

information

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Falkirk Council

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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VOLUME 4
2016/2017

Falkirk Council

Subject: Community Halls Update
Meeting: Information Bulletin
Date: 29 March 2017
Author: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report/Recommendation

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise and update Members on the progress made with consultations with Hall Management Committees/User Groups to assess their interest in taking over the running of their halls.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 As part of the Council's agreed budgets for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 a number of proposals impacted on the Community Halls. In summary the key agreements were:

- that officers would assess all halls for their potential to transfer the management and running of them over to local management committees, groups or organisations;
- that only where no local interest was expressed in taking over the halls, would closure then be considered.

3. Progress Made with Discussions with Local Individual Management Committees and Other Groups

- 3.1 Officers have met with Hall Management Committees and where applicable local groups to discuss if they would be interested in progressing, with necessary support, to take over the running of their own local halls.
- 3.2 Following these meetings Officers have assessed if local interest exists and where it does further prioritised those Management Committees/Local Groups where it is felt they are willing and ready to progress with the next stages of transfer.
- 3.3 Potential Short Term Financial Support Package

During our discussions many Management Committees raised or suggested some form of “parachute” payment reducing over a period of up to 3 years that would help support them with the transition to full transfer of management responsibilities.

Officers will consider this further and discuss this with individual Management Committees/Groups during the next phase of meetings.

3.4 Appendix 1 confirms the next steps that Officers will be taking in respect of each of the 22 Community Halls under the following 3 categories:

- Halls to be closed from 1 April 2017
- Halls that will be prioritised for transfer
- Halls where further discussion is needed with local Management Committees and interested groups.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to note the report and the next steps that officers will take with regard to all 22 Community Halls as outlined in Appendix 1.

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Director of Children's Services

Date: 8 March 2017

Contact Officer: Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources, ext 6683,
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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

None

**COMMUNITY HALLS: NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY OFFICERS
AS AT 1 MARCH 2017**

NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY OFFICERS

1. Halls to be closed from 1 April 2017 (1)

- Polmont

Halls in this category would be closed and 'held' for a 2 month period pending any local expressions of interest, thereafter these halls would be deemed 'surplus to operational requirements' by Children's Services and be marketed for sale/disposal by the Council's Asset Team.

2. Halls that will be prioritised for transfer (10)

The undernoted halls have Management Committees or local groups that are interested in taking over the running of these halls. To progress to the next stages of the transfer Officers plan to meet all of the interested parties.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| • Avonbridge | • Limerigg | • Banknock |
| • Cowdenhill | • Brightons | • Laurieston |
| • Shieldhill | • Tamfourhill | • Bothkennar |
| • Westfield | | |

3. Halls where further discussions are needed with Management Committees/local organisations or groups to enable transfer (11)

Whilst expressions of interest have been received from some of the Management Committees and other local groups associated with the undernoted halls Officers feel that further meetings to provide additional information and advice is needed in order to assist them.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| • Airth | • Bowhouse | • Thornhill |
| • Broompark | • Carronshore | • Reddingmuirhead |
| • Ettrick Dochart | • Newlands | • Dalgrain |
| • Bainsford | • California | |

Falkirk Council

Title: **Inspection of Bo'ness Public School and Nursery Class, Bo'ness**

Meeting: **Information Bulletin**

Date: **29 March 2017**

Submitted By: **Director of Children's Services**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report is intended to update Elected Members on the inspection which took place in Bo'ness Public School and Nursery Class, Bo'ness, as reported in October 2016 by HMI Inspectors.

2. Background

- 3.1 During September 2016 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Bo'ness Public School and Nursery Class. During the visit, they talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. The inspection team gathered evidence to evaluate the following three areas:

- Quality of leadership and management
- Learning provision
- Young people's success and achievements

3. Considerations

- 3.1 HM Inspectors identified the following strengths in the school's work:
- Friendly, polite children who interact well with each other and who are very proud of their school.
 - There is a very positive focus on children's rights and they understand their responsibilities to others in the local community.
 - The leadership of the headteacher who shares her vision across the school community.

- The teamwork of all staff and the way in which they use their own professional development to take forward school priorities.
- The way that the school supports children to understand their own emotions and feelings and those of others.
- The strong relationships between the school and its families, built on mutual respect.

3.2 The following areas for improvement were agreed with the school and the education authority:

- Within the early years centre and primary stages, staff now need to take better recognition of children's prior learning to ensure they make the best possible progress.
- The school should continue to improve the consistency of learning and teaching.
- Staff should continue to develop their confidence in making better use of data to support children's progress in literacy and numeracy.
- Staff should further develop children's abilities to talk about what they do well and what they need to do to improve further.

3.4 The Education Scotland evaluation for Bo'ness Public School and Nursery Class is as follows:

Primary stages

Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

Nursery class

Leadership of change	Satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

4.4 Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for the nursery class:

Quality of care and support	Good
Quality of environment	Good
Quality of staffing	Good
Quality of management and leadership	Adequate

- 4.5 The following recommendations/requirements were made by the Care Inspectorate for the nursery class:

The early years centre should further develop their systems and processes for monitoring and evaluating the quality of children's learning and tracking, their progress and achievements, the quality of work of each member of staff and the service as a whole.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 HM inspectors are confident the school has the capacity to continue to improve so have stated that they will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. They have noted the inspection findings of the Inspectors' report of autumn 2016. Their recommendations are made on the basis of the Inspection of Bo'ness Public School and Nursery Class, and the school's capacity to continue its programme of improvement.

Director of Children's Services

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Date:

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

None

Falkirk Council

Title: Scottish Attainment Challenge - Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)
Meeting: Information Bulletin
Date: 29 March 2017
Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report seeks to:

- Provide members with details of the funding Falkirk Schools have received as part of the Scottish Government's Attainment Challenge - Pupil Equity Funding initiative for 2017/18.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

3. Background

3.1 Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC)

The First Minister launched the SAC in February 2015 with the commitment to invest £750m in schools with the aim of:

- Improving educational attainment; and
- Specifically targeting funds to reduce the impact of poverty on attainment outcomes.

3.2 Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

In February 2017, the Scottish Government announced £120m of PEF which would be distributed to Headteachers to allow them to direct and prioritise funding to support and improve the educational outcomes of those children affected by poverty. Falkirk received £3.54m (2.95%) of the overall £120m fund.

3.3 Pupil Equity Funding - Allocation Methodology

The £120m has been allocated to schools based on the following funding formula:

No of pupils (2016/17) x Free School Meal Entitlement Rate (2014/15) x £1200
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The funding covers all pupils within the P1-S3 cohort. The allocations given to each individual school is detailed on [Appendix 1](#).

4. Considerations

4.1 Operational Framework Arrangements

4.4.1 Financial Reporting

Children's Services and Finance Services officers have agreed a separate accounting framework for these monies and the financial ledger has been restructured to provide each school with:

- A separate cost centre to track and record all expenditure; and
- An appropriate range of expenditure detail codes to meet all schools planned areas of spend.

These changes will ensure schools can track and monitor all spend in a transparent manner which also aims to minimise workload and bureaucracy.

4.4.2 Internal Governance/Support Arrangements

Discussions with various central teams have taken place to assess the additional resource implications for processing purchase orders and recruiting additional staff, etc which may be required. There is a recognition that additional central support costs will be incurred.

Further discussions with Headteachers will follow to agree the best way to fund these additional central support costs.

4.4.3 Scottish Government Guidance Notes

The Scottish Government have intimated that they expect to issue 'Guidance Notes' by the end of March 2017.

Once these are received Children's Services will produce internal Guidance Notes that will set out the operational arrangements and parameters for Headteachers' benefit.

Director of Children's Services

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Date:

Appendices

1. Individual School Allocation of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

List of Background Papers:

None

APPENDIX 1

Individual School Allocation of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

PRIMARY

Airth PS	£24,000	Moray PS	£63,600
Antonine PS	£42,000	Nethermain PS	£74,400
Avonbridge PS	£18,000	Sacred Heart RC PS	£45,600
Bainsford PS	£81,600	Shieldhill PS	£26,400
Bankier PS	£48,000	Slamannan PS	£50,400
Bantaskin PS	£82,800	St Andrew's RC PS	£51,600
Beancross PS	£136,800	St Bernadette's RC PS	£20,400
Blackness PS	*	St Francis Xavier's RC PS	£69,600
Bo'ness Public School	£49,200	St Joseph's RC PS	£24,000
Bonnybridge PS	£82,800	St Margaret's PS	£31,200
Bothkennar PS	*	St Mary's RC PS	£32,400
Bowhouse PS	£79,200	St Patrick's RC PS	£61,200
California PS	£18,000	Stenhousemuir PS	£97,200
Carmuir PS	£81,600	Victoria PS	£121,200
Carron PS	£45,600	Wallacestone PS	£33,600
Carronshore PS	£58,800	Westquarter PS	£104,400
Comely Park PS	£18,000	Whitecross PS	£34,800
Deanburn PS	£52,800		
Denny PS	£81,600	SECONDARY	
Drumbowie PS	*	Bo'ness Academy	£54,000
Dunipace PS	£33,600	Braes High School	£58,800
Easter Carmuir PS	£72,000	Denny High School	£98,400
Grange PS	£68,400	Falkirk High School	£152,400
Hallglen PS	£120,000	Graeme High School	£99,600
Head of Muir PS	£26,400	Grangemouth High School	£81,600
Kinnaird PS	£31,200	Larbert High School	£102,000
Kinneil PS	£79,200	St Mungo's HS	£76,800
Ladeside PS	£74,400		
Langlees PS	£132,000	SPECIAL	
Larbert Village PS	£51,600	Carrongrange School	£24,000
Laurieston PS	£46,800	Mariner Support Service	*
Limerigg PS	£6,000	Oxgang School and Support Service	None
Maddiston PS	£90,000	Windsor Park School	*

TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED £3,538,800

(*Redacted - due to data protection matters)