

MINUTE OF MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

Friday 7 September 2018
10.30 am
COSLA Offices, Verity House, Edinburgh

Present

Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Anne Simpson
Angus Council	Councillor Derek Wann
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Ian Perry
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Councillor Jeff Leaver
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Fiona Campbell
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Jim Goodall
East Lothian Council	Councillor Shamin Akhtar
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Paul O'Kane
Falkirk Council	Councillor Robert Bissett *
Fife Council	Councillor Fay Sinclair
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Chris Cunningham
Highland Council	Councillor Andrew Baxter
Inverclyde Council	Councillor Stephen McCabe
Midlothian Council	Councillor Margot Russell *
Moray Council	Councillor Sonya Warren
North Ayrshire Council	Councillor John Bell
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Frank McNally
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor Rob Crichton
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor Willie Wilson
Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Jim Paterson
Scottish Borders Council	Councillor Carol Hamilton
Shetland Islands Council	Councillor George Smith
South Ayrshire Council	Councillor William Grant
South Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Katy Loudon
Stirling Council	Councillor Susan McGill
West Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Karen Conaghan
West Lothian Council	Councillor David Dodds
ADES	Mr Michael Wood
CIPFA - Directors of Finance	Mr Alan Puckrin
Directors of Public Health	Dr Linda de Caestecker
SOLACE	Ms Angela Leitch
SPDS	Ms Kristine Johnston
Social Work Scotland	Mr James Cox
Young Scot	Ms Louise Macdonald

*denotes substitute

Apologies

Aberdeen City Council	Councillor John Wheeler
Clackmannanshire Council	Councillor Graham Lindsay
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Councillor Angus McCormack
Dundee City Council	Councillor Stewart Hunter
Falkirk Council	Councillor Alan Nimmo
Inverclyde Council	Councillor Natasha Murphy
Midlothian Council	Councillor Jim Muirhead

Items taken in public session

Welcome and Apologies

Councillor Stephen McCabe, COSLA Children and Young People Spokesperson, welcomed those present with roundtable introductions. Substitutions and apologies for absences were noted. The Councillor thanked members for the excellent turnout and support for the Board meetings.

Presentation from Young Scot

The Board received a presentation from Louise Macdonald, Chief Executive of Young Scot, who set out the organisation's range of extensive and collaborative work to support young people. The presentation outlined some of the bespoke and targeted projects currently underway to tackle and reduce the stigma of poverty and inequality in young people, such as digital literacy and functionality of the Young Scot card and the range of services being incorporated within it; the dangers of assumptions about mobile phone accessibility was also highlighted, highlighting the risks of exclusion for some young people due to mobile phone data limitations.

There was wide-ranging discussion with several contributions made including:

- A perspective on experiences from island communities, highlighting the limitations on travel allowances being up to age 18 and not 24. Young Scot confirmed it supported the age extension and petitioning has been undertaken already; it confirmed there is still more work to be done across the bus market, as well as that already done with relevant maritime and aviation companies.
- The vulnerability of dependency on mobile phones rather than a hard copy Young Scot card was queried. Young Scot reassured the Board that, if the access is lost, there are processes to restore this for the young person as quickly as possible, irrespective of preferred mode of use.

The Chief Executive thanked the Board for its support to date and sought continuing input to current projects. The Board thanked the Chief Executive for her presentation - a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting - and noted the valuable work being done.

Recommendations and Outcomes

The Board agreed to maximise support for the work of Young Scot and requested a report back on progress at an appropriate juncture.

Board Members agreed to ensure that support and engagement is working at local level and each will circulate the presentation within their own areas.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Board noted a request to be mindful of timescales in relation to Page 5, Education Bill update. The Board agreed to approve the minute of the meeting held on 8 June 2018 as an accurate record.

2. Children and Young People Work Plan

The Board considered the Plan and additional updates were provided as follows:

Priority 2: Looked After Children (Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Care Allowances)

Regarding national kinship and allowances, the wording that appeared in the Programme for Government was not reflective of the recommendations agreed by COSLA Leaders. Scottish Government (SG) assured COSLA officers this was an oversight and will rectify this and revert to the previously agreed position.

Updates on this will be provided to the Board as appropriate.

Priority 4 - Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (Apprenticeship Levy)

An update on progress was requested by the Board. A COSLA officer confirmed a Society of Personnel Directors Scotland (SPDS) national survey had been undertaken. It was noted from the survey findings that due to general budget cuts and the Apprenticeship Levy there had been a significant reduction in investment by councils - as employers - in providing opportunities for young people. That said, councils are still managing to provide the same number of opportunities for young people by spreading resources around, which is positive.

COSLA intends that the survey findings will be discussed between COSLA, SG and Heads of Human Resources.

Priority 7: Education Delivery Plan (including Governance Review and Fair Funding)

COSLA and the SG have recruited for a 6-month secondment from Fife Council to progress agreed work on what was originally termed Fair Funding for Scotland's Schools. The secondee will report to the Fair Funding Working Group with membership drawn from Directors of Children's Services and Directors of Finance and will focus on reviewing Devolved School Management (DSM) Guidance and Self-Evaluation. This will not result in local authorities being told what to devolve through DSM but will focus on a more consistent document which details the output of local authority decisions.

Councillor McCabe provided a summary of the discussion from the Leaders Meeting on 31 August 2018 in relation to funding for Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) and confirmed he had written to the Deputy First Minister about funding arrangements.

Priority 9 – Educational Psychologists Training

The Chief Officer suggested the removal of this priority as it is now deemed to be more of an operational issue for the COSLA Employers Team rather than policy development.

The Board agreed this proposal.

Priority 10 – Children’s Hearings

A template has now been finalised.

Workplan - Content

Some concern was expressed about how much is contained within the workplan. The Chief Officer reassured the Board that the plan was reviewed over summer 2018 and consideration given to what could be removed versus what continued to require strategic oversight. Reviewing of the workplan will be done on a continual basis.

Recommendations and Outcomes

The Board noted the content of the Workplan Priorities.
The Board agreed to the removal of Priority 9.
The Workplan content will be reviewed on a continual basis by COSLA officers.
Updates on priorities will be provided to the Board as appropriate.

3. Update on Education Governance – oral update

The Chief Officer provided an update on the progress made and next steps for the joint working group.

Recommendations and Outcomes

The Board noted the oral update and agreed to receive regular updates.

4. Draft National School Library Strategy

A summary of the development of the strategy was provided to the Board. The strategy focuses on setting a culture of reading and the use of technology, to ensure there is a cohesive school library offer for all children and young people. The paper proposes that the strategy is published jointly with the SG.

The Board welcomed that ‘health and wellbeing’ are set out explicitly within the document and a request was made for reference to ‘health literacy’ to be included. The Directors of Public Health representative expressed a willingness to be involved in the development of this aspect and offered to work with COSLA officers on this.

The Board noted comments about digital connectivity in communities in the North being more challenging and that there might be an inability to match some of the strategic aspirations as a result. It was confirmed that discussion on this had taken place with the SG’s digital strategy team and further discussions would take place.

The question of funding was raised in relation to support for this work. A relatively small amount of funding is available through the School Library Improvement Fund. The SG has indicated that it is open to negotiation on how this funding is allocated and were supportive of officers engaging in this discussion.

Recommendations and Outcomes

The paper invited members to:

- i. Agree the proposed COSLA position set out in para 11-13

The Board agreed the proposed COSLA position within the paper.

Collaboration will take place on 'health literacy' with The Directors of Public Health representative.

COSLA officers will engage in discussion regarding funding from the School Library Improvement Fund.

5. Developing Shared Principles with Third Sector Children's Services Providers

An outline of the paper was provided to the Board. Officers have received representations from third sector children's services providers to build on current partnership working. Views were sought on joint working with the aim of developing shared high-level principles between local authorities and the third sector children's services providers.

Members requested that COSLA officers consider the current role of Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) as part of the work. A request was lodged to look at local commissioning strategies and it was agreed that this will be considered. The Board did express some concern about duplicating existing work and noted that legislation is in place to require Third Sector involvement in planning. Officers agreed there is a wide range of good practice across Scotland but there was also a recognition that partnerships and good practice could be improved. Officers continue to be alive to resourcing issues and recognise that local autonomy is vital. In trying to replicate good practice, the Third Sector has a key role to play and working together is vital.

Recommendations and Outcomes

This paper invited members to:

- i. Give views on how this engagement should be taken forward and particularly the areas identified in paragraph 9
- ii. Agree the proposed COSLA position in paragraphs 10-11

The Board provided views and agreed the proposed COSLA position within the paper.

6. Education Committee Inquiry - Attainment and Achievement of School Age Children Experiencing Poverty

The Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee has completed an inquiry into the attainment and achievement of school age children experiencing poverty. The Committee is seeking an initial response from COSLA to their recommendations; our draft response is proposed within the paper and views were sought from the Board.

The Board suggested that a meeting with the Committee might be valuable and our COSLA Spokesperson confirmed consideration will be given to the best way to engage. The Board were supportive of a letter from the Spokesperson and emphasised the importance of drawing the distinction between activity going on in and around schools and the wider issue of poverty. There are significant benefits - not directly academically related - to supporting young people in schools such as those struggling with external challenges. COSLA officers agreed we should be sharing good practice and that, fundamentally, the work needs resourcing. COSLA officers will engage with Members to understand what work is being done locally.

Recommendations and Outcomes

The paper invited members to:

- i. Agree the proposed COSLA position set out in paragraphs 8-9

The Board agreed on the proposed position.

COSLA officers will engage with Board Members to understand, identify and share local good practice.

7. Early Learning and Childcare Expansion - Partnership Working

A summary of the paper was provided to the Board. Local authorities have committed to a provider neutral funding follows the child model of Early Learning and Childcare delivery from 2020. To facilitate this, a set of high level principles have been developed, setting out the way in which local authorities and funded providers should work together. The Board enquired as to whether this expansion and the principles would include childminders. This was confirmed to be the case.

Recommendations and Outcomes

This paper invited Members to:

- i. Agree the high-level principles for partnership working as set out in paragraph 8; and
- ii. Agree to incorporate these high-level principles into their service planning, delivery and relationships

The Board agreed the position within the paper.

8. Independent Panel on Career Pathways for Teachers

The Board's representative from the Society for Personnel and Development in Scotland (SPDS) referred to the content of a presentation circulated prior to the meeting relating to Teacher Career Pathways and a review being undertaken by an independent panel. A wide range of stakeholders are involved, the group has met twice and formed a positive perspective. Online surveys and open session meetings are taking place. The timetable set is for a 'call for evidence' to take place in September and October 2018, with draft recommendations expected in November, and a report going to the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) for consideration between January and April 2019.

The Board discussion was wide ranging, covering aspects such as ensuring evidence is gathered from those with chartered teaching and health and wellbeing teaching experience, considering the impact of the introduction of faculty heads which may narrow down promotion opportunities, inconsistencies across Scotland, career options for specialists, structural lines of management, incentivisation using a mix of drivers, opportunities for progression for those whose inclination is towards not managing others, workforce mobility, challenges in some areas of sources of recruitment and availability, and ensuring local empowerment of teachers is taking place. Some concern was expressed about the tight timescale for this review; SPDS clarified that this timeframe was set by the SG's Deputy First Minister; a suggestion was made that this may have formed part of last year's pay review and so may be a driver for the timeframe. SPDS remains positive about delivery within this timeframe.

Recommendations and Outcomes

This report invited Board Members to:

- i. Note the establishment of the Independent Panel on Career Pathways for teachers;
- ii. Comment on the issues which may be discouraging teachers from applying for promoted posts, included headteacher posts; and
- iii. Note the opportunity to provide views to the Panel, when the Call for Evidence is launched.

The Board noted the content of the paper and provided comment on the issues. It noted also the Call for Evidence.

Items taken in private session

9. Instrumental Music Tuition

The Board discussed increasing media and political attention on the charging policies of local authorities in relation to instrumental music tuition.

A wide-ranging discussion took place, the points of which have all been noted. Board Members appreciate the value of instrumental music tuition whilst noting the pressures on budgets. Looking externally, some queried what contribution the music industry and other sources could bring. A suggestion was made to encourage more good practice sharing rather than adopting a national policy. The Board were of the view that there was no appetite for a national cap on charging, but that officers should participate in a working group which would explore the potential for developing a national approach to charging policies. It was agreed that officers should engage with ADES and Directors of Finance around these issues.

Recommendations and Outcomes

This paper invites members to:

- i. Note the current interest in policies on charging for instrumental music tuition;
- ii. Consider the possible options which officers have explored with the Scottish Government;
- iii. Agree the proposed COSLA position as set out in para 12

The Board noted the paper, considered options and agreed the proposed position.

10. LGBTI Inclusive Education Working Group Recommendations

Draft recommendations made by the LGBTI Inclusive Education Working Group were shared with the Board.

The COSLA Officer reassured the Board that children and young people, schools and those who identify with LGBTI, are being consulted as part of the process and confirmed that the Board will receive updates as the work develops, via the Board Workplan.

Recommendations and Outcomes

This paper invites Board Members to:

- i. Reaffirm the role of schools as LGBTI inclusive environments and agree to consider how these recommendations can support this further;
- ii. Agree that COSLA officers work with civil servants on a joint response to them once published;
- iii. Provide comments on the recommendations to inform the joint response; and,
- iv. Agree that COSLA officers sit on the LGBTI inclusive education implementation group, providing members with updates as work progresses.

The Board provided comments and approved the paper.

11. Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce

The Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce was agreed as a joint commission between COSLA and Ministers in June 2018. Dr Dame Denise Coia, Chair of the Taskforce, set out preliminary recommendations highlighting areas she would like the Taskforce to consider. A COSLA response is required to the publication.

An update on the COSLA paper was provided, as substantial very recent changes to the recommendations had been made to Dr Coia's recommendations on which COSLA Officers were unsighted.

The Board expressed disappointment on lack of consultation in relation to the changes to recommendations and concern about this approach, given the joint nature of the Taskforce; the Board sought reassurances that COSLA would be fully consulted within the spirit of the original intention of setting up of the Taskforce and that work would be done in a holistic, child centred way, otherwise progress would not be made. The COSLA President will be meeting the Minister for Mental Health this month and will articulate the concerns and expectations of the Board in relation to the Taskforce.

There were concerns that the recommendations were very specific in relation to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and suggestion was made that a whole system analysis was required, with associated recommendations.

Recommendations and Outcomes

This paper invited Board members to:

- i. Provide comments on the initial recommendations for the work of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Force; and
- ii. Agree that COSLA officers respond to the recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 3, 7 and 8.

The Board provided comments and agreed to the paper, noting paragraph 7 was no longer relevant given the last-minute change to recommendations.
The Board agreed that a paper should be submitted to Leaders.

AOCB and Close

The Children and Young People Board agreed in June 2018 that they would like to devote a significant amount of time to considering the Adverse Childhood Experiences agenda which is a headline in the Programme for Government this year. As a result, our Public Health colleagues will be showing the "Resilience" film at the next Board meeting on 5 October. Afterwards, we will be holding a discussion session with elected members and key advisers to explore what our COSLA response should be.

Jane O'Donnell, Chief Officer, has secured internal promotion to Acting Head of Policy for six months. An interim Chief Officer will be appointed and notified to the Board as soon as possible.

Date of Next Meeting

Friday 5 October 2018

