



MINUTES

B - Public

Special Education and Families Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Monday 17 August 2015 at 9.30am

Present:

Councillors:

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

Religious Representatives:

T Macintyre	R MacKay
M Tregonning	

Apologies:

F Robertson	D Sandison
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In Attendance:

H Budge, Director – Children's Services
J Belford, Executive Manager - Finance
J Riise, Executive Manager – Governance and Law
V Simpson, Executive Manager – Community Planning and Development
N Watt, Executive Manager – Sport and Leisure
J Porter, Team Leader – Community Development
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Chairperson

Ms Wishart, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

The Chair advised the Committee that she would like to say a few words regarding the new Anderson High School (AHS) project before consideration of today's agenda items. As the Committee would be aware, financial closure had been reached at the end of the previous month, and building work had now started in earnest. She paid tribute to the team who had helped the Council get to this stage. A huge amount of extra work had gone in from virtually every department of the Council, but there were some people who deserved a special mention, namely Trevor Smith - Project Manager; James Armitage – Client Adviser; Jonathan Belford – Finance Officer; Mark Boden – Chief Executive; Carl Symons – Estate Operations; Paul Wishart – Legal Services; Annie Nicolson – Administrative Assistant; Sandra Laurenson – Strategic Adviser; and Helen Budge – Director of Children's Services, without whose persistence she did not believe the project would have reached this stage.

When the new school was completed in two years' time, the AHS and hostel would give pupils and staff a much-improved environment and an asset that everyone could be proud of.

Declarations of Interest

None

28/15 Shetland Community Learning and Development Plan 2015-18

The Committee considered a joint report by the Community Development Team Leader and the Youth Services Team Leader (DV-46-15-F) which advised of the statutory duty on councils to produce a three-year plan outlining how Community Learning and Development (CLD) will be delivered in the local authority area.

The Team Leader – Community Development summarised the main terms of the report, advising that it had been produced jointly by Community Planning and Development and Youth Services. The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 were welcomed, and would reinforce the role Community Learning and Development (CLD) played in the planning and evaluation of activities, and would make its role more visible. CLD had worked closely with partners and with Education Scotland, and had undertaken an audit of provision. Partners had also been consulted in the preparation of the draft plan, and those involved were highlighted in the appendix to the report.

In response to queries, the Team Leader – Community Development and the Executive Manager – Community Planning and Development advised that it was recognised that resourcing Local Area Forums would be crucial, and it was proposed to pilot these to help determine the level of resources that would be required. There were links between Local Area Forums, locality planning and community councils, and work was being undertaken with NHS Shetland to look at how best to bring these all together. The list of organisations appended to the report who participated in the audit was not an exhaustive list, and had been attached to provide a flavour of the activity that was currently being delivered that supported CLD outcomes.

Disappointment was expressed two Council services consulted as part of the audit had not commented on opportunities for the future, and the Director of Children's Services advised that she would pass this on to the areas of Children's Services this related to.

It was pointed out that the Scottish Government had recently produced a document to encourage dialogue between different religions and philosophies - including a model to encourage face-to-face contact – and that this may help inform community learning.

In moving that the recommendations in the report be approved, Mr G Smith commented that there was a need for the Council, when making its budget considerations, to ensure that there were resources available to ensure that the Plan could be delivered.

Ms Wishart seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the statutory requirement placed on the Council and Community Learning and Development Services; and
- Approve the Community Learning and Development Plan 2015-18.

29/15

Commonwealth Games 2014 – A Legacy for Shetland

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Sport and Leisure (CS-22-15-F) highlighting the benefits received by Shetland over the last four years from the national programmes developed to create a lasting legacy for Scotland as a result of hosting the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014, and seeking agreement to produce an annual report to highlight the range of projects and initiatives occurring each year.

The Executive Manager – Sport and Leisure summarised the main terms of the report, advising that Audit Scotland had recommended that all Councils should monitor and report to their appropriate committees on the legacy impact of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in their areas. This was the first of these reports, and it was worth noting that over £1million external funding had been secured locally to deliver projects.

In response to a query, he advised that further consideration could be given to monitoring the continuing involvement of the young people involved in local programmes.

It was commented that it was important not just to focus on elite sports, but to encourage as many people as possible to participate in activities.

In moving that the recommendations in the report be approved, Mr G Smith commented that it was incumbent on the Council and its partners to continue to support young people to have these opportunities.

Ms Wishart seconded.

Decision:

The Committee noted the contents of the report and its appendix, and **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation in paragraph 3.6 of the report that an annual report on legacy outcomes for Shetland from the Commonwealth Games 2014 should be presented to the Education and Families Committee during the proposed reporting period.

30/15

Shetland Child Protection Committee – Annual Report and Business Plan

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services (CS-29-15-F) which presented details of the work of Shetland Child Protection Committee (CPC) for the period April 2014 to March 2015, as set out in its Annual Report for 2014-15.

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report, advising that she had been Chair of the CPC for the last three years and the role would now be undertaken by Dr Sarah Taylor, NHS Shetland. The key achievements during the year were highlighted in paragraph 3.8 of the report, and the report set out the way forward for the following year. The engagement and involvement of young people was something that was being encouraged and would be carried out appropriately. An action plan was being developed to pick up on any issues identified.

In response to a question regarding the significant rise in child protection referrals, she said that this could partly relate to the fact that there was better awareness and more people coming forward to report child protection issues, and there was an increase in numbers nationally. An additional two members of staff had been employed within the Children and Families team to help deal with this increase. With regard to the detail behind the registrations, it was the case that there had been an increase in some areas and a decrease in others, and this was currently being examined in more detail.

It was suggested that the increase in referrals could be as a result of increased recognition nationally over the last few years of the emotional damage that substance-misusing parents could cause to their children, and the Director of Children's Services advised that this was one of the areas which would be explored further.

The Committee requested that more detail behind the figures be provided to them, as there was concern that it may be that it was an indicator that there were weaknesses in terms of early engagement, so the Committee required to be reassured that young people were not appearing on the register as a result of a lack of support in the system. It was also requested that information was presented which detailed how many young people remained on the register once they had been referred.

The Director of Children's Services advised that she would bring a report to the next Committee meeting which expanded on the analysis contained in this report.

On the motion of Mr Fox, seconded by Mr Stout, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Committee endorsed the Annual Report and Business Plan, as part of its scrutiny role under the approve Planning and Performance Management Framework.

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 item of business.

Mr G Smith seconded.

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

31/15 **Project Support**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report, and responded to questions from the Committee.

Decision:

The Education and Families Committee noted the report.

The meeting concluded at 10.20am.

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Chair