

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

Friday 21 August 2020, 10.30am  
Via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

Cllr Stephen McCabe	Inverclyde Council (COSLA Spokesperson)
Cllr Gillian Owen	Aberdeenshire Council
Cllr Derek Wann	Angus Council
Cllr Kieron Green	Argyll & Bute Council (Substitute)
Cllr Ian Perry	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Graham Lindsay	Clackmannanshire Council
Cllr Jeff Leaver	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Cllr Roisin Smith	Dundee City Council
Cllr Fiona Campbell	East Ayrshire Council
Cllr Shamin Akhtar	East Lothian Council
Cllr Paul O’Kane	East Renfrewshire Council
Cllr Adanna McCue	Falkirk Council
Cllr Chris Cunningham	Glasgow City Council
Cllr John Finlayson	Highland Council
Cllr Jim Muirhead	Midlothian Council
Cllr Frank McNally	North Lanarkshire Council
Cllr Gwenda Shearer	Orkney Islands Council
Cllr John Duff	Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr George Smith	Shetland Islands Council
Cllr William Grant	South Ayrshire Council
Cllr Katy Loudon	South Lanarkshire Council
Cllr Karen Conaghan	West Dunbartonshire Council
Cllr David Dodds	West Lothian Council
Peter McNaughton	ADES
Dona Milne	Directors of Public Health
Ben Farrugia	Social Work Scotland
Dr Grace Vickers	SOLACE

**Absent**

Cllr John Wheeler	Aberdeen City Council
Cllr Yvonne McNeilly*	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Angus McCormack	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Cllr Fay Sinclair	Fife Council

Cllr Natasha Murphy  
Cllr Sonya Warren  
Cllr John Bell  
Cllr Jim Paterson  
Cllr Carol Hamilton  
Cllr Susan McGill  
Karen Reid  
Sharon McAlees

Inverclyde Council  
Moray Council  
North Ayrshire Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Scottish Borders Council  
Stirling Council  
SOLACE  
Social Work Scotland

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr McCabe welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

## **2. Children and Young People Workplan**

Board Members were provided with the team workplan. Noted that a number of items have been unable to be progressed recently due to the pandemic, but some non-COVID items are now being picked up again.

Board Members noted and agreed the contents of the workplan.

## **3. Minute of Previous Meeting of 22 May 2020**

The minute of the previous meeting was accepted as a true record.

## **4. The Promise**

This paper provided an update following the publication of the Care Review's conclusions. A set of slides have been provided to the Board to show how the Care Review team are transitioning to The Promise, and to provide an update on how consultation with stakeholders will take place.

Board Members provided their comments on the conclusions of the Care Review and on the update provided by the Promise team; and agreed that an invitation to the Children & Young People Board's October meeting be sent to Chair of The Promise.

## **5. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

This paper provided an updated on the intended incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots law. COSLA provided a response to the consultation on the Bill last year, supporting its incorporating but highlighting some potential issues, particularly relating to resourcing and alignment with the wider human rights agenda. Members were asked to note the imminent nature of this Bill and the associated concerned; and agree that a letter should be sent to the Deputy First Minister highlighting those concerns.

Members agreed to the recommendations in the report and provided comments on a whole systems approach to be included in the letter to the Deputy First Minister.

## **6. Public Health Scotland Strategic Plan**

This paper provided the Board with a copy of Public Health Scotland's draft strategic plan and provided an update on Public Health Reform. Views were provided on how Public Health Scotland can move forward, and how they can engage with the Board to support the implementation of the Board Plan.

Board Members noted the update, and agreed that it would be appropriate for a representative of Public Health Scotland to take part in the CYP Board.

## **7. Deputy First Minister Engagement Session**

The Deputy First Minister joined the Board meeting to answer questions of Board Members. Questions were asked on the delivery of 1140 hours in local areas, improvements to blended learning, partnership working with the SQA to avoid disruption to next year's exams, Developing Scotland's Young Workforce and PEF funding. Discussions were held on home schooling and it was suggested by Board Members that the BBC Scotland channel could be used to assist with learning at home.

Board Members thanked the Deputy First Minister for attending and answering their questions.

## **8. Recovery in Education and ELC update**

This paper updated Board Members on progress since the previous CYP Board meeting. The Deputy First Minister announced a change in central planning on 23 June for the full return to school and COSLA worked with Scottish Government to agree the guidance which was published on 13 July. Board Members were asked to share their reflections on recovery in early learning and childcare and provide any views they may have.

Noted that COSLA has been in discussions with Scottish Government around the level of information required when reporting on activity in schools, and it is key to ensure that there is not an additional burden placed on local officers to produce information.

A finance update was also provided, outlining the position on COVID funding. The Education Finance Group have been meeting regularly and considering the logistical support required to ensure that councils have what they need.

Overall it seems that the return to schools has gone reasonably well but there are some concerns around social distancing among senior pupils. Some positive cases have been found around schools and this situation will need to be kept under constant review.

Board Members noted this update.

## **9. Education Finance update**

This paper provided an update on progress concerning education finance and the work of the Education Resources Recovery Group (ERRG). COSLA has been progressing discussions with Scottish Government over all consequentials coming to Scotland.

Approximately £700 million has come to Local Government, excluding the Business Grants scheme. COSLA have been in discussions with Scottish Government about both learning estate funding and the ELC Transition Fund. The report also provided an update on fiscal flexibilities. A further update will be brought to the Board as the funding situation progresses.

Board Members:

- i. Noted progress on securing additional resources for the safe reopening of schools; and
- ii. Noted that the ERRG will establish a process for the collection of additional cost information and will continue to meet to review costs as the school year progresses, and will provide regular updates to the Board and to Leaders.

### **10. SQA – exam results moderation (paper to follow)**

This paper provided an update on moderation of exam results, and on the independent review being led by Mark Priestley at Stirling University to avoid similar issues in the future. Noted that the Curriculum for Excellence review has been delayed due to the pandemic and the revised date will be fed back to Board Members when made available.

Board Members noted this update.

### **11. CYP Team update**

This paper provided a general update on the work of the Children and Young People team since the Board last met in May. The team wished to highlight an issue which has arisen in relation to the mental health section of the report. Leaders provided a mandate in July for Cllr McCabe to write to the Minister for Mental Health, setting out concerns about the delay to the funding distribution as agreed by the SDG, and concerns around the proposed quarterly reporting. A letter has since been received from the Minister setting out an alternative position which was not previously agreed, and Board Members' views were sought on this.

Board Members agreed that Cllr McCabe should ask the President to write to the Cabinet Secretary or First Minister on this issue.

### **12. CYP Board Roundtable event**

This paper invited members to a roundtable event being held on 11 September, offering members an opportunity to engage with various external guests. The event will have a short Q&A session followed by substantial discussion on how young people have been engaged throughout the pandemic, and potential priority areas for COSLA, members and partners going forward. This event was noted by Board Members.

### **13. AOCB**

Cllr McCabe noted that Cameron Heenan and Laura Caven were both moving to other teams within COSLA and would therefore no longer be part of the Children and Young

People team. Thanks were given to both for the work they have done within the team, and their support and contributions to the Board.

No additional competent points of business were noted.

In closing the meeting, Cllr McCabe thanked Board Members for their attendance and participation, and the meeting ended at 12.30pm.

**Date of Next Meeting: 2 October 2020**