2009, there was submitted Report No 45/20 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning outlining a revised anti-bullying policy on preventing and responding to bullying amongst children and young people in Angus schools and early learning and childcare settings.

The revised policy built on effective practice and reflected the work of the 'Think Before you Type' campaign led by young people in Angus. The policy had also been developed in line with 'Respect for All', the national approach to anti-bullying for Scotland's children and young people, and in partnership with parents/carers, children, young people and other agencies. All schools would be requested to revise their own anti-bullying policy and a programme of training would continue to be developed for staff, pupils, parents and carers, with the effectiveness of restorative approaches in resolving bullying behaviour being reviewed and evaluated.

Having heard a number of members welcome the Report, the Committee agreed to approve the revised Anti-Bullying Policy for schools and early learning and childcare settings in Angus.

6. INDEPENDENT CARE REVIEW FOR SCOTLAND

There was submitted Report No 46/20 by the Chief Social Work Officer advising members of the publication of the Independent Care Review for Scotland, together with five reports which proposed the foundation for a new approach.

The Review aimed to identify and deliver lasting change in the care system in Scotland and transform the wellbeing of children and young people. The outputs from the Review had been published on 5 February 2020 and followed two years of work and engagement with over 5,500 care experienced children, young people and adults, and people working and caring within the system directly involved.

Following conclusion of the Review, five Reports had been published which together proposed the foundation for a new approach. The emphasis was on a system that delivered care to children and young people, including the prevention of family separation, and one that built on relationships, rights, care and respect rather than processes, and one that puts children's experience at the centre of all activity.

Having heard from a number of members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the findings and proposals arising from the Independent Care Review;
- (ii) to note the work of the local Corporate Parenting Board in their early engagement with the Independent Review and the proposed engagement in planning for future change;
- (iii) to note the multi-agency support and buy-in needed to improve outcomes for our looked after children and young people;
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Children, Families and Justice to bring a Report on service specific implications following consideration of the findings by the Angus Integrated Children's Services group and associated partnerships; and
- (v) that Report No 46/20 - Independent Care Review for Scotland - be submitted to the next meeting of Angus Council for consideration by all members as corporate parents.

7. MAY DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee of 28 January 2020, there was submitted Joint Report No 26/20 by the Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support and the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning seeking approval to move the May Day public holiday in 2020 for schools and local government employees from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May (VE Day).

The Committee agreed to approve the change to the May Day school holiday for 2020 to align this with the Council date.