

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF COSLA CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

Friday 20 August 2021, 10.30am
Via Microsoft Teams

Present

COSLA Spokesperson	Councillor Stephen McCabe
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Sarah Dickinson (Substitute)
Angus Council	Councillor Ron Sturrock (Substitute)
Argyll & Bute Council	Councillor Kieron Green (Substitute)
City of Edinburgh Council	Councillor Ian Perry
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Councillor Jeff Leaver
Dundee City Council	Councillor Roisin Smith
East Ayrshire Council	Councillor Fiona Campbell
East Dunbartonshire Council	Councillor Jim Goodall
East Lothian Council	Councillor Jim Goodfellow (Substitute)
East Renfrewshire Council	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Falkirk Council	Councillor Adanna McCue
Glasgow City Council	Councillor Chris Cunningham
Highland Council	Councillor Tom Heggie (Substitute)
Midlothian Council	Councillor Jim Muirhead
Moray Council	Councillor Sonya Warren
North Ayrshire Council	Councillor John Bell
North Lanarkshire Council	Councillor Frank McNally
Orkney Islands Council	Councillor Gwenda Shearer
Perth and Kinross Council	Councillor John Duff
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	Colin Grant (Substitute)
Directors of Public Health	Ashley Goodfellow (Substitute)
Public Health Scotland	Megan Watson (Substitute)
SOLACE	Grace Vickers
Social Work Scotland	Ben Farrugia

Apologies

Aberdeen City Council	Councillor John Wheeler
Aberdeenshire Council	Councillor Gillian Owen*
Angus Council	Councillor Derek Wann*
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly*
Clackmannanshire Council	Councillor Graham Lindsay
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Councillor Paul F. Steele
East Lothian Council	Councillor Fiona Dugdale
Fife Council	Councillor Craig Walker

Highland Council
Inverclyde Council
ADES
Directors of Public Health
Public Health Scotland
SOLACE
Social Work Scotland
Directors of Finance

Councillor John Finlayson*
Councillor Natasha Murphy
Professor Michael Wood*
Dona Milne*
Debbie Wason
Karen Reid
Sharon McAlees
Hugh Dunn

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minute of Previous Meeting of 21 May 2021

Members agreed the minute of the previous meeting as an accurate record.

3. Intercultural Youth Scotland – Race Equality and Anti-Racism in Schools.

Members welcomed Jovan Rao Rydder, Programme Director at Intercultural Youth Scotland, to the meeting to present some information on the work of IYS. Members were also provided with information on the learning resources and workshops that are delivered in schools by IYS.

Members noted the presentation and thanked Jovan for his attendance.

4. The Promise Change Programme

Fiona Duncan and Jackie Brock from The Promise joined the meeting to provide a presentation on The Promise Change Programme. Noted that COSLA officers have been working closely with the Promise team identifying priority areas.

Members highlighted work on The Promise that has taken place in their own local authorities and how that links to other partner organisations. Members thanked Jackie and Fiona for attending and noted that a further paper to a future Board Meeting would be welcome.

5. UNCRC, Lived Experience and the Participation of Children and Young People

This paper asked Board Members to discuss how to support meaningful engagement and participation of children and young people across COSLA's work, particularly within the Children and Young People team and within the context of the UNCRC which is currently being incorporated. Members were asked to provide their views so that officers could develop a structured participation plan.

Members noted that drawing on good practice from councils would be beneficial, as well as asking young people how they would like to engage with COSLA's work. Members also discussed how best to engage with infants and their parents to obtain their views.

Members agreed that meaningful, evidence-based engagement with children and young people is a priority across the CYP workplan; and provided further views on how to best facilitate that engagement, agreeing that officers would create a plan and discuss further with partner organisations and councils.

Private Session

6. Board Workplan

Members were presented with an updated version of the Board workplan. It was noted that work in relation to the National Care Service consultation has been added to the plan, as well as expansion of free school meals.

Members were content to note and agree the workplan.

7. Scottish Leaders Forum Action Group on Child Poverty

This paper introduced a report by the Scottish Leaders Forum Action Group on Child Poverty, which will be finalised at the group's next meeting on 8 September. The call to action contained in the report has been informed by research commissioned by the Leaders Forum and consists of three key actions. Members' comments were invited on the research.

Members discussed long term poverty alleviation and actions which can be taken to address the fundamental causes of poverty, as well as how local authorities can learn from the pandemic in tackling poverty.

Members otherwise noted the research and the commitment to end child poverty in Scotland; and agreed that Cllr McCabe sign off on the final commitment.

8. Early Learning and Childcare - 1140 Hours Expansion Update

This paper provided an update for Board Members now that the implementation date for 1140 hours has passed. The hard work on the part of council officers and partners was recognised, particularly the work carried out throughout the pandemic. An update on data collection from Scottish Government was also contained within the paper, and it was noted that all 32 councils have said they are able to provide places to everyone who applied with no unexpected use arising; a full data report will be brought to the Early Learning and Childcare Joint Delivery Board in September.

Members noted and commented on the implementation date, and discussed implementation in their local areas.

9. Early Learning and Childcare - Living Wage and Fair Work Implementation Group

This paper presented Board Members with a Scottish Government proposal to form an ELC – Living Wage and Fair Work Implementation Group, and Members were asked to consider this and provide a steer on whether COSLA officers should join the group.

Members discussed the terms of reference for the proposed group, and agreed that a further paper on this item will go to Leaders later in the year.

10. National Care Service Consultation

Board Members were provided with an update on the consultation which was launched on 9 August by Scottish Government. Members' views were invited to inform a COSLA response to the consultation.

The implications of the proposals on governance and financing were discussed, as well as the impact on a large proportion of the Local Government workforce.

Members provided comments on the consultation, and on the risks and implications identified in the report; and noted that this will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

11. Secure Care Transport

This paper summarised some issues facing children and young people in relation to transport to and from secure care or court and the impact that this can have.

Members noted the report and the issues set out in the report, and agreed that solutions are required to be developed; and agreed that officers should work with the relevant agencies to progress this.

12. Statutory Duties in Secure Accommodation

This paper set out a report from an investigation by the Commissioner for Children and Young People as regards the performance of statutory duties by Chief Social Work Officers. The recommendations of that report were set out for Members' consideration. Noted that Social Work Scotland have continued to engage with the Commissioner's office on this topic and resource has been discussed in previous meetings.

Members were content to note the report and recommendations, and noted the progress that has been made by all local authorities in addressing the issues set out in the report.

13. Digital device for every school-aged child

Members were provided with an update on engagement with Scottish Government on the manifesto commitment to provide a digital device to every child in Scotland, and sought the Board's agreement that Scottish Government and COSLA should establish joint governance to oversee this commitment.

It was noted that there are still some issues to be worked out, particularly as regards the scope of the project. Members discussed wider connectivity issues, particularly in more rural areas, and the pressure that could be placed on older infrastructure. Members also shared experience of rolling out universal digital devices in their local areas.

Members noted the discussion and the report, and agreed that COSLA and Scottish Government officers should establish joint governance to provide strategic direction and decision making.

14. OECD 'Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence - into the future' and reform of national education bodies

This paper provided an update following publication of the OECD's report into the Curriculum for Excellence in June, which contained a wide range of recommendations. Scottish Government have since announced some reforms, including replacing the SQA and changing the role of Education Scotland. Members were invited to share their reflections to guide COSLA's response.

Members noted the recommendations of the OECD's report and noted the process for the reform of national education bodies.

15. CYP Update

No specific questions. Agree to note.

16. Any Other Competent Business

No additional competent points of business were noted.

In closing the meeting at 1.05pm, Cllr McCabe thanked Board Members for their attendance and engagement.

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 1 October 2021