

MINUTE OF MEETING OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

COSLA Offices, Edinburgh

24<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Present:

Cllr Stephen McCabe (in the Chair)	COSLA
Cllr Anne Simpson	Aberdeenshire
Terry Lanagan	ADES
Cllr Ben Lawrie*	Angus
Cllr Graham Lindsay	Clackmannanshire
Cllr Angus McCormack	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Cllr Jeff Leaver	Dumfries and Galloway
Cllr Gregor Murray	Dundee City
Cllr Fiona Campbell	East Ayrshire
Cllr Denis Johnston	East Dunbartonshire
Cllr Shamin Akhtar	East Lothian
Cllr John Finlayson*	Highland
Cllr Natasha Murphy	Inverclyde
Cllr Jim Muirhead	Midlothian
Cllr Rob Crichton	Orkney Islands
Cllr Willie Wilson	Perth and Kinross
Linda de Caestecker	Public Health - Directors
Cllr Jim Paterson	Renfrewshire
Cllr George Smith	Shetland Islands
Angela Leitch	SOLACE
Cllr William Grant	South Ayrshire
Cllr Julia Marrs	South Lanarkshire
Kristine Johnson	SPDS
Cllr Susan McGill	Stirling
Cllr Karen Conaghan	West Dunbartonshire
Cllr David Dodds	West Lothian

\*denotes substitute

Apologies:

Cllr John Wheeler	Aberdeen City
Cllr Mark Salmond	Angus
Cllr Yvonne Mcneilly	Argyll and Bute
Alan Puckrin	CIPFA-Directors of Finance
Cllr Ian Perry	City of Edinburgh
Cllr Paul O'Kane	East Renfrewshire
Cllr Alan Nimmo	Falkirk
Cllr Fay Sinclair	Fife
Cllr Chris Cunningham	Glasgow

Cllr Alasdair Christie  
Cllr Tim Eagle  
Cllr John Bell  
Cllr Frank McNally  
Cllr Carol Hamilton  
Sharon McAlees

Highland  
Moray  
North Ayrshire  
North Lanarkshire  
Scottish Borders  
Social Work Scotland

### **Children's Rights - Presentation**

The meeting started with a morning session which included a presentation and discussion on Children's Rights. A verbal presentation was provided by the Children's Commissioner Bruce Adamson and a PowerPoint presentation was provided by Amy Lee Fraioli MSYP and Thomas McEachan MSYP of Scottish Youth Parliament.

The Board agreed to support the Scottish Youth Parliament in their endeavours to work in partnership with each local authority in Scotland and noted their request for elected members to meet with their local MSYP. It was also agreed that COSLA would bring a formal report back to a future meeting of the Board.

### **James Dornan MSP**

The second morning session included an address from James Dornan MSP and Chair of the Education and Skills Committee. He was accompanied by a clerk from the committee.

Mr Dornan outlined the membership of the committee, the process for passing legislation and emphasised his eagerness to work in partnership with COSLA.

Following a wide-ranging discussion, the Board thanked Mr Dornan for his attendance and noted that there would be greater dialogue in future between the Board and the Education and Skills Committee.

*The Board then moved to the formal business on its agenda.*

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr Stephen McCabe welcomed those present to the meeting with roundtable introductions. Apologies received for absence and substitutions were noted.

#### **2. Minute of Previous Meeting**

The minute of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was agreed as an accurate record.

#### **3. Board Work Plan**

The Board considered the latest version of its Plan which summarised the main areas of activity.

A verbal update was provided in relation to SAGRABIS and monitoring of bullying incidences.

During discussion on the Plan, it was suggested that the terminology 'non-teaching' should be reviewed, which officers agreed to pick up. It was clarified that funding for the developing young workforce agenda was coming to an end but COSLA would be lobbying for this funding to continue given the positive impact it had made. The impact Brexit could potentially have on future workforce was also emphasised and it was agreed that this be considered in the round at a future meeting.

The Board agreed the latest version of the Plan.

#### **4. Head Teachers' Charter**

The Board received a report which provided an opportunity for Members to consider the various elements of the Headteachers Charter following an initial approach by Scottish Government as they developed the Charter.

There was a wide-ranging discussion with a number of views expressed which officers agreed to pick up. In particular, the current problems recruiting headteachers were highlighted and some members were concerned that the Charter could unintentionally exasperate this problem. The importance of teaching headteachers was highlighted and it was agreed that this must be taken into consideration as the charter developed. It was also clarified that the themes within the Charter were taken from existing headteacher responsibilities.

The Board:

- i. agreed that COSLA Officers should continue to engage in the development of the policy in line with the principles set out at paragraph 7; and
- ii. Agree that the Strategic Group of COSLA, SOLACE, ADES and the Scottish Government should be the forum to consider the policy at a strategic level, reporting jointly to Councillor McCabe and the Deputy First Minister.

#### **5. Early Learning and Childcare Cross Boundary Principles**

The Board considered a report which provided members with an overview of the current situation on cross boundary placements, and proposed building on the Protocol used in the West of Scotland to develop a set of guiding principles for cross boundary placements across Scotland.

During discussion, it was highlighted that this would not be possible to achieve for Island authorities and there were also some concerns expressed that it could create a funding gap for some local authorities. Nevertheless, it was agreed that officers should try and develop a workable solution to ensure the maximum flexibility was available for parents.

The Board:

- i. agreed that for the period 2018-2020 a cross boundary protocol should be in place for families wishing to access early learning and childcare outside of their resident authority; and
- ii. agreed to the development of a set of guiding principles and associated protocols be developed by COSLA and local authority officers to overcome the issues associated with funded cross boundary placements.

#### **6. Youth Justice**

The Board received a report which provided an update on work to progress Scotland's Youth Justice Strategy as part of a preventative approach to supporting young people. The report sought the Board's agreement to progress key areas of work.

Members highlighted that if appropriate investment was made now in this area of work it could create savings for future years.

The Board:

- i. commented on the success of the youth justice policy to date;
- ii. provided views on the challenges to sustain current activities as set out in paragraphs 7 to 8 of the report; and
- iii. agreed COSLA's next steps as set out in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report.

#### **7. National Improvement Framework – Consultation Response**

The Board was provided with a report which highlighted that the consultation *National Improvement Framework: Consultation on measuring the attainment gap and milestones*

*towards closing it* proposed 8 key measures and 17 sub-measures which would be published as part of the 2018 Improvement Plan in December and used to measure progress against the aim of closing the poverty-related attainment gap. This was an 8 week consultation which closed on the 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Board were invited to provide views on the proposed COSLA position.

There was a comprehensive discussion with lots of views put across. Several members indicated that the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) was not an accurate measure for reflecting rural disadvantage/inequality and this had to be recognised going forward. The importance of looking at the narrative surrounding any figures was also emphasised.

The Board:

- i. discussed and agreed the high level messages set out at paragraph 8 of the report.

#### **8. Secure Care – Private and Confidential**

The Board considered a report which informed members that a new Secure Care Strategic Board had recently been established to consider and make recommendations around the future of secure care and supporting young people in secure care. The report invited members to support this work and COSLA Officers in developing a proposed Local Government approach based on the GIRFEC principles.

The Board:

- i. agreed the collation of the information in paragraph 11 of the report where available and the sharing of this with the Strategic Board; and,
- ii. agreed that COSLA officers work with relevant partners to form a shared position on an approach to future options for children and young people in and on the edges of secure care.

#### **9. COSLA Working Arrangements with Local Authorities - Presentation**

Cllr McCabe proposed that this item be deferred to a future meeting, which members unanimously agreed to.

#### **10. AOCB**

The meeting was advised that there had been some requests for papers for future meetings to be issued two weeks in advance. The difficulties in doing this were highlighted by officers but it was agreed that a draft agenda with a summary of the agenda items would be distributed two weeks in advance. Final papers would continue to be issued one week in advance.

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The Board noted the date of the next meeting was Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.