

Education Convenor Advisory Group

Report by Don Ledingham, Director, Education and Children's Services

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of a proposed Education Convenor Advisory Group. The proposed forum will be used informally as a platform for the Education Convenor to help inform and explore developments in relevant policy, incorporating the principles of the Christie report.

This report outlines the key elements of the Group including its composition, scope and objectives. This group will not have any formal governance status.

2 Background

- 2.1 Across the Council the recently adopted future model of service delivery has been developed, in order to implement the delivery of services in which communities are recognised as key stakeholders in the design, delivery, evaluation and improvement of the services they receive.
- 2.2 In Education this can be reflected by working in partnership, at a policy and strategy level, with those parties who are involved in our school communities, including pupils, parents and staff. In doing so the capacity of these communities will be recognised, acknowledged and unlocked to take forward a new way of working within our educational services.

3 Scope/Provision**3.1 Description of the Group**

Nominated representatives from key stakeholders will establish a relationship to be able to discuss a broad range of areas relating to education in Midlothian and to do so for their mutual benefit. They may seek to encourage and develop collaborative activities, including the exchange of ideas, the development of programmes, and to represent their stakeholder during this discourse.

The Chair of the Group will be the Education Convenor.

The composition of the group will be:

- 40% young people, to include representatives from the Youth Parliament and Looked After young people
- 20% parents
- 20% school staff.
- 10% religious representatives

Each Group meeting will be attended by a representative from Education and Children's Services to advise on policy and practice. Each meeting will also have administrative support. While the Group is established in its first year, its Chair will invite Les McEwan, Chair of Standards Committee, for attendance. He will be invited to offer guidance, owing to his experience and breadth of knowledge in the fields of both standards and practice with young people.

3.2 Key principles for working together

- Open forum for discussion and equality amongst members
- Representatives to seek views of their group when appropriate
- Group Chair to provide feedback and responsiveness for agreed action points

3.3 Key objectives and indicators of success

- All parties are able to engage in healthy dialogue on key education policy issues
- Decision making reflects a more collective and inclusive process
- Chair collates output to support a co productive approach within Cabinet
- A positive legacy within schools

3.4 Terms of agreement

The roles and responsibilities of each member will be to:

- Attend the quarterly meetings or send an approved representative in absence
- Contribute to the discussion, respecting the views of other members
- Take forward agreed action points
- Maintain dialogue with the Chair outwith meetings as appropriate

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are no human resource implications as the proposed group will be administered from existing Members' Services support.

4.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising directly.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Feedback, ideas and partnerships generated through the Education Convenor Advisory Group will contribute to policy and operational development with a view to improving performance and outcomes for children and young people.

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The preventative approach will permeate discussions and provide a context for discussions at group meetings.

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Christie Commission highlighted, "Public service providers must be required to work much more closely in partnership, to integrate service provision and thus improve the outcomes they achieve."

Council Future Models of Service Delivery: partnership working and integration become crucial to the successful delivery of outcomes, as we rely on making the best use of each partner's resources to deliver joint objectives. Services will be co-designed with communities, users, customers and partners.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

An equalities impact assessment is not required in relation to this report.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

This proposal takes into account the need to delivery an educational service across Midlothian which anticipates and acknowledges the needs and views of stakeholders.

4.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:-

- i) Consider the proposal of the Education Convenor Advisory Group;

- ii) Authorise Council Officers and the Convenor to engage further with the identified stakeholders to form the Group;
- iii) Co-design a Memorandum of Understanding for Group Members;
- iv) Update Cabinet in August with progress made.

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