

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors LYNNE DEVINE, BRIAN BOYD, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, ROSS GREIG, MARK McDONALD, GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, GAVIN NICOL, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, LOIS SPEED, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM and BETH WHITESIDE.

**Church**

**Representative:** The Very Rev Dr THOMAS J CANON SHIELDS.

Councillor DEVINE, Convener, in the Chair.

**1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Martin Shepherd and Derek Wann, with Councillors Brian Boyd and Craig Fotheringham substituting respectively. Apologies for absence were also intimated on behalf of Mrs Jackie Wilson, Church Representative, with Canon Tom substituting and Mr Callaghan and Mrs Cheyne, both Teacher Representatives.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY**

There were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**(a) Previous Meeting**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 September 2023 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

**(b) Staffing Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Staffing Sub-Committee of 19 September 2023, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

**4. PRESENTATION – ‘BRAVE LASSIES BLETHER’**

The Convener welcomed Natasha Reilly, NSPCC and students from Forfar Academy, Montrose Academy and Webster’s High School who provided the Committee with some background information with regards to the ‘Brave Lassies Bletther’ project, a new campaign led by a group of young women and girls which aimed to tackle peer sexual abuse, encourage healthy relationships, and breakdown the barriers to seeking support. The project was being delivered by NSPCC Scotland and the Young Women’s Movement in partnership with Angus Council and was being led by a group of senior pupils at Angus schools. The aim of the project was to raise awareness of what a health relationship looked and felt like and help young people access services if they needed support or felt worried or uncomfortable in their relationships.

*Councillor Iain Gall joined the Committee remotely at this point in the meeting (2.12pm).*

The Director of Education commented that the presentation provided hard-hitting messages delivered by the young women which would shape how these points are addressed for their peers in the future as part of the equally safe agenda which is a national project.

Following questions and comments, the Convener and members of the Committee praised all those involved in the fantastic presentation and thanked the young women and Natasha Reilly for their presentation and attendance.

**5. TAYSIDE PLAN FOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022-2023 AND TAYSIDE PLAN FOR INFANTS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES 2023-2026**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 November 2022, there was submitted Report No 311/23 by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update on the implementation of the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families over the last 12 months.

The Annual Report highlighted progress being made in relation to the five priorities outlined in the plan, with a specific focus on the local impact of shared actions of the regional collaborative. Progress of work led by the priority groups was detailed within the Annual Report. The delivery plan for 2023-26 detailed the actions and measures to be taken forward over the next three years.

The Depute Chief Executive highlighted data errors within the Report as follows:-

- the proportion of school leavers 5-6 - Angus 2017 currently shows 64%, this should be 34%; Dundee 2022 currently shows 40%, this should be 30%;
- the proportion of school leavers from SIMD Q1 achieving 5 plus awards at SCQF level 5 or higher (increase). Angus 2019 - currently shows 34%, this should be 44%.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress detailed within the Annual Update Report; and
- (ii) to instruct that a further progress Report be presented to a future meeting of this Committee in Autumn 2024.

**6. SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025-26, 2026-27 AND 2027-28**

There was submitted Report No 312/23 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning seeking approval for a consultation exercise on proposals for the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 school terms and holiday dates.

The Report indicated that it was a duty of the Council to set a schedule of school terms and holiday dates. These dates must be set following consultation and had to comprise a total pupil school year of 190 days, unless exceptional circumstances applied. In addition, the Council had to set aside five days within the school year for the purposes of in-service training for staff.

It was therefore proposed that a consultation exercise be undertaken inviting comments on the specific issues detailed in paragraph 5 of the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to authorise a consultation exercise on the draft schedule of school terms and holidays dates for session 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note that the outcome of the consultation exercise would be the subject of a future Report to this Committee in April 2024.