

Minute of Meeting



Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee

Date	Time	Venue
9 December 2020	11.00am	Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillor Johnstone (Chair)	
Councillor Alexander	Councillor Cassidy
Councillor Hardie	Councillor Munro
Councillor Parry	Councillor Russell
Councillor Smail	

Also in Attendance:

Grace Vickers	Chief Executive
Kevin Anderson	Executive Director Place
Fiona Robertson	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Gary Fairley	Chief Officer Corporate Solutions
Derek Oliver	Chief Officer Place
Joan Tranent	Chief Officer Children's Services
Alison White	Head of Adult Health and Social Care
Gordon Aitken	Democratic Services Officer

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Baird, Lay-Douglas, McCall, Wallace and Winchester.

2 Order of Business

The order of Business was as detailed within the Agenda.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 The minute of the meeting of 22 September 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

5 Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
5.1	Third Statutory Biodiversity Report 2017-20	Chief Officer: Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The report sought approval of the Third Statutory Biodiversity Duty Report 2017-20 for publication on the Council's website as well as being forwarded to the Scottish Government. The report advised that Biodiversity was the variety of life including plants, animals, micro-organisms and bacteria interacting with each other and the non-living environment to form living ecosystems, cleanse the air and water, pollinate crops, break down waste, control pests and diseases and regulate natural events. The report highlighted that the Wildlife and Natural Environmental (Scotland) Act 2011 required public bodies to publish a Biodiversity Report every 3 years that set out the actions taken in carrying out its Biodiversity duties. The Biodiversity Report was attached as an appendix. Derek Oliver was heard in amplification of the report after which there was a general discussion on this matter.		
Decision		
(a) To approve the appended report as the Council's Third Statutory Biodiversity Report 2017-20;		
(b) Agree to the publication of the Third Statutory Biodiversity Report on the Council's website as well as providing the Scottish Government with a copy.		
Action		
Chief Officer: Place		

Agenda No	Title	Submitted by:
5.2	Integrated Children's Services Inspection Report	Chief Officer, Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Outline and summary of item		
<p>The purpose of the report was to provide feedback from the recent Joint Children's Services for children and young people in need of care and support within Midlothian and the areas for improvement highlighted.</p> <p>Formal feedback in relation to the inspection was received on 6 July 2020 with the following grades awarded;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Direction – GOOD • Impact on Families – GOOD • Impact on Children and Young People – GOOD • Improvement in the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people – GOOD • Evaluation Scale 4 GOOD = Important strengths, with some areas for improvement <p>The inspection identified a number of key strengths and good practice as follow;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders had embraced their collective responsibility to protect children, demonstrated through their well embedded, collaborative approach to quality assurance and scrutiny. • Staff recognised risk and took timely and appropriate action to keep children safe, and key processes for assessing and managing risk for children and young people in need of care and protection were well established. • The wellbeing of children in need of care and protection was improving, with most children and young people benefiting from positive and caring relationships with staff and carers. • As a result of operational and strategic effort, partners had achieved significant reduction in the overall number of looked after children and young people and a reduction in out-of-authority placements. • Children and young people had their rights respected and they benefited from opportunities to have their voices heard throughout the well-established Champions Board structure. <p>The priority areas for improvement were identified as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While children and young people in need of care and protection were helped by a range of purposeful interventions, access to the specialist services required to help them recover from trauma, was not always available at the time they needed it. • The partnership recognised that more needed to be done to raise educational attainment and reduce the number of care experienced children and young people excluded from school. 		

- Outcomes and experiences for care experienced young people transitioning into adulthood were variable. The partnership had identified this as a key area for improvement.
- Collaborative leadership of corporate parenting had not yet consistently achieved partner's ambitions for improved and wellbeing across all groups of care experienced children and young people.

In conclusion the Care Inspectorate reported;

- That they were **very** confident that the partnership in Midlothian has the capacity to continue to improve and to address the areas identified for improvement.
- Evidence of strong partnership working at all levels and a confident and competent workforce committed to improving outcomes and experiences for children, young people and families.
- The effective Champions Board structure and continued effort from staff across the partnership to enable children and young people to influence service design and improvement.
- The strength of scrutiny and oversight of child protection practice and the drive for continuous improvement.
- The partnerships record of improvement to date in relation to the impact of services on care experienced children and young people.

Joan Tranent was heard in amplification of the report after which there was a general discussion on this matter.

Decision

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee:

- (a) Noted the many strengths within the report which evidenced strong partnership working at all levels in addition to the partnership's record of improvement to date in relation to the impact of services on care experienced children and young people;
- (b) To congratulate all staff involved within this process across the community planning partnership for their commitment and good work;
- (c) To develop an action plan to take forward the priority areas for improvement;

Action

Chief Officer, Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities

Agenda No	Title	Submitted by:
5.3	Performance Report Insight Data February 2020	Chief Officer, Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Outline and summary of item		
<p>The purpose of this report was to inform of trends in attainment and achievement of school leavers in Midlothian using the "National Benchmarking Measures" from Insight. Joan Tranent was heard in amplification of the report during which she highlighted that overall, the three National benchmarking measures reported by the Scottish Government Insight tool in the February 2020 update indicated that attainment in Midlothian had improved overall over the five-year period to 2018/19 but that further improvements could still be made, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Level 6, the middle 60% attaining group and in relation to closing the attainment gap for young people with additional support needs and our looked after young people.</p> <p>There followed a general discussion on this matter during which the progress made to date was noted and that an Action Plan would be prepared for those areas requiring further improvement.</p>		
Decision		
To note the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment in the Senior Phase in Midlothian secondary schools		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Adult Health and Social Care Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21	The Joint Director, Health and Social Care
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Adult Health and Social Care Performance Report Q2 2020/21 was submitted. The Joint Director, Health and Social Care highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.</p>		
Decision		
Noted the content of the report		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Children's Services, Partnership and Communities Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21	Executive Director/Chief Officer, Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Children's Services, Partnership and Communities Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21 was submitted. The Executive Director as well as the Chief Officer Children, Young People and Partnerships highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.		
Decision		
Noted the content of the report		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.6	Corporate Solutions - Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21	Executive Director: Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Corporate Solutions Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21 was submitted. The Executive Director: Place highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.		
Decision		
Noted the content of the report		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.7	Education - Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21	Executive Director: Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Education, Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21 was submitted. The Executive Director: Place highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.		
Decision		
Noted the content of the report		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.8	Place - Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21	Executive Director: Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Place, Performance Report Quarter Two 2020/21 was submitted. The Executive Director: Place highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and answered questions raised by Elected Members.		
Decision		
Noted the content of the report.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.9	Midlothian Council Report Quarter Two 20/21	Chief Executive
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Midlothian Council Report Quarter Two 20/21 was submitted. The Chief Executive was heard in amplification of the report during which she sought approval to the proposal that the Q3 and Q4 reports were jointly submitted to PRS at the appropriate meeting thereby allowing the best use of Officers in the interim period particularly in view of the ongoing Covid-19 situation after which she answered questions raised by Elected Members.		
Decision		
(a)To agree that whilst detailed Performance reports covering Q3 and Q4 were jointly submitted to PRS at the appropriate meeting, a streamlined version of the Q3 Performance reports be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of PRS for consideration; and (b)To otherwise note the content of the report.		

6 Private Reports

No private reports were submitted for discussion.

7 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 11.00 am.

The meeting terminated at 12.55 pm