



MINUTES

B - Public

**Education and Families Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 10.00am**

Present:

Councillors:

P Campbell	G Cleaver
B Fox	A Manson
G Robinson	G Smith
M Stout	V Wishart

Also:

T Smith

Religious Representatives:

R MacKay	M Tregonning
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Apologies:

T Macintyre	F Robertson
D Sandison	

In Attendance:

H Budge, Director – Children's Services
A Edwards, Executive Manager – Quality Improvement
S Thompson, Executive Manager - Schools
J Riise, Executive Manager – Governance and Law
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
M Duncan, External Funding Officer
F Thomson, Management Accountant
K Johnston, Solicitor
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Chairperson

Ms Wishart, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2015 on the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr Stout.

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Quality Improvement (CS-17-15-F) which highlighted three recent reports from the Care Inspectorate, and the actions to be taken as a result of these reports.

The Executive Manager – Quality Improvement summarised the main terms of the report, advising that all three reports had been very positive and the recommendations had been actioned. It was noted that the grades referred to in paragraph 3.5 of the report should all read “Grade 4”.

Decision:

The Committee considered the reports on Bell’s Brae Primary School Early Years, Brae High School Early Years, and Skeld Primary School Early Years and noted:

- the actions to be taken by the Schools/Quality Improvement Services; and
- the recommendations to be included, where appropriate, in the relevant School’s Improvement Plan.

23/15

Education Scotland Continuing Engagement – Skeld Primary School

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Quality Improvement (CS-18-15-F) which highlighted the Education Scotland continuing improvement visit to Skeld Primary School.

The Executive Manager – Quality Improvement summarised the main terms of the report, advising that considerable progress had been made since the initial inspection in March 2014, and no further visits would be made by Education Scotland in connection to this inspection.

Decision:

The Committee considered the report on Skeld Primary School and nursery class and noted that, as a result of the progress made by the school, Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. As part of its arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of education, Shetland Islands Council will inform parents about the school’s progress.

24/15

Janet Courtney Halls of Residence – Care Inspectorate Inspection

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Schools (CS-20-15-F) which highlighted a recent report from the Care Inspectorate.

The Executive Manager – Schools summarised the main terms of the report, advising that whilst there were no recommendations regarding required action, there had been some discussion around possible areas for improvement. These had been picked up and would be dealt with, and she thanked staff for their dedication and hard work in supporting these young people who have to stay away from home.

The Executive Manager – Schools then responded to questions, and Members noted the following:

- The reason Grade 4, rather than Grade 5, had been received for the Quality of Environment was that the rooms were not en-suite.

- The improvements suggested in relation to staff involvement in running the service particularly related to continuing engagement of staff and young people in planning for the new facility.
- The inspection had been unannounced and all visits since 2008, with the exception of two, had been unannounced. The hostel was inspected almost annually, as there were not many similar establishments in Scotland. Some work was being done as part of the Schools Comparison Project to look at how hostels operated in other areas of Scotland.
- The full report highlighted the level of engagement that had taken place with both staff and pupils in the hostel.

Decision:

The Committee considered the report on the Janet Courtney Hall of Residence, noted the actions to be taken by the Schools/Quality Improvement Service, and noted the recommendations to be included, where appropriate, in the relevant improvement plan.

25/15

Chair's Report – Shetland College Board – 28 May 2015
Shetland College Term Dates 2015/16

The Committee considered a report by the Chair of the Shetland College Board (E&F-0616-SCB083) which presented the proposed term dates for the academic session 2015/16.

Mr Campbell, Chair of Shetland College Board, advised that the term dates had been considered by the Board and were being recommended for approval by the Committee. He accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report, and Mr Cleaver seconded.

Decision:

The Committee considered the recommendation from Shetland College Board and **RESOLVED** to approve the College Term Dates for academic year 2015/16.

The Chair advised that the following report had been marked as exempt. However she was of the view that the report should be considered in public, and the Committee agreed.

26/15

Application for Financial Assistance – Open Peer Education Project

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services (CS-19-15-F) which concerned a request for grant assistance from Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) towards the Open Peer Education Project (PEP).

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report, advising that the responses received following previous consideration of the report were outlined in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3. It was being recommended that future requests should only be considered as part of a joint commissioning process through the appropriate partnership.

In response to queries, she said that there was a possibility that funding may be received from the NHS this year. However it was being recommended that a grant to assist with the costs for the current financial year be awarded, so that the Council would be underwriting the PEP at the moment. This was the first year the Council would be funding the PEP, and it would be funded from existing resources.

Shetland Charitable Trust (SCT) was not involved with the groups referred to in paragraph 3.3, but was involved in the Shetland Partnership Board (SPB). The PEP had not sought funding from the SPB, but the Integrated Children and Young People Strategic Planning Group (ICYPSPG) was a sub-group of the SPB and, as Chair, she would raise the issue at the next meeting.

During the discussion that followed, it was commented that whilst the NHS appeared to be willing to engage, the approach taken by SCT could be seen as unhelpful. It was suggested that there was a need for SCT to play a fuller role in community planning, as the Council was not in the position to pick up every project that SCT ceased funding. It was also pointed out that it was inaccurate to state that the PEP was a “new funding bid”, as it had been part of Shetland Youth Information Service (SYIS). When SCT had taken the decision to cease funding SYIS, it had been clear that the decision was not about saving money but rather about the ability to meet objectives, and it had recognised that the PEP was worthy of funding. It was also noted that the PEP had been successful in securing £18,500 in external funding, and this should help assure Members of the viability of the project.

However concern was also expressed regarding the deliverables of the project in the future. It was pointed out that the costs of the project related largely to staff costs and the training of young people to become peer educators in future. However if there was no funding for the PEP next year, this could be seen as a waste of money. It could also be expected that the investment into training in previous years should mean that peer education would be being delivered just now, and the report did not explain why it was the case that the number of pupils and engagement was dropping. Further information was requested regarding project deliverables and outcomes, and the Chair said that it should be possible to supply this to the Committee.

It was commented that if, as stated in Outcome 1 in Appendix A, training could be delivered to increase the confidence, skills and knowledge of ten young people - irrespective of whether they delivered peer education in the year - this would help them move forward in their lives. The likelihood of achieving funding in future from NHS Shetland was questioned, and it was suggested that there was a need for further discussions on this matter in the future as the project would be of value to them.

On the motion of Mr Robinson, seconded by Ms Wishart, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Education and Families Committee **RESOLVED:**

- To award a grant of up to £12,000 to Voluntary Action Shetland to assist with the costs of delivering its Peer Education service during financial year 2015/16, which will comply with the principles of the “Following the Public Pound Code” and be subject to the standard Council grant conditions for voluntary organisations and any additional conditions that may be required; and
- That future requests will only be considered as part of a joint commissioning process through the appropriate partnership.

Ms Wishart moved that in order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, the Committee resolve to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following items of business.

Mr Robinson seconded.

(Members of the public and the media left the meeting.)

27/15 Review of Social Work Services: Update

The Committee considered a joint report by the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Community Health and Social Care.

The Director of Children’s Services summarised the main terms of the report and responded to queries from Members.

On the motion of Ms Wishart, seconded by Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the relevant recommendations in the report.

Decision:

The Education and Families Committee approved the relevant recommendations in the report.

The meeting concluded at 10.20am.

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Chair