



CYP BOARD ITEM 03

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF COSLA CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

Friday 2nd February 2024 at 10.30am
Verity House, Edinburgh and via MS Teams

Present:

COSLA Children and Young People Spokesperson	Cllr Tony Buchannan
Aberdeen City Council	Cllr Martin Greig
Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr David Keating
Angus Council	Cllr Lynne Devine
Argyll and Bute Council	Cllr Daniel Hampsey*
City of Edinburgh Council	Cllr Euan Davidson
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Graham Lindsay
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Cllr Paul Finnegan
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Cllr Richard Brodie
Dundee City Council	Cllr Roisin Smith
East Ayrshire Council	Cllr Elaine Cowan
East Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Lynda Williamson
East Lothian Council	Cllr Fiona Dugdale
East Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Andrew Anderson
Falkirk Council	Cllr Iain Sinclair
Fife Council	Cllr Cara Hilton
Glasgow City Council	Cllr Christina Cannon
Highland Council	Cllr John Finlayson
Inverclyde Council	Louise Long
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Francesca Brennan
Midlothian Council	Cllr Ellen Scott
Moray Council	Cllr Bridget Mustard
North Ayrshire Council	Cllr Shaun Macaulay
North Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Angela Campbell
Orkney Islands Council	Cllr Gwenda Shearer
Perth and Kinross Council	Cllr John Rebbeck
Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Emma Rodden
Scottish Borders Council	Cllr Carol Hamilton
Shetland Islands Council	Cllr Davie Sandison
South Ayrshire Council	Cllr Stephen Ferry
South Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Lynsey Hamilton
Stirling Council	Cllr Margaret Brisley
West Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Clare Steel
West Lothian Council	Cllr Andrew McGuire
ADES	Michael Wood
Angus Interim Director Children, Families and Justice and Chief Social Work Officer	Kirsty Lee
Argyll & Bute Chief Education Officer	Jen Crocket

Directors of Finance
Directors of Public Health
Midlothian Council CO
North Ayrshire Council
Public Health Scotland
Public Health Scotland
Scottish Borders Council
SOLACE
SOLACE
NHS Lothian
West Lothian Head of Services

Hugh Dunn
Dona Milne
David Gladwin
Craig Hatton
Lynne McNiven
Debbie Wason
Michael Cook
Steven Quinn
Dr Grace Vickers
Lorna Douglas
Clare Wallace

Apologies:

Argyll and Bute Council
Scottish Borders Council
CIPFA - Directors of Finance
Directors of Education
Social Work Scotland
Midlothian Council
Head of Children & Families and Criminal
Justice for Inverclyde Council
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning,
Angus Council

Cllr Yvonne McNeilly
Cllr Leagh Douglas
Alan Puckrin
Carrie Lindsay
Ben Farrugia
Saty Kaur
Jonathan Hinds

Kelly McIntosh

**Denotes substitute provided*

Public Session

1. Welcome and Apologies

Councillor Buchanan opened the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.

Apologies were noted for the minute.

2. Presentation from Fiona Duncan – Chair of The Promise Scotland

The Board received a presentation from Fiona Duncan, Chair of The Promise Scotland.

Fiona informed members that the legislation would be published later than initially anticipated.

COSLA officers advised that they would be reviewing best practices for continued implementation of The Promise.

Members welcomed the update.

3. Minute of Previous Meeting of 1st December 2023

Cllr Sinclair and Cllr Keating indicated that it was themselves who attended the previous meeting and asked that the minutes be amended accordingly. With those changes, the minute was approved as an accurate record.

4. Children and Young People Board Workplan

Members received an update on the status of the Board Workplan.

Members sought an update on the Additional Support for Learning Action Plan and the ASL Project Board.

The COSLA CYP Chief Officer Co-Chairs the ASL Project Board which has met on a number of occasions, and will meet next on 27 March 2024, a Progress Report will be produced in May 2024 and the May Board will be asked to consider this.

Members queried the Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status of the education workforce section within the workplan. Officers agreed that a substantive update would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

Private Session

5. Care Leaver Payment Consultation response.

This paper provided the Board with a draft response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the proposed introduction of a Care Leaver Payment.

Members queried if the distribution of these monies to young people would make them ineligible for other state benefits as per the guidelines set out by the Department of Work and Pensions.

COSLA Officers advised that they would continue working with the Scottish Government to clarify the details of eligibility for receiving benefits.

Members sought clarity on which care experienced young people would be entitled to these funds and when they would become eligible. Members also highlighted the need for the risk of exploitation to be assessed.

COSLA Officers advised that they would review the response to ensure that the position on further entitlement and the potential risk of exploitation was made clear.

The Board:

- i. Commented on and approved COSLA's draft response.

6. COSLA response to Fiona Duncan

This paper provides the Board with a draft COSLA response to 'Devising Plan 24 – 30 Together', a call for views from Fiona Duncan.

Members queried the final point made in the draft response to Fiona Duncan as members believed the figures were accurate.

COSLA Officers advised that the figures were being reviewed for accuracy.

The Board:

- i. Commented on and approved COSLA's response to Fiona Duncan on 'Devising Plan 24 – 30 Together.

7. Guide to preventing and responding to infant food insecurity in Scotland.

This paper outlined work that had been undertaken to develop a new supportive resource to assist relevant local agencies (including local authorities, health services, and third sector partners) to respond to and prevent infant food insecurity in Scotland.

Members welcomed the update.

The Board:

- i. Approved the draft guide attached at Appendix 1 prior to publication.

8. ELC – Outcomes and Measurement Framework and Shared Inspection Framework

This paper provided an update on the work to develop an Outcomes and Measurement Framework for ELC and sought the Board's agreement on the direction of travel set out. Appendix 1 provided a detailed update from Scottish Government officials and Improvement Service colleagues on this work. The paper also sought the Board's agreement that COSLA write to the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland to highlight the key concerns that have been raised by ADES and partners across the ELC sector in relation to the Shared Inspection Framework currently being developed.

Members sought confirmation as the paper stated that the work was data led.

COSLA Officers advised that the framework was in its early stages but that data was central to the approach, with possible data indicators being explored.

In terms of inspection of ELC, Members reflected concerns as there was a lack of coherence between the approach to ELC and education. Members confirmed the view whilst that currently early learning was subject to inspection by both the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland, this should be within the remit of a single body.

COSLA Officers acknowledged members views and confirmed that these would be reflected in correspondence to the inspectorates.

The Board:

- i. Approved the direction of travel set out with regards to development of the Outcomes and Measurement Framework for ELC.
- ii. Agreed COSLA write to the inspectorates to highlight the key concerns being raised by ADES and partners across the ELC sector in relation to the Shared Inspection Framework.

9. Digital Education Strategy

This paper detailed an offer from the Scottish Government for COSLA to jointly develop a Digital Education Strategy. The report also provided the Children and Young People

Board with an update on the Scottish Government's commitment to provide a digital device for every child.

Members requested clarification on funding that has been distributed to date. COSLA Officers apologised for an error in the paper circulated to Members and assured the Board that the initial £25 million distributed to councils in 2020 had been fully utilised by local authorities to provide devices to children and young people. The £13 million allocated by the Scottish Government in 2023 was utilised as an in-year saving by the Scottish Government, and the additional £10 million was being received from Connecting Scotland, rather than the Scottish Government.

Members sought clarity on how the distribution and allocation was to be decided and commented that Local Authorities would be better suited to effectively allocate the devices in their area rather than Connecting Scotland in conjunction with other organisations.

COSLA Officers advised that they were unclear as to whether Connecting Scotland had engaged with other bodies and informed members that they understood that there would be a move away from a 'one to one' approach to devices towards a 'one to many' model which may be focused on providing devices to families in the first instance.

Members provided examples from within their Local Authorities for roll outs of digital devices that had already taken place and offered to share their knowledge and best practices with other Local Authorities.

COSLA Officers welcomed the range of contributions from members.

COSLA Officers advised that there had been no indication from the Scottish Government regarding the roll out of the devices and the pressure of the Budget could mean that a universal rollout in the near future, would appear unlikely.

The Board:

- i. Agreed the position set out at paragraph 14 on digital devices.
- ii. Mandated officers to enter initial discussions without commitment on a joint Scottish Government/COSLA Digital Education Strategy.

10. Education Appeals Update

This paper provided an update on the Scottish Government's recent consultation on the transfer of education appeals to Scottish Tribunals. The Children and Young People Board were asked to agree COSLA's position on a further consultation on the use of remote technology in in school admission and exclusion appeal hearings.

Members welcomed the update.

The Board:

- i. Noted the Scottish Government's decision to pause the transfer of education appeals functions to Scottish Tribunals.
- ii. Considered and commented on the possible areas for joint working with the Scottish Government on further improvements to education appeals set out at paragraphs 8 to 10.
- iii. Agreed COSLA will provide a supportive response to the consultation on the use of remote technology in appeals as set out at paragraph 14.

11. School Empowerment and the Headteachers' Charter

This report updated the Children and Young People Board on the recent work of the School Empowerment Steering Group. It invited Board members to change the status of the Headteachers' Charter from draft to final.

The Board welcomed the update.

The Board:

- i. Noted the update on the work of the School Empowerment Steering Group.
- ii. Agreed that the status of the Headteachers Charter, the school empowerment guidance and associated materials are changed from draft to final.

12. Children and Young People Board Update Paper

This paper provided an update on areas of work within the board plan undertaken since the COSLA Children and Young People Board last met in December, which do not require a decision but where officers felt it may be useful for Members to note.

These are set out under the three themes related to children and young people set out in the COSLA Plan.

- i. **Learning opportunities**
- ii. **Care and wellbeing**
- iii. **Rights and protection**

Members commented on the announcement made by the Cabinet Secretary on the cancellation of school meal debt, and queried what implications that would have for Local Authorities that had already actioned the cancellation.

COSLA Officers advised that there had not been any substantial discussions ahead of this meeting, and informed members that an update would be brought to a future Board Meeting when they have more clarity on the situation.

13. AOB

No other additional competent points of business were noted.

Date of Next Meeting: 5th April 2024