

Minute of Meeting

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 19 September 2023
Item No: 4.1



Performance Review and Scrutiny

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 20 June 2023	11.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House

Present:

Councillor Milligan (Chair)	Councillor Curran
Councillor Drummond	Councillor Imrie
Councillor McCall	Councillor Russell
Councillor Small	Councillor Virgo
Councillor Bowen (Virtually)	

In attendance:

Grace Vickers, Chief Executive
Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place
Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Joan Tranent, Chief Social Work Officer & Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Morag Barrow, Director of Health & Social Care: Midlothian HSCP / Chief Officer to Midlothian IJB
Derek Oliver Chief Officer Place
Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting)
Nick Clater, Head of Adult and Social Care Services
Grace Cowan, Head of Primary Care & Older People's Services
Janet Ritchie, Democratic Services Officer (Minute)
Hannah Forbes, Democratic Services Assistant

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor McEwan, Councillor Pottinger and Councillor Winchester

2 Order of Business

The Order of Business was as detailed in the agenda.

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 The Minute of the Meeting of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee held on the 14 March 2023 was submitted and approved as correct record.
- 4.2 The Action Log updates were noted and Mr Clater advised that he would provide updates on Items 5.1 and 5.2.

Councillor Imrie highlighted that since the Penicuik Centre closed there has been a lack of updates for the Covid booster and Rosewell centre staff advised that they were very quiet. He also pointed out that if you do not have a car there is no public transport for the people in Penicuik to get to the Rosewell Centre.

Ms Barrow provided an update on the vaccination uptake and advised that the Penicuik Centre was only up to December 2022. Ms Barrow also advised that there was a reduction in allocation from Scottish Government this year and they have been unable to finalise accommodation plan but advised the team have performed well and they will be continuing to look at this moving forward.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Adult Health and Social Care Performance Report 2022/23	The Head of Primary Care and Older People's Services and the Head of Adult Health and Social Care
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Head of Primary Care & Older People's Services, Grace Cowan and The Head of Adult Health and Social Care, Nick Clater provided an overview of the Adult Health and Social Care Performance Report 2022/23 highlighting some of the key achievements and challenges as contained within the report.		

Thereafter responded to questions and comments with regards to the following:

- The number of sick days and the reasons for these absences – in responding it was confirmed that this is managed according to policy and staff engagement. It was also highlighted that this is particularly high within care at home, and this is not unique to Midlothian and a brief overview was provided of the supports in place to address this.
- Ms Barrow in responding to a question regarding Bonnyrigg Health Centre provided an update on the situation with regards to Legionella species found in the water and provided an update on the works taking place. Ms Barrow also confirmed that communication will be put out when the GP practices are fully back in.
- Growing our own staff within this service – in responding Ms Barrow provided an update on the work with schools and colleges and advised that it is still very challenging in recruiting.

Decision

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities Performance Report 2022/23	Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities, Joan Tranent provided an overview of the Performance Report 2022/23 highlighting the main achievements and challenges contained within the report. Ms Tranent also advised on the challenges with increased number of sickness absence across the team and the supports in place to address this.

Thereafter responded to questions and comments with regards to:

- Referrals to Children Services and the referrals from Police Scotland and it was confirmed that if Police Scotland attend a household with children, they will submit a referral and Ms Tranent provided an explanation on the screening work that needs done and the work planned over the summer to try to resolve some of the issues with duplication in referrals.
- Recruitment and the challenges in workforce competitive salaries and it was confirmed this was a big piece of work to make sure it is equitable across the service and Ms Tranent provided an explanation of the ongoing work regarding grading of staff and confirmed that a social work agency were looking at nationalising this.

Decision

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Corporate Solutions Performance Report 2022/23	Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting)

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting) provided an overview of the Performance Report 2022/23 highlighting some of the key successes and provided a summary of the emerging challenges as contained within the report and expressed her thanks to the staff across the directorate who have worked extremely hard this year.

Thereafter Officers responded to questions and comments raised with regards to:

- The Capital Plan prioritisation paper and planned works which will come forward to next council and projects under review and it was confirmed that this was a work in progress and will be brought forward to next Business Transformation Steering Group. It was confirmed by Mr Anderson in responding to a further question that the current projections within the existing capital expenditure plan is 4% but with the addition of the projects it will take it to 5.1% by 27/28.
- Positive comments were made on the hybrid system.
- Staff absence levels and the policies in place to support staff and Ms Kaur confirmed that there was no data to confirm that changes in sickness absence was due to working from home.
- New computer management system and the customer service platform and the ongoing work to transform the customer experience.
- Procurement Strategy and small areas of work which need to go through the procurement system and when equipment is required who has authority to sign this off and it was confirmed that procurement should be there to advise and work with services on this. It was also confirmed a manager was appointed to the procurement service.

Decision

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Education Performance Report 2022/23	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships provided an overview of the Performance Report 2022/23 advising that session 2022/23 was a positive year and provided an overview of some of the achievements and challenges.

Thereafter responded to questions and comments raised by Members with regards to:

- Attendance and Ms Robertson provided an explanation on the system in place to look at attendance and provided some of the reasons why children were not in schools, and this was similar picture across Scotland. It was also noted that a further report on the analysis of the attendance could be brought back in required.
- In response to a question with regards to the attainment figures and the average percentage figures shown on the table on P71 of the pack, Ms Robertson confirmed that she would get this checked and provide feedback.
- Updates on the Education Reform Consultations – with regards to SQA and if this building will be retained within Midlothian. Ms Robertson advised she does not have this information at present but will take this question away.

Decision

Ms Robertson will provide:

- a further report on the analysis of the attendance in schools
- Feedback on the attainment figures
- Update on the Education Reform Consultations

Action

The Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Place Q3 Performance Report 2022/23	Chief Officer Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Chief Officer Place provided an overview of the Performance Report 2022/23 outlining the main achievements and brief overview of the areas of improvement.</p> <p>Councillor Smail advised that Tynewater Community Council expressed their congratulations on the effectiveness of the Pothole Pro and he commented positively on the improvement to the rural roads.</p>		
Decision		
Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.6 & 5.7	Midlothian Council Q3 Performance Report 2022/23 and Half Year Balanced Score Card	Executive Director Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>5.6 Midlothian Council Annual Performance report provides a summary of the information from the individual Performance Reports presented by Officer and 5.7 The Balanced Scorecard provides an overview of performance in line with the Single Midlothian Plan.</p>		

The Chief Executive, Grace Vickers highlighted that on the balance scorecard out of the 113 indicators, 23 were off target and provided a brief explanation on the indicators which were off target.

The Chief Executive expressed her sincere thanks to the staff across all services for their hard work this year.

Councillor Virgo also expressed his thanks to all staff for all their hard work during this very challenging time.

In responding to a question raised by Councillor Virgo with regards to Midlothian's growth and how this is being addressed, the Chief Executive advised that Midlothian's is growing at a rate of 13.8% and the nearest local authority, East Lothian is growing at the rate of 8.8% and advised there is a Cosla demographic group which are meeting to look at groups falling and growing in demographics. The Chief Executive also advised on the productive meeting with Government and Officers from Midlothian and East Lothian on the direct impact this is having on local authorities.

Decision

To note the contents of the reports.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.8	Inspection of Cherry Road Resource Centre	Head of Adult Services, Health and Social Care

Outline of report and summary of discussion

This report advised on the outcome of the inspection of Cherry Road Resource Centre and the actions that are being progressed to address the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report.

Cherry Road Resource Centre is a Day Service, operated by Midlothian Council that provides support for adults with Learning Disabilities. It caters for individuals with complex learning disabilities and physical disabilities in addition to their Learning Disability. In March 2023 the Care Inspectorate conducted and announced a short notice inspection of Cherry Road Resource Centre. A copy of the report is contained in Appendix B of this report.

In presenting this report Head of Adult Services highlighted main areas for improvement and the actions in place to address this. He also advised this was the first inspection under the new criteria and the comparison were outlined in the report.

Mr Clater advised on the positivity and warmth in Cherry Road and that this was a good report.

Thereafter Mr Clater in responding to a question raised by Councillor Imrie with regards to maintenance and a book to log and record actions, advised that this will be in place going forward and provided a brief explanation on why this was not in place but highlighted that management were now aware of the importance of this.

Decision

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee noted the outcome of the inspection of Cherry Road Resource Centre by the Care Inspectorate.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.9	Inspection of Burnbrae Primary School	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

Outline of report and summary of discussion

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland in January 2023.

First inspected in November 2020, then returned in March 2020, HM Inspectors published a letter on Burnbrae Primary School and Nursery Class. The letter set out several areas for improvement which were agreed with the school and Midlothian Council. HM Inspectors returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work and published another letter in February 2022. In January 2023 HM Inspectors visited the school again. The report is now published on the Education Scotland website.

The school has made progress since the original inspection, especially to practice in the provision classes, across early years and in P1. The local authority will now provide a report on progress within one year of this inspection. This report will inform any decision made by Education Scotland regarding further engagement.

Ms Robertson advised they were pleased with the progress in the school since the original inspection in 2020 and expressed her thanks to the Teacher, her staff and the families for the positive improvements that have been made at Burnbrae Primary School.

Decision

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee:

- (i) Noted the content of the inspection follow through report.
- (ii) Congratulated the pupils, parents and staff connected with Burnbrae Primary School on the key strengths highlighted in the report.

Action

Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.10	Inspection of Danderhall Primary School	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

Outline of report and summary of discussion

This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their report of April 2023.

In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Danderhall Primary School. The report was published on 24 April 2023, and is available on the Education Scotland website.

Education Scotland are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

A permanent Head Teacher has been appointed and will take up post in August and will pick up the next steps as identified by HMI and local authority.

Mr Robertson expressed her thanks to the Acting Head Teacher for leading the school during session 2023 and the additional duties undertaken with the inspection at that time.

Decision

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee:

- (ii) Noted the content of the inspection follow through report.
- (iii) Congratulated the pupils, parents and staff connected with Danderhall Primary School on the key strengths highlighted in the report.

Action

Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.11	Inspection of Sacred Heart Primary School	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>This report outlines the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their letter of May 2023.</p> <p>In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sacred Heart Primary School. The report was published on 9 May 2023, and is available on the Education Scotland website.</p> <p>As a result of the inspection findings Education Scotland thinks that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. They will liaise with Midlothian Council regarding the school's capacity to improve and will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of the inspection letter.</p> <p>Ms Robertson highlighted that an action plan has been created and additional support provided to accelerate improvements across the school. The interventions will be closely monitored to ensure impact and an update can be provided in the Autumn if required.</p>		

Councillor McCall advised for transparency she had a family member attending this school and further commented on her disappointment in reading this report and after visiting the school felt it was not a fair reflection on how the school operates and asked what supports are getting put in place to support the school in making these improvements.

Ms Robertson in responding advised that there has been a number of changes to the school prior to the inspection and as Director had contacted Education Scotland to advise on the changes that had taken place within the school, however they advised they would still go in to inspect and Ms Robertson advised on the plans in place for the school to ensure the planning is relevant for the children and that they were working with the staff on the actions that will be taken in the classroom. She also advised that as Sacred Heart is a joint shared headship with St Matthew's they will ensure there is consistency in the quality of the planning and that the action plan for the school could be shared if required.

Councillors commented that in the past there were very good reports for this school, and it was agreed that an updated report would be brought back within 6 months.

Decision

Ms Robertson will provide an updated report to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee in 6 months.

Action

Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

6 Private Reports

No items for discussion

7 Date of the Next

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 11.00 am.

The meeting terminated at 12.33 pm.