

MINUTES

B - PUBLIC

**Education and Families Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Monday 20 January 2020 at 10.00am**

Present:

Councillors:

P Campbell	S Coutts
J Fraser	A Hawick
C Hughson	E Macdonald
R McGregor	D Sandison
G Smith	T Smith
R Thomson	

Religious Representatives:

T Macintyre	M Tregonning
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Also:

A Cooper	S Flaws
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Apologies:

H Rankine

In Attendance:

H Budge, Director – Children’s Services
S Bokor-Ingram, Director of Community Health and Social Care
R Calder, Acting Executive Manager – Quality Improvement
J Manson, Executive Manager – Finance
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
K Johnston, Solicitor
J Johnston, Quality Improvement Officer
M Summers, Senior Youth Development Worker
M Thomson, Management Accountant
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Also:

L Anderson, Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP)
J Dorrat, Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP)

Chairperson

Mr G Smith, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

The Chair ruled that in accordance with Section 43(2) of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the attendance of Councillors John Fraser and Amanda Hawick during the Committee proceedings was permitted by remote telephone link.

Deputation – Shetland Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs): UK Youth Parliament “Make Your Mark” Ballot

The Chair welcomed the Shetland MSYPs – Leighton Anderson and Jonathan Dorrat - to the meeting.

The MSYPs gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee outlining the role and the mission of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the background to the “Make Your Mark” ballot which had taken place last year, giving young people the chance to influence the issues discussed. Young people had been given the opportunity to vote on one UK issue, one devolved issue, and one local issue. The MSYPs had had the opportunity to speak to young people when they were in schools distributing the ballot papers, and the results had also been collated locally.

A total of 886 young people had taken part in the ballot locally – 62% of all school students - and this was in the top twenty turnout for the UK. The top three UK wide priorities were protection of the environment, welcoming refugees, and tackling hate crime. The top three devolved issues were mental health, putting an end to knife crime, and tackling child poverty. Locally the top three issues were protecting the environment, transport, and mental health. The MSYP had recently had the opportunity to speak in the House of Commons about protecting the environment.

The next steps would be to work with committees to develop an action plan and to campaign for improvements in the community. The Scottish Youth Parliament’s national campaign for 2019/20 focused on reducing pollution levels that contribute to climate change, and it was taking action to reduce single use packaging and waste. Mental health was also a key area of concern, and work was being carried out to improve services for young people. Transport had always been a key issue for rural areas, and work was being carried out locally to address this.

The MSYPs concluded by saying it was recognised that Shetland always had good participation in consultation and youth engagement events. Schools and the Council’s youth work team played an active part in helping them to carry out their roles. However more could be done, and members were encouraged to make themselves aware of the “Being Heard” report, which was one of the largest studies undertaken regarding the engagement of young people in Scottish local authorities. Members were asked to work with the MSYPs to ensure that young people could make a difference and influence change.

The Chair thanked the MSYPs for their presentation, and said that the Committee took on board the need to hear the views of young people. The issues that had been prioritised by young people locally were issues that the Council was already actively considering, and today’s agenda included a report on counselling in schools. Reports would be presented to the Council shortly regarding the bus network and climate change. The Council should be looking to engage as much as possible with young people and involving them in the decision-making approach.

It was questioned what could be done to assist young people to take issues forward. The MSYPs said that it was useful to be attend Committee meetings to bring matters to attention, and it would also be of assistance if it was made clearer to young people about who to contact in the Council. It had been suggested in the “Being Heard” report that there should be a councillor with responsibility for contact with young people.

The Chair advised that he was always willing to meet with the MSYPs and would welcome the opportunity for regular dialogue, and it was suggested that it may be beneficial for young

people to be invited to the quarterly ZetTrans meetings so that they could be involved in discussions relating to transport.

It was questioned if there was a reason for smaller schools locally having a higher response rate for the ballot, and the MSYPs suggested that this may be because it was easier to get the ballots to classes in smaller schools. It had taken some time to get around classes in the Anderson High School, but there had been a huge improvement in the turnout rate there.

Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 5: Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare – Funded Providers: Request to Transfer to Shetland Islands Council

Ms Hughson declared an interest in the above item as a family member was employed by the provider, and she advised that she would leave the room during the discussion.

Mr Sandison declared an interest in the above item as a director of “Hame Fae Hame”, and advised that he would leave the room during the discussion.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2019 were confirmed on the motion of Mr Campbell, seconded by Ms Hughson.

01/20

Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy for Shetland 2019 - 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Director Community Health & Social Care (CC-47-20-F) presenting the Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy for Shetland 2019-2022.

The Chair advised that no requirement from the Committee was stated in the recommendations. However the report had been considered by the IJB and NHS board, and he understood that comments from the Committee would be welcomed.

The Director of Community Health & Social Care summarised the main terms of the report, advising that the Strategy had been developed after extensive engagement with patients/service users and health and social care professionals working in a variety of settings. In terms of performance, Shetland consistently had the highest percentage relating to the last six months of life spent at home or in a community setting. It was recognised that there was more to do to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to die in their own home, and there were aspirations to broaden the range of support given to families and the community in order to continue to maintain overall performance. In terms of children, GIRFEC supported children and families by making sure that children and young people received the right help at the right time, and it was recognised that palliative care for children was different from palliative care for adults.

In response to a query, he advised that there would continue to be training programmes in place for staff dealing with children and families. Staff were trained, and there were some very skilled staff locally. The action plan contained aspirations for further training.

It was commented that the values, principles and human rights relating to approaches to palliative care would differ between old and young, and it was

questioned if anyone in receipt of palliative care choosing self-directed support as an option could be satisfied that they were receiving the same level of care as local authority delivered services.

The Director of Community Health and Social Care replied that, in terms of values, the Strategy set out to treat every individual uniquely and to consider how they wanted to be treated. Self-directed support gave people an option to procure their own carers, and they may procure people who shared their own values and beliefs. The self-directed support option was very important in helping to achieve a balanced approach locally, and it could be used alongside statutory services.

In response to a further query, he advised that hospices were very important in terms of providing expertise to support people in Shetland. Hospices were much more than places where people went to die, and they were used to help stabilise patients or for day case work. The "Children's Hospices Across Scotland" system was a powerful arrangement that Shetland could access and help negate the need to move people between Shetland and the mainland. The focus was always on trying to keep people in the community.

It was agreed that concerns raised regarding the terminology around "Values, Principles and Human Rights", and the percentage of staff who felt they had adequate or enough training, would be passed on to the Policy & Resources Committee.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the content of the report.

02/20

Shetland Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2018-2019

The Committee considered the Shetland Public Protection Committee Annual Report 2018-2019 by the Independent Convener and Lead Officer for Shetland Public Protection Committee (CS-01-20-F).

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report, advising that it was the first report from both the Shetland Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees. The two separate action plans would be merged into one going forward, and the extensive membership was going to be reviewed.

Responding to questions regarding progress with the business plan, she advised that a computer programme was used to illustrate the percentage progress to date. There was a need to better align the percentage with the progress statements, and she would pass this on to the authors of the report.

It was also suggested that there was a need for the report to be presented earlier in order that governance and oversight of the Committee was not compromised, and the Director of Children's Services advised that it would be presented in a more timely manner next year.

It was further suggested that the source of referrals referred to in Appendix 5 could be broken down further.

The Director of Children's Services said that it was sometimes the case that the source of referrals did not fit into any of the categories, but she would pass this on to the report's authors.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the content of the report.

03/20

Counselling in Schools

The Committee considered a report by the Quality Improvement Officer for Children and Young People with Additional Support Needs (CS-33-19-F) presenting information on the early stages in the development of the Counselling in Schools service.

The Director of Children's Services summarised the main terms of the report, advising that the funding detail had not been forthcoming until the end of last year, but it had been more than anticipated. Guidance had been received from the Scottish Government as to how they wanted counselling services established, and discussions had taken place with NHS colleagues about working together to look at how the funding should be spent in future. Some interim arrangements had been put in place this year, and information was being gathered from young people. It was important that services were not duplicated and, in the short-term, independent counsellors would be contracted to deliver services. Job profiles had been drawn up for a Senior Practitioner and Counsellor, and they were proceeding through the Job Evaluation process. She would arrange to provide further information on the dates for advertising these posts. It was not intended to put a counsellor into each secondary school, but to look for a system that would work locally.

Responding to questions, she advised that it had initially been proposed that the service would be for secondary school pupils. It had been changed to age 10+ in recognition that there may be issues affecting younger children.

Concerns were expressed regarding the capacity to deliver the service locally, and the Director of Children's Services advised that a number of counsellors had already signed up to provide services. At the moment, it was felt that there would be sufficient capacity but, as the service developed, further conversations would take place with health colleagues, the voluntary sector, and young people.

The Executive Manager – Finance added that funding was profiled up to 2022, and it was intended to develop a training model to introduce more trainees into the system, therefore increasing capacity.

It was noted that the third sector had played a key role in developing counselling services locally, and that there was a need for Shetland College to again deliver training for certificates and diplomas.

The Chair commented that the service was a high priority for the Council and for young people. A short-term approach was in place in order to ensure that full use could be made of the resources available while a medium to long-term plan was formulated, and there was some urgency to pull things together while the funding was available. There was currently no indication of funding being made available beyond 2023.

Responding to a question regarding training for teachers, the Director of Children's Services advised that groups of staff within schools were trained to deliver personal and social education programmes which included social and emotional issues. Staff were trained to recognise signs of mental health issues and to have

conversations around this, so different methods were already in place for staff to encourage young people to seek support. In-service training was also available to all staff in schools - not just teaching staff, and a group of young people had also been trained as peer educators.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the early stages in the development of a new service, Counselling in Schools, in response to Scottish Government policy and funding.

Mr G Smith 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, and Mr T Smith seconded.

Mr T Smith advised that he was declaring an interest in Agenda Item 6 "Additional Children's Services Report on Education Scotland's Inspection of Sandwick Junior High School 13-17 May 2019" and advised he would leave the Chamber during the discussion.

04/20 **Closure of Kid Zone After School Club and Holiday Club at Mossbank Primary School**

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

Mr G Smith moved that the Committee recommend that Policy and Resources Committee recommend that Shetland Islands Council defer consideration of the report to allow further discussion with the community to better understand the impact should the report come forward with the current recommendations.

Mr T Smith seconded.

Decision:

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Policy and Resources Committee **RECOMMEND** that Shetland Islands Council defer consideration of the report to allow further discussion with the community to better understand the impact should the report come forward with the current recommendations.

(Mr Sandison and Ms Hughson left the meeting)

05/20 **Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare – Funded Providers: Request to Transfer to Shetland Islands Council**

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, following some discussion, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

Decision:

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

(Mr Sandison and Ms Hughson returned to the meeting, and Mr T Smith left the meeting)

Mr Tregonning declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting.

06/20

**Additional Children's Services Report on Education Scotland's Inspection of
Sandwick Junior High School 13-17 May 2019**

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

The Acting Executive Manager – Quality Improvement summarised the main terms of the report.

The Acting Executive Manager – Quality Improvement and the Director of Children's Services responded to questions and comments from Members.

Following some discussion, the Committee noted the report.

Decision:

The Committee NOTED the additional Children's Services report on the Education Scotland's inspection of Sandwick Junior High School in May 2019.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

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Chair