

Minute of Meeting

Cabinet
Tuesday 31 May 2016
Item No 4.1



Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
19 April 2016	11am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Johnstone	Councillor Bryant
Councillor Parry	
Councillor Rosie	

Religious Representatives:

Mrs M Harkness Rev.R Halley	Mr V Bourne
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1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies received for Councillor Constable

2 Order of Business

The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda that had been circulated.

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Cabinet of 1 March 2016 were submitted and approved as correct records.

Reports

Agenda No	Title
4.2	Minutes of Education Appointment Committees of 11 March 2016

Outline and summary of item

There was submitted the Minutes of Education Appointment Committees of 11 March 2016 with regard to the appointment of Head Teacher, St Matthew's R.C. Primary School.

Decision

That the post of Head Teacher, St Matthew's R.C. Primary School be offered to A Chidgey.

Action

Director Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
4.3	Inspection of Midlothian Council Residential Services for Young People	Head of Children's Services

Outline of report and summary of discussion

Care Inspectorate is the Independent scrutiny and improvement body for care services in Scotland. They inspect all registered care services and local authority social work department on a regular basis to ensure that providers were meeting standards required and were working to improve the quality of care for everyone. Every time they inspected these services they produced an inspection report.

Based on the findings of this Inspection the Care Inspectorate awarded the following grades:

Quality of care and support	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Environment	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Grade 5 – Very Good

The Inspectors reported that the service was operating to a very good standard in relation to all areas that were inspected.

The Inspection Team noted the following strengths:

- At the time of the Inspection all of the young people were attending school, involved in training or in employment. Care plans evidenced that staff worked with education resources to support the young person in their learning.
- We found a good range of methods to involve young people in the assessment and improvement of the service.
- The houses were equipped and decorated to a high standard. They were comfortable and attractive and a plan was in place to continually update and improve.

The Inspection Team reported that the authority could do better in the following areas:

- The service provider should review the recording of care plans and risk assessments to make them clear about young people's target and strategies, and to identify progress and next steps.
- The service should continue to build in staff training and cohesion of the team and further develop the training programme to ensure they keep up to date with current themes in child care practice.
- Managers need to ensure that all required notifications are submitted to the care inspectorate.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the Inspection report;
- (b) To pass the report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for consideration; and
- (c) To acknowledge the continued improvement since the last Inspection and the positive and ongoing work by management and staff connected with the Midlothian Residential Services for Young People.

Action
Head of Children's Services

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
4.4	Inspection of Midlothian Council Fostering Services.	Head of Children's Services

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report highlighted that The Care Inspectorate was the Independent scrutiny and improvement body for care services in Scotland. They inspected all registered care services and local authority social work department on a regular basis to ensure that providers were meeting standards required and are working to improve the quality of care for everyone. Every time they inspected these services they produced an inspection report.

Based on the findings of this Inspection the Care Inspectorate awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support	Grade 4 – Good
Quality of Staffing	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Grade 4 – Good

The Care Inspectorate noted that since the last inspection the service had further developed:

- The service continued to offer a good quality of service to foster carers and those wanting to become foster carers: The past year has been a period of rapid development with the appointment of a new manager.

The Inspection Team noted the following strengths:

- Foster Carers told us they currently received a very good service which supported them and their families.
- The service has made a concerted effort to develop and improve group support opportunities.
- The management and leadership of the service was highlighted as a positive for those providing feedback to the inspectors.

The Inspection Team reported that following areas for improvements:

- Where the service has identified delay issues, they should target resources to improve assessment and planning.
- There have been some missed opportunities for the involvement of service users.
- The service would benefit from a clear, outcomes focussed, service development plan.

The Inspection Team concluded that changes in management had had a positive impact on the staff morale and had empowered what was a knowledgeable and experienced group of practitioners to continue to improve the service. The provider was committed to further improvement but specific planning for this service must be improved to build upon what had been achieved.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;
- (b) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration;
- (c) To congratulate the Management and staff connected with the Midlothian Council Fostering Service on the strengths identified in the report; and
- (d) To note that the Council will continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to the delivering excellence framework.

Action

Head of Children's Services

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
4.5	Inspection of Midlothian Council Adoption Services.	Head of Children's Services

Outline of report and summary of discussion

There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2016, by the Head of Children's Services.

The report highlighted that The Care Inspectorate was the independent scrutiny and improvement body for care and children's services and they inspected every registered care service, and local authority social work department on a regular basis to make sure that providers were meeting standards required and are working to improve the quality of care for everyone.

Based on the findings of this inspection the Care Inspectorate awarded the following grades:

Quality of Care and Support	Grade 4 – Good
Quality of Staffing	Grade 4 – Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Grade 4 – Good

The Care Inspectorate noted the significant improvements in relation to the following:

- The service had significantly improved the way they tracked the planning for children in their area.
- This tracking system has reduced the amount of delay in decision making for children.
- Greater partnership working across teams has supported flexible working aimed at promoting positive outcomes for children in need of adoption.

The Inspection Team noted the following strengths:

- Adopters told us about the good quality of support they received from

- their Supervising Social Worker.
- Staff were skilled and experienced in their work and had good access to training.
- Staff worked effectively together to identify children in need of permanent care.

The Inspection Team reported that the following areas for improvements were:

- We could do more to provide life history information for children and adoptive families in a more child friendly way.
- The agency should adopt a more comprehensive approach to planning how the service will develop and share this with people who use the service and stakeholders.
- The adoption agency gave appropriate attention to detail when linking and matching children. This meant that adopters were better able to meet adopters' needs.

The Inspection Team concluded that there was a continued commitment from Midlothian Council to improve adoption services for children in their area. Staff and adoptive families were committed to providing good quality care to children and young people.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;
- (b) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration;
- (c) To congratulate the Management and staff connected with the Midlothian Council Adoption Service on the strengths identified in the report; and
- (d) To note that the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to our delivering excellence framework.

Action

Head of Children's Services

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
4.6	. Borders Rail - Access Initiatives	Head of Commercial Operations

Outline of report and summary of discussion

There was submitted a report dated 1 April 2016, by the Head of Commercial Operations.

The report outlined a potential bid for funds that would maximise opportunities for economic activity by developing Midlothian as a destination for walking and cycling through improved access opportunities to the area brought about by the Borders Railway.

There were three proposals contained in the report for which funding would be Sought:-

- Gateway to Midlothian - Create a gateway to explore Midlothian from Eskbank Station along Midlothian's spinal Cycle Walkway
- Station to Station - Making the Most of Midlothian's Stations to Walk and Cycle in the area
- Connecting Gorebridge – Creating links from the station to the Gore Glen Woodland Park and the wider countryside

Further details of these proposals including the estimated costs were contained within an Appendix to the report. The overall estimated cost of the works including manufacture, production and preparation of the various features was £109,500.

Decision

(a)To note the bid to the a range of funders including the Borders Rail Blueprint Fund to promote Midlothian as a destination for walking and cycling from the City Region in particular; and

(b)To note that a further report would be provided once the outcome of the various bids were known.

Action

Head of Commercial Operations

The meeting terminated at 11.12am.