

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

Friday 21 May 2021, 10.30am
Via Microsoft Teams

Present

COSLA Spokesperson	Councillor Stephen McCabe
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Gillian Owen
Angus Council	Councillor Derek Wann
Argyll & Bute Council	Councillor Kieron Green (Substitute)
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Ian Perry
Clackmannanshire Council	Councillor Graham Lindsay
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Councillor Paul F. Steele
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Councillor Jeff Leaver
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Fiona Campbell
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Jim Goodall
East Lothian Council	Councillor Fiona Dugdale
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Colm Merrick (Substitute)
Falkirk Council	Councillor Adanna McCue
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Chris Cunningham
Midlothian Council	Councillor Jim Muirhead
Moray Council	Councillor Sonya Warren
North Ayrshire Council	Councillor John Bell
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor Gwenda Shearer
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor John Duff
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	Professor Michael Wood
Public Health Scotland	Debbie Wason
SOLACE	Dr Grace Vickers
Social Work Scotland	Ben Farrugia

Apologies

Aberdeen City Council	Councillor John Wheeler
Argyll & Bute Council	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly*
Dundee City Council	Councillor Roisin Smith
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Paul O’Kane*
Fife Council	Councillor Craig Walker
Highland Council	Councillor John Finlayson
Inverclyde Council	Councillor Natasha Murphy
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Frank McNally
Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Jim Paterson
ADES	Peter McNaughton
Directors of Public Health	Dona Milne

SOLACE
SPDS
Social Work Scotland

Karen Reid
Kristine Johnson
Sharon McAlees

** denotes substitute provided*

Public Session

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr McCabe welcomed Board Members to the meeting, and apologies were noted.

Members expressed their congratulations to Cllr Paul O’Kane on his election to the Scottish Parliament.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting of 1 April 2021

The minute of the previous meeting was agreed as an accurate record.

3. The Daily Mile – Presentation from Fiona Paterson, The Daily Mile Foundation; Elaine Wyllie, Founder of The Daily Mile, and pupils from St. Conval’s Primary, Glasgow

Fiona Paterson, Programme Manager for the Daily Mile Foundation, provided a presentation to Members on the Daily Mile scheme and how this has been implemented in schools. Children from St Conval’s Primary School also joined the meeting to give feedback on the impact of The Daily Mile in their school lives.

Members noted that some councils have already implemented the scheme although this has been interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Barriers to implementation were discussed as well as how some authorities have been monitoring the health and wellbeing of primary school children over the past year. It was noted that the scheme is a positive way to support this.

Members endorsed the Daily Mile strategy and agreed that COSLA should seek to promote the scheme through their communications team.

4. The Positive Contribution of Physical Activity and Sport to Scotland

This paper set out a report which has been developed in partnership between COSLA, sportscotland and Public Health Scotland on the positive contribution that physical activity and sport can have to Scotland. This report has been built around COSLA’s and Public Health Scotland’s respective priorities and the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework.

Members discussed and agreed the importance of sport in schools and noted that this has been affected by the pandemic; and endorsed the sportscotland document on the positive contribution of physical activity and sport to Scotland.

5. Mental Health – presentation

Chris from Digital Bricks joined the meeting to provide Members with an overview of the online resource that is being developed to support children and young people’s mental health, prior to its expected launch. This presentation discussed the work done prior to development of the resource, including surveys and focus groups, and the creation of an advisory group to oversee this work.

Members noted the presentation and thanked Chris for her attendance.

6. Child Poverty

This paper introduced a report from the Improvement Service on Local Child Poverty Actions reports, which have now been submitted to health boards by local authorities in line with their statutory duty. Child poverty is presently a priority area for COSLA and it was proposed that this remain so. It was noted that child poverty levels were already rising in Scotland prior to Covid-19 and the issue has been compounded by the pandemic.

It was noted that the Scottish Government has four income-based targets as regards child poverty, but only one of those four measures is available at local authority level. It was further noted that in relation to housing, there has been an increase in evictions in Level 2 areas which will have consequences for families at risk of falling into poverty.

Members noted the update, and were content to support the COSLA position and re-state the commitment to ensuring that child poverty is one of COSLA's top priorities.

7. Additional Support for Learning Update on Activity

This paper provided an update on activity underway to progress the joint COSLA-Scottish Government Action Plan for implementing the recommendations of the Angela Morgan Review. Officers from COSLA attend the Additional Support For Learning Implementation Group, which is chaired by ENABLE and meets regularly to discuss implementation of the Action Plan. Members were asked to discuss and provide feedback on the update set out in the report.

Members discussed Co-ordinated Support Plans and how the group will consider those, and it was noted that the group will also look at wider additional support needs as well as engaging with Deans of Education.

Members noted the update contained in the report, noted that a further update will be provided at the August Board Meeting and that the fuller report will be available in October.

8. EU Settlement Scheme

This paper provided Board Members with work undertaken by COSLA officers on the EU Settlement Scheme, and highlighted the important role of councils in promoting the scheme and providing support to vulnerable individuals in completing their applications before the deadline. It was noted that COSLA will write to the Home Secretary to lobby for additional funding to support individuals who will not meet the deadline and require to submit a late application.

Members noted the ongoing work of COSLA, and agreed to promote the EUSS in their own local authority and identify vulnerable individuals who need more support.

Private Session

9. Age of Criminal Responsibility – Operational Guidance

This paper updated Board Members on the implementation of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act, and sought agreement that the operational guidance to support local authorities and partners to fulfil their duties should be co-signed by COSLA, Social Work Scotland and Police Scotland. The Act proposes to increase the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 years and provides additional investigation powers to the police to ensure that victims continue to be protected.

Members noted the update; agreed that the operational guidance should be co-signed as above; and agreed that future updates on this work would be brought back to future Board Meetings as required.

10. Children and Young People Board Plan

Members were presented with an updated version of the Children and Young People Board Plan. This has been revised by officers to further reflect education recovery, as well as updates on work relating to CHAS and CELCIS, which local authorities provide funding for.

Members noted and agreed the revised Board Plan.

11. Secure Care Fees

This paper discussed the ongoing negotiations in relation to secure care fees. There are four Secure Care providers who have entered into contractual arrangements with Scotland Excel to deliver services, and each is permitted to request annual fee variations.

Members noted the paper and the process and outcome of fee negotiations.

12. Pandemic Proofing in Education

This paper invited discussion from Members on how to 'pandemic proof' the education system to ensure that Local Government and other education partners are as prepared as possible to respond to future disruptions to business-as-usual arrangements.

Members discussed IT connectivity in rural areas and noted that this has been an issue during the Covid-19 pandemic. The SQA was also discussed and Members noted that the Education Committee have raised how much stress has been placed on pupils who have gone through their examination period during the pandemic. Members agreed that it might be useful to discuss the OECD review once that is published.

Members otherwise provided their views on 'pandemic proofing' and noted the points outlined in the report.

13. Supporting Children and Young People's Mental Health – Resources

This paper provided Members with further information on the development of a professional training resource for all school staff and guidance on supporting mental health, intended for publication in June to coincide with the launch of an online professional learning course. Members were invited to discuss the Whole School Approach guidance and agree that final sign-off be delegated to Cllr McCabe.

Members noted that reference to the National Trauma Training Framework would be useful to include within the resources, as well as aligning the wellbeing assessments with the Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing Survey in Schools.

Members were otherwise happy to authorize Cllr McCabe to sign off the final version of the guidance, subject to the above comments, and agreed that COSLA branding may be included on the document.

14. Personal and Social Education Review

This paper provided an update on the status of the Personal and Social Education Delivery and Implementation Group, following publication of the PSE Review's recommendations in

2019. Members' views were sought on the recommendations and how they can be implemented post-Covid.

Members noted that implementation of the recommendations should not add to the workload of schools, particularly given the additional work during the pandemic. Members additionally noted that PSE teachers should be involved in the group or as part of a sub-group, along with consultation with young people.

Members otherwise noted the work to be undertaken by the Group and discussed the recommendations of the PSE Review further.

15. Neurodevelopmental Pathway

This paper provided Board Members with an update in respect of the agreement to develop a Neurodevelopmental Service Specification, in consultation with various groups, and outlined the next steps on implementation and potential implications for Local Government. Members' comments and questions were invited. Officers also provided information on what the service specification is seeking to address, and the timelines on information gathering.

Members noted some concerns in relation to the specification, particularly its breadth and where responsibility for the specification would sit within local authority services.

Members otherwise noted the agreement and agreed that COSLA officers should continue to monitor implementation and flag any potential resource implications which arise.

16. CYP Update

This paper provided an update on other areas of business which required no formal decision from Members but were available for information, which Members were content to note. This included an update on work surrounding implementation of the UNCRC, the Enhanced Summer Offer 2021 and alcohol and drug partnerships.

17. Any Other Competent Business

No additional competent points of business were raised.

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 20 August 2021

The date of the next meeting was noted.

In closing the meeting Cllr McCabe thanked Members for their attendance and contributions.