

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

**Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 31 January 2019.**

**Present:**

Councillor Paul O’Kane (Chair)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Colm Merrick (Vice Chair)	Dr Frank Angell
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Ms Dorothy Graham
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Mr Des Morris

Councillor O’Kane in the Chair

**Attending:**

Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Mark Ratter, Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance); Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Tony Buchanan (Leader) and Danny Devlin.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2017/18**

**770.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education advising of the proposed content of the Education Department’s draft 2017/18 Standards and Quality Report, a copy of which accompanied the report.

Having set out the legislative obligations on local authorities to produce and publish annually a Local Improvement Plan which detailed how schools and services would continuously improve, and based on this prepare a Standards and Quality Report detailing how improvements in provision had been sought and achieved, the report outlined the progress made by the Education Department and its schools and services in taking forward the improvement agenda set out in the Local Improvement Plan 2017-2020.

The report explained that the department had undertaken a self-evaluation exercise which had informed the draft report and helped outline the steps to be included in the Local

Improvement Plan 2019-2022 which was the subject of a separate report to the committee (Item 771 below refers). The draft Standards and Quality Report highlighted the very good and excellent standards and practice achieved by the department, its schools, and services, including details of some of the activities which had been undertaken during the 2017/18 school session and their impact on stakeholders. Following feedback, the format of the report had been designed to provide a concise, visual and high level summary of progress made with the Local Improvement Plan.

It was proposed to issue the report electronically to all parents with children attending East Renfrewshire schools or Early Learning and Childcare centres and it would be available to view online or download from the Council's website. A limited number of published copies would be available in all libraries, education, sports and cultural centres, and Council buildings.

In the course of discussion, it was highlighted that pupils from East Renfrewshire had been involved in an educational programme run by the Space School Education Trust and it was highlighted that maintaining strong links with agencies such as NASA would be beneficial for East Renfrewshire pupils both now and in the future.

Having heard a number of Members commend the Education Department on an excellent report, the committee:-

- (a) approved the 2017/18 Standards and Quality Report; and
- (b) authorised the Director of Education to take the necessary steps to produce and issue copies of the report for stakeholders.

## **LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-2022**

**771.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval for the Education Department's Local Improvement Plan 2019-2022.

The report explained that the plan was designed to give an indication of the department's key areas for improvement over the next three years and was updated annually to take account of changing priorities. Areas of improvement were outlined and priorities would be developed through self-evaluation and information gathered through external evaluations and the implementation of the plan.

Having heard the Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance) advise that the finalised plan would be submitted to the Scottish Government in due course, the committee agreed to approve the Local Improvement Plan 2019-2022.

## **STANDARD CIRCULAR 8(a) – BULLYING AND ANTI-BULLYING**

**772.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval for the revised policy Standard Circular 8(a) on Bullying and Anti-Bullying. A copy of the Circular was appended to the report.

The report explained that the Scottish Government had published "Respect for All" a refreshed national approach to anti-bullying in November 2017 which aimed to ensure that all sectors were contributing to a holistic approach to anti-bullying. The Education Department had revised their Bullying and Anti-Bullying Policy in light of the updated advice and to take account of current legislation and guidance.

The report referred to the revision of current policies in light of national guidelines, highlighting changes to the terminology used and including sections on how to address or pre-empt bullying behaviour, amongst other things. It was further reported that a package of staff training would be offered following implementation of the revised circular, in collaboration with RespectMe the national anti-bullying organisation.

In response to questions, the Director of Education advised that there were policies in place to allow teaching staff to deal with incidences of bullying which took place outwith school premises, particularly if they affected school life, and schools worked in partnership with parents to offer advice and support.

The committee agreed:-

- (a) to approve the revised policy on Bullying and Anti-Bullying; and
- (b) that the Director of Education should instruct Head Teachers to review their establishment policies in light of this within 3 months of the revised policy being approved.

#### **ALLOCATION OF 1140 HOURS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE**

**773.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 10 May 2018 (Page 388, Item 419 refers), when it was agreed to approve the department's plan to phase the introduction of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare, the committee considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval of the priority criteria to be used when allocating the roll out of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare places.

The report referred to the process for allocating places to children during their ante pre-school and pre-school years and explained that, in order to ensure that parents of children entering their ante pre-school year in 2019/20 did not need to reapply for their child's pre-school year, there was a need to ensure that the criteria for the allocation of places for the delivery of 1140 hours in 2020/21 was in place by April 2019.

It was proposed that from August 2020, nursery classes would offer core provision, extended day provision and blended provision, with family centres offering stretched provision and blended provision, depending on available resources, and a banding system would be used to allocate places for a child's 1140 hours place for August 2020.

The committee agreed to approve the priority criteria for allocation of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare.

CHAIR

