

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Minute of meeting, held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

**Present:**

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)  
Councillor Tony Buchanan  
Councillor Kate Campbell\*  
Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)

Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)  
Ms Fiona Gilchrist  
Ms Dorothy Graham  
Ms Evelyn Yedd

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

(\*) indicates remote attendance

**Attending:**

Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Performance & Quality Improvement); Joe McCaig, Head of Education Services (Provision); Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Graeme Hay, Senior Manager Leading Change (Education); Tracey Morton, Education Senior Manager (Developing People); and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

**Also Attending:**

Rosamund Coyle-Bennett, Quality Improvement Officer; Siobhan Coats, Principal Teacher: Numeracy and Mathematics (3-18); Lucy Cosstick, Principal Teacher of Literacy ; Gillian Gourlay, Principal Teacher of Literacy; June Comrie, Catering Manager, Facilities Management.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Devlin, Merrick, Wallace and Mr Des Morris

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**863.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

## **PRESENTATION TO JUNE COMRIE, CATERING MANAGER, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, IN RECOGNITION OF CATERING MANAGER OF THE YEAR PSC AWARD 2024**

**864.** Councillor Anderson welcomed to the meeting June Comrie, Catering Manager, Facilities Management. He reported that Ms Comrie had recently been recognised as Catering Manager of the Year at the Public Sector Catering Awards 2024.

Councillor Anderson, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Ms Comrie on her award and presented her with a trophy to commemorate her recent achievement.

## **SEF WORKSTREAM 3 SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION - LITERACY AND NUMERACY**

**865.** The Head of Education Services (Performance and Quality Improvement) introduced a presentation on work being undertaken to support Literacy and Numeracy within East Renfrewshire using the Strategic Equity Fund (SEF).

The presentation was given by Rosamund Coyle-Bennett, Quality Improvement Officer; Siobhan Coats, Principal Teacher: Numeracy and Mathematics (3-18); Lucy Cosstick, Principal Teacher of Literacy; and Gillian Gourlay, Principal Teacher of Literacy and focused on the use of SEF funding to enhance literacy and numeracy learning in the Council's educational establishments.

The presentation highlighted the key activities undertaken, in particular, highlighting early, targeted interventions and the importance of professional learning and capacity building to provide a sustainable resource going forward in East Renfrewshire. Further, it was highlighted the large number of pupils in East Renfrewshire had benefited from Reading and Maths Recovery programmes to date.

Examples of feedback from parents, carers and learners themselves was provided, with the level of confidence gained to participate in further learning highlighted.

The presenters responded to members' questions on their presentation, particularly around parental engagement, the continuation period of SEF funding and their overall support for the excellent work taking place in the Council area, highlighted by the presentation.

Members requested a copy of the slides for the presentation be circulated to them for further information, as well as the links to online resources highlighted.

Having heard members thank everyone who attended the meeting for an interesting and informative presentation, the Committee noted the SEF Workstream 3 – Literacy and Numeracy Spotlight Presentation.

## **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ANNUAL REPORT**

**866.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education advising on the approaches taken to develop Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) services. The report outlined the steps taken to improve the quality, flexibility, accessibility and affordability of provision and experiences for young children.

The Scottish Government had set a transformational agenda to double the entitlement to free ELC from 600 hours to 1140 hours per year by 2020 for all 3 and 4 year olds and

eligible 2 year olds. This provision had been available in East Renfrewshire Council since August 2020, with full provision, which included the provision of food at lunchtime, being available since August 2021.

The report contained a range of detailed information on the provision in East Renfrewshire, with focus on the aspects of Quality; Flexibility; and Accessibility and Affordability.

The information presented in the report indicated that the 1140 hours policy continued to be successfully implemented in East Renfrewshire, and highlighted continuous improvement in all areas. In particular, the increase in entitlement had been a mitigating factor in the impact of COVID-19 and the poverty related attainment gap.

In discussion on the paper, officers responded to members' questions around developmental milestones, nursery place availability, the effect of deferrals from starting Primary 1 education and the potential for an additional budget pressure if more places for Primary 1 were required than would otherwise be available.

Further, the Committee requested a report be brought in future relating to West Partnership research on 1140 hours ELC provision. Councillor O'Donnell also specifically requested further information on children in quintile 3 be provided to him in relation to some of the data in the report.

Thereafter, the committee:-

- (a) noted the content of the report as a summary of the Early Learning and Childcare Department's performance for 2023/24;
- (b) requested a further report on the West Partnership research on 1140 Hours Early Learning and Childcare Provision to be given to the committee in future; and
- (c) noted that Councillor O'Donnell would be provided further information on the statistics relating to children in quintile 3, as presented in the report.

