

MINUTES of MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET held in the Council Chamber, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 21 April 2015 at 11.00am.

Present:- Councillors Thompson (Convener), Constable, Bryant, Johnstone and Rosie.

Religious Representatives Present:- Mr P Hayes and Mrs M Harkness.

Apologies for Absence:- Mr V Bourne

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Cabinet of 3 March 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3 Minutes of Education Appointment Committee

The Cabinet noted and approved the Minutes of Meetings of the Education Appointment Committee of 6 March and 1 April 2015, as shown at the **Appendix** hereto, thereby approving the following teaching appointments:-

School	Post	Appointee
Burnbrae Primary School	Head Teacher	D Beveridge
St David's RC High School	Depute Head Teacher	K Lewis

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy)

4 Inspection of Hawthorn Children and Families Centre

There was submitted report dated 10 March 2015 by the Head of Children and Families outlining the outcome of the unannounced inspection as carried out by the Care Inspectorate in January 2015.

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

Quality of Care and Support	Grade 6 – Excellent
Quality of Environment	Grade 5 – Very Good
Quality of Staffing	Grade 6 – Very Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	Grade 5 – Very Good

The report and grades represent the Care Inspectorate assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during the unannounced inspection.

A copy of the current and previous gradings were attached as an Appendix and showed a high level of sustained service.

The Inspection Team noted the following strengths:

- The centre provided a safe, secure and welcoming environment for parents, carers and children. Older children helped to make decisions about the activities and play materials provided by the staff team.
- The team were committed to addressing the needs of families using the centre.
- The staff team supported children's transitions within the playrooms or to other educational establishments very well.
- Parents and carers had excellent opportunities to become more confident and skilled in supporting their child's early learning through play.

The report noted that the service had recently secured the use of a local authority flat which would be used by staff to help facilitate contact with parents and promote good parenting skills in a more realistic setting. Parents and carers had been involved in the refurbishment of the flat. Parents and carers had also helped to improve the children's outdoor play area.

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

- Ensuring the medication policy and procedures reflected current good practice guidance.
- Improve the nappy changing facilities in the Tigger bathroom.
- Further develop the risk assessment procedures.

The Care Inspectorate concluded that Hawthorn Children and Families Centre continued to provide a highly valued facility for families in need of the service.

The inspection team recognised that the manager in collaboration with the staff intended to build intends on the centre's strengths and addressed the recommendations and areas of improvement identified during the inspection.

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) congratulate the Management and staff connected with Hawthorn Children and Families Centre on the excellent work being carried out at the Centre; and
- (d) note that the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy)

5 Inspection of Midlothian Residential Service for Young People

There was submitted report dated 10 March 2015 by the Head of Children and Families, outlining the outcome of the unannounced inspection as carried out by the Care Inspectorate in October 2014.

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 4 – Good

The Inspectors reported that significant progress had been made in a number of areas and this was reflected in improved grades across all parts of the service since the previous inspection in March 2014.

The report and grades represented the Care Inspectorate assessment of the quality of the areas of performance which were examined during the inspection.

A note of the current and previous gradings was attached as an Appendix to the report showing improvements made since 2013.

The Inspection Team noted the following strengths:

- The service was good at supporting young people and provided care to match the young people's varied needs.
- Staff were warm and friendly and tried to make the young people feel welcome.
- The service had worked hard to improve care planning arrangements and in ensuring young people were involved in the process.

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

- Ensure that systems of quality assurance were consistent and effective.

- Risk assessments needed to be kept updated, particularly following any incidents.
- Systems for keeping records needed to be streamlined so that they were easily accessible.

The Care Inspectorate concluded that improvements were made within most of the quality themes and that Midlothian continued to demonstrate that they were committed to improvement of the services for accommodated children.

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) Acknowledge the significant improvement since the last inspection and the positive and ongoing work by management and staff connected with the Midlothian Residential Service for Young People ;and
- (d) To note that the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy)

6 Inspection of the Learning Community surrounding Penicuik High School

There was submitted report dated 10 March 2015, by the Head of Education, outlining the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland in February 2015.

The initial inspection report published in March 2014 identified four main points for action. Inspectors evaluated progress made with each action and the resulting improvements for learners and other stakeholders.

The main points for action were:

- Improve sharing and use of community profile information and develop outcomes focused planning based on priority needs
The inspectors noted that partners were now using a wide range of data and local knowledge to effectively identify areas of need.
- Develop the gathering and use of management information and performance reporting
Partners were increasingly gathering and using management information to effectively inform performance reporting.
- Strengthen focus on early intervention and prevention, building on partnership approaches and integration of services

Inspectors reported that good progress had been made in this area for improvement with partners working together to deliver an increasingly effective range of early intervention and prevention initiatives

- Strengthen the role and influence of local people in planning.
Most areas for action identified in this respect had been addressed.

The following strengths were identified by the inspection team:

- Effective partnership working
- Commitment to improving outcomes for learners
- Vibrant, active community organisations

As there had been progress in all of the improvement areas identified in the previous inspection, Education Scotland would make no further visits in connection with the initial inspection of 2014.

Decision

- To note the content of the continuing engagement report;
- To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration;
- Congratulate all partners involved in making significant progress on the main points for action from the last report of March 2014;
- Note that officers within the Directorate would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance; and
- Instruct the Director, Education, Communities and Economy to ensure that future action plans incorporated the recommendations of the inspection team.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy)

7 Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Cabinet agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted items, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6,8,9 and 11 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- New Bus Route Haddington-Musselburgh-Millerhill-ERI – Recommendations approved; and
- Irrecoverable Debt Write-Off – Agreed Recommendations

The Cabinet thereafter agreed to proceed as detailed in the Addendum hereto.

The meeting terminated at 11.22am.

APPENDIX

(relative to paragraph 3)

MINUTES of MEETING of the EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Friday 6 March 2015 at 9.45am.

Councillors Present Constable (Chair), Rosie and Russell.

Burnbrae Primary School Parent Representatives Present:- Ms T Gunn, Ms S McCarron and Ms K McInnes.

In Attendance:- Ms N McDowell (School Group Manager).

Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Committee agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted item, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

Appointment of Head Teacher, BurnbraePrimary School.

The meeting terminated at 11.30am.

MINUTES of MEETING of the EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 1 April 2015 at 9.45 am.

Councillors Present:- Constable and Muirhead.

Religious Representative Present:- Mr V Bourne.

HeadTeacher :- Mrs W Sutherland (Chair).

St David's RC High School Parent Representatives Present:-
Mrs H Gilhooley, Ms S Hurley and Mr M Wilson.

In Attendance:- Ms N McDowell (School Groups Manager)

Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Committee agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted item, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

Appointment of Depute Head Teacher, St David's RC High School.

The meeting terminated at 11.30am.

