

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 16 August 2018 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors DEREK WANN, LOIS SPEED, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, COLIN BROWN, LYNNE DEVINE, BEN LAWRIE, ANGUS MACMILLAN DOUGLAS OBE, MARK McDONALD, BOB MYLES, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, TOMMY STEWART, RON STURROCK and BETH WHITESIDE.

Teacher

Representatives: Mr MIKE CALLAGHAN and Mrs ANNA CHEYNE.

Church

Representatives: Miss LESLEY HOOD and Mrs LIZ HOWSON.

Councillor WANN, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Mark Salmond, with Councillor David Fairweather substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 May 2018 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 8 MAY TO 7 AUGUST 2018

There was submitted Report No 233/18 by the Strategic Director - People providing key information to members with regard to services delivered in the Children and Learning Directorate for the period 8 May to 7 August 2018 relating to:-

- Health and Social Care Standards 2018 (Schedule 1);
- Care Inspectorate Inspection of Bramble Cottages Care Home (Schedule 2);
- Education Scotland Inspection of Burnside Primary School and Nursery Class (Schedule 3);
- Education Scotland Inspection of Eassie Primary School (Schedule 4);
- Education Scotland Inspection of Timmergreens Primary School and Nursery Class (Schedule 5); and
- Anti Racism Education (Schedule 6).

Having heard the Convener and a number of members congratulate the staff and pupils of Burnside, Eassie and Timmergreens Primary Schools on such excellent inspection reports (Schedules 3-5), and Councillor Lawrie welcome the opportunities provided to address anti-racism in our schools (Schedule 6), the Committee agreed to note contents of the Report.

5. MANAGING INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEAPONS POLICY

There was submitted Report No 234/18 by the Chief Education Officer outlining the Council's policy and procedures for managing any incidents in schools involving weapons.

The Report indicated that the policy had been created to give direction to schools and their communities following consideration of the recommendations from the independent review of the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Bailey Gwynne at Cults Academy on 28 October 2015. Multi-agency discussions regarding the specific issue of the management of weapons in schools had taken place and whilst there was no evidence to suggest that there was a particular issue in Angus Schools, the good practice that existed in this area had now been formalised into a specific policy. It was also proposed to review the existing anti-bullying policy during school session 2018/19.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the policy and procedures 'Managing Incidents Involving Weapons' as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve a review of Angus Schools and Learning anti-bullying policy.

6. CONTINUING CARE ALLOWANCES AND A REVIEW OF FEES FOR SUPPORTED LODGING PROVIDERS

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 August 2013, there was submitted Report No 235/18 by the Strategic Director – People advising members of the implications of legislation relating to 'continuing care' for looked after children and young people, and of a review of the fee for supported lodgings providers.

The Report indicated that, in line with Scottish Government guidance, it was proposed that foster carers and kinship carers providing continuing care receive equitable financial support to ensure they were not 'financially disadvantaged' should they offer a continuing care placement up to a young person's 21st birthday. To reflect the growing financial independence of our young people at this stage of life, it was proposed that a minimum £30 of this would be a contribution from the young person for the duration of their placement. It was also proposed that the weekly rate for supported lodgings providers be increased by £20 to £170 per week to bring payments in line with other authorities.

Whilst the Council received additional funding from the Scottish Government to support the implementation of continuing care at the point of implementation, and the proposals could be met from within the existing revenue budget, it was unlikely to be sufficient to meet the costs of a request for the continuation of externally commissioned placements. There would be ongoing scrutiny operationally to assess the potential financial impact of young people remaining in residential placements and a further report would be brought to members if any additional costs could not be met from within the available revenue budget.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the introduction of continuing care for care leavers in Angus in line with the requirements contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and that this was an additional responsibility in the local authority's role as corporate parents;
- (ii) to approve the fees for foster carers and kinship carers providing continuing care placements;
- (iii) to approve the increase in fees for supported lodgings providers as detailed in Section 4.2 of the Report; and
- (iv) to note the potential for additional budget pressures caused by the legal right of young people to remain in placements, including residential placements.