

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2015 at 9.30 AM.**

**COUNCILLORS:** Jim Blackwood  
Dennis Goldie  
Linda Gow  
Adrian Mahoney  
Craig Martin (Convener)  
Dr Craig R Martin  
Malcolm Nicol  
Alan Nimmo  
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES  
OF RELIGIOUS  
BODIES:** Hector Cairns  
Margaret Coutts  
Rev Michael Rollo

**CO-OPTEEs:** Mike Ablett (Parent Representative)  
Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative)  
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)  
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

**OFFICERS:** Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer  
Gary Greenhorn, joint acting Director of Education  
Kenny McNeill, Educational Resources Manager  
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer  
Anne Pearson, joint acting Director of Education

**EE34. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were intimated.

**EE35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made at this point.

**EE36. OPENING REMARKS**

Councillor Nimmo advised that Denny Primary School was one of only four Scottish winners of the BBC's Ten Pieces Project and that the BBC symphony orchestra will be holding a workshop for the pupils on 27 March 2015. The children will also participate in a concert which will be televised at a later date. The Education Executive passed its congratulations to pupils and staff at Denny Primary School on this achievement.

## **EE37. MINUTE**

### **Decision**

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 11 November 2014 was approved.

## **EE38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dr Martin declared a financial interest in the following item of business as he would financially benefit from the changes in childcare hours and considered that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective text in the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Dr Martin then left the meeting in accordance with his declaration of interest.

## **EE39. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE TO 600 HOURS PER ANNUM**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education on the progress to date on the expansion of early learning and childcare to 600 hours per annum and seeking approval to review the Early Years Admission Policy.

The current Early Years Admission Policy does not allow for reserved places to be retained for children moving into the catchment area during the session. It was proposed that a review be undertaken to consider whether a change could be made to the policy to introduce reserved places.

The Council is also required by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to provide 600 hours early learning and child care for 2 year old children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits. A summary of the actions required to manage the anticipated increase in provision was set out, including additional financial and resource implications.

In order to allow for future capacity expansion needs, the proposed provision at Beancross and Denny Primary Schools require to be changed to Rannoch Nursery and Denny Nursery.

### **Decision**

#### **The Education Executive:-**

#### **(1) noted the:-**

- (a) implementation position as detailed in sections 2 and 3 of the report, and**
- (b) financial position as detailed in section 4 of the report; and**

#### **(2) agreed:-**

- (a) to review the Early Years Admission Policy as set out in section 2.3 of the report;**

**(b) the change of locations as detailed in section 3.4 of the report, and**

**(c) the next steps/way forward as set out in section 6 of the report.**

Councillor Dr Martin re-joined the meeting following consideration of the previous item.

#### **EE40. IMPACT OF LITERACY AND NUMERACY STRATEGIES IN FALKIRK COUNCIL SCHOOLS**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education on the progress made by Falkirk Council's primary and secondary schools since the implementation of its literacy and numeracy strategies.

Both strategies were developed and implemented to ensure that standards are raised in both literacy and numeracy across the council area.

Progress is measured through the programme of standardised testing which has been in place since session 2011/12 which enables primary and secondary schools, as well as officers at the centre, to gain an increased awareness of attainment in both literacy and numeracy.

The strategies are both driven by eight main work streams which were set out in the appendices to the report. The strategies had been revised in light of on-going evaluation and will be adapted further according to changing circumstances.

#### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed the updated Literacy and Numeracy Strategies 2014/17.**

#### **EE41. THE SQA RESULTS SERVICE – CHANGES IN 2014**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education on the changes to the SQA's results service introduced in 2014.

In previous years post-appeals information was provided which included national performance figures as well as those relating to comparator authorities. Due to the Scottish Government introducing a new benchmarking tool, Insight, this information will no longer be available. As comparator authority data is no longer available, Insight will create a virtual comparator authority against which future comparison will be made.

The new SQA results services replace the previous appeals procedure and cover all levels from national to advanced higher.

The 2 services are:

- Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service – this service supports students who have been unable to attend an examination or whose performance may have been affected by an incident beyond their control. This is only available prior to publication of the results and there is no charge for this service.

- Post-Results Service – this service allows schools or colleges to request a priority marking review, clerical check or a marking review of a candidate's result which they believe does not reflect expectations. This operates after exam results and has a cost for any grade which remains unchanged following the check/review.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive noted the changes to the SQA Results Service.**

## **EE42. REVISION OF THE FALKIRK COUNCIL PUPIL COUNCIL**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education summarising the outcomes of discussions with young people on the effectiveness and purpose of the current Falkirk Council Pupil Council.

The outcome of the discussions highlighted the need for changes to allow young people a greater input on decisions that affect them and on issues they care about.

It is proposed that the pupil council be replaced with the Youth Ambassadors programme which will include representatives from all Falkirk Council's secondary schools. The programme has been designed to enhance and develop the four capacities set out in the Curriculum for Excellence.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) the implementation of the Youth Ambassador programme, and**
- (2) that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Youth Ambassadors team will become the pupil representatives on the Education Executive.**