

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** hosted at Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar and held remotely on Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DEREK WANN, LOIS SPEED, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN BEM, LYNNE DEVINE, MARK SALMOND, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, ALEX KING, BOB MYLES, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Church

Representative: Mr ERIC SUMMERS.

Teacher

Representative: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ben Lawrie, Mark McDonald and Ronnie Proctor MBE, with Councillors Mark Salmond, Alex King and Craig Fotheringham 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 18 February 2020 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Special Meeting

The minute of special meeting of this Committee of 27 February 2020 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 18 February 2020, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

4. SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2020-2021

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 10 September 2020, there was submitted Report No 236/20 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning seeking authority to amend the school holiday dates for session 2020-2021 to take account of the decision by Angus Council to award one additional day annual leave for all Angus Council employees.

To minimise disruption to the children's learning, it was proposed that the additional leave day be split into two half days and that all schools close at lunchtime on Wednesday 23 December 2020 and Thursday 24 June 2021, a previously established practice which would be familiar to many school staff and families. Alternative bespoke arrangements would be made for staff working within the Early Learning and Childcare settings if, due to the delivery model in place, the use of the two half days proposed was not appropriate.

The Committee agreed to approve an amendment to the school holidays dates for 2020/2021 as detailed in the Report.

5. INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020-2023

With reference to Article 7 (Schedule 5) of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 June 2017, there was submitted Report No 237/20 by the Depute Chief Executive seeking approval to delay the completion and publication of a refreshed Children's Services Plan until March 2021.

The current plan was due to be updated and a revised plan published by September 2020 however the work required across the collaborative to devise a second three year plan had been impeded by the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local authorities and health boards could publish a statement to roll on the current plan throughout 2020/21 whilst work took place on refreshed plans for the period 2021–2023. The proposed statement for submission to the Scottish Government was detailed in Section 5 of the Report and indicated an intention to continue the existing plan for a further year and to publish a new plan for 2021-2023 by April 2021. This would allow time to evaluate progress, review priorities in line with a revised needs assessment which would take account of the impact of COVID-19, set new objectives and targets, and most importantly to ensure that there was the necessary engagement and participation of children, young people and families.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposal to carry on the current Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families to March 2021 whilst a revised plan was drafted and consulted upon; and
- (ii) to approve the statement for submission to Scottish Government as detailed in Section 5 of the Report.