

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom contains the motto "A NE FOR A'".

## **Agenda Item 3**

## **Minute**

Draft

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION, CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE EXECUTIVE held remotely on Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Councillors:**

Robert Bissett  
Fiona Collie  
Joan Coombes  
Nigel Harris  
James Kerr  
Adanna McCue  
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)  
Lynn Munro  
Laura Murtagh  
Alan Nimmo  
Emma Russell

**Representatives  
of Religious  
Bodies:**

Maureen Harkins  
Agnes Mullen  
Rev Michael Rollo

**Co-Optees:**

John Chalmers, Teacher Representative  
Charlotte Clem, School Representative  
Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative  
Karen Procek, Parent Representative  
Isa Santos, Care Experienced Young Person  
Cameron Simmons, School Representative  
Merle Stevenson, Parent Representative

**Officers:**

Wendy Barber, Information Governance Manager  
Gillian Campbell, Curriculum Support Officer  
Jack Frawley, Team Leader – Committee Services  
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources  
Rhona Jay, Acting Head of Education  
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services  
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive  
Alison Lindsay, Accountancy Services Manager  
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Kimberly Robinson, Curriculum Support Officer  
Arun Singh, Senior Service Manager

**ECYE44. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **ECYE45. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **ECYE46. Minute**

##### **Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Executive held on 1 February 2022 was approved.**

#### **ECYE47. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 1 February 2022 was provided. Action 576 – SQA National Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2021) was the subject of a report on the agenda and accordingly fell from the action log.

##### **Decision**

**The Education, Children & Young People Executive noted the rolling action log.**

#### **ECYE48. Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Presentation**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive received a presentation on Community Mental Health & Wellbeing.

##### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted the presentation.**

#### **ECYE49. Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Service**

The Education, Children & Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services provided information on recent updates relating to the new community supports and services for children and young people in Falkirk.

In November 2021 Children's Services had established the 'Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing' service in conjunction with Barnardo's Scotland. The service offered face to face support for those aged 5-24 (or 26 if care experienced.) The service had been used by children, young

people and families to support with issues around resilience, body image, self-esteem, relationships, parenting and online safety. In February 2022 a second face to face service was launched with Falkirk District Association for Mental Health (FDAMH) to support 13-24 year olds (26 if care experienced). The 'Young Person's Mental Health Service' supported issues such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, trauma, substance use, attachment, emotional regulation and gender identity. The equivalent service for 5-12 year olds would commence in March 2022 in conjunction with Aberlour.

Additionally Kooth online resource for 10-18 year olds in the Falkirk area went live in March 2022. This digital platform provided young people with access to live chats with trained counsellors, if required, as well as having peer to peer discussion boards (moderated), self help articles, journal tools and articles written by other young people.

Early indications were that users were hearing about the services from a range of partners and platforms and the emerging data from referrals was being constantly reviewed to ensure the needs of children, young people and their families were being met.

### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted the progress to date of the programme of work.**

Merle Stevenson joined the meeting during consideration of the following item.

### **ECYE50. Establishment of Information Rights Team**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Acting Director of Transformation, Communities and Corporate Services which sought approval for the creation of 2 new permanent posts of Information Rights Officer based in the Information Governance Unit.

There had been an increase in requests from individuals to access their childhood social work records as a result of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (Inquiry) and the new statutory redress scheme for survivors of child abuse. This was putting pressure on an already stretched service, which had been struggling for some time to deal with requests for access to records under data protection legislation – known as subject access requests (SARs).

Data protection legislation gave individuals a right to access information from the Council that related to them by making a SAR, with very tight timeframes for responses. The Council did not have a central team which dealt with these. The Council had been struggling to meet statutory

timescales for many SARs in part due to the complexities of many of the requests.

In many cases, there were challenges as individuals often requested all historic information held about their childhood. These complex and often extensive records may relate to adverse childhood experiences and measures taken to safeguard and protect them as children. Records could relate to involvement in child protection processes or a person's care history including foster care, residential care or adoption. This information was highly sensitive and could be upsetting for people to read about, often finding out details about their family history and life experiences that they did not know about until receiving the information. It was essential that such requests were dealt with sensitively and that appropriate support was provided to the person before, during and after receiving the information.

It was proposed that an Information Rights Team was established within the Information Governance Unit, comprising 2 FTE posts of Information Rights Officer. These posts would be line managed by one of the existing team leaders within the Unit, with professional advice and support available from the Information Governance Manager. The small team would:-

- act as a single point of contact for SARs for Children's Social Work;
- take a proactive approach to dealing with SARs (both those in the backlog and future SARs) including those relating to financial redress;
- liaise closely with requesters as to their needs and the anticipated timescales for dealing with their request;
- in-gather records from Children's Social Work (paper and electronic), including sourcing these from the Social Work File Store (which already fell under the remit of the Information Governance Unit);
- seek third party consent to release information where appropriate;
- ensure records were properly redacted, and those redactions documented and justified (with advice from social workers where required), and
- ensure that requesters were provided with appropriate support if required when information was provided to them.

The proposal was for permanent posts on the basis that there would be sufficient ongoing work for such a team. Once the backlog was cleared, it was likely the team would be occupied with ongoing, business-as-usual work. If there was any spare capacity, the team could potentially widen its remit to support other areas of the Council with SARs. Recruiting to permanent posts would be more likely to attract good candidates for the demanding roles.

## **Decision**

### **The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) noted recent developments and challenges, in particular the pressures facing Social Work - Children's Services in dealing with SARs, and**
- (2) agreed to the creation of 2 new permanent posts of Information Rights Officers within the Information Governance Unit.**

### **ECYE51. Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) – 1140 Expansion Plan Update**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on progress with the final phase of the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans. There was specific information relating to the associated ELC workstreams and updated information on the overall financial position.

Glendevon ELCC (Maddiston), was expected to open after the Easter holidays which left four projects in their final stages. Updates on the remaining projects were provided in appendix 1 to the report. Regular updates on progress, capacity, demand, and sector analysis were provided to the Scottish Government via The Improvement Service. The most recent update submitted summarised the Falkirk position at 31 January 2022.

As previously reported, demand locally for funded places for eligible 2-year-olds continued to increase on a month-to-month basis. In anticipation of the increase, additional capacity for 2-year-olds had been added successfully to the ELC provision at Nethermains Primary School; Langlees ELC Centre and at Borrowstoun ELC Centre. This brought the total capacity available for 2-year-olds in local authority establishments to 245 places. 195 of those places had historically been reserved for eligible children. There were currently 246 eligible 2-year-olds who received funded early learning and childcare, showing that demand for eligible places was equal to the maximum capacity available in Council settings.

The revenue position for 2021/22 with a core budget of £18.520m showed a projected underspend of £1.8m which would be carried forward with ring fenced funding for 2022/23.

## **Decision**

### **The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted the:-**

- (1) overall content of this update report and the workstream updates provided in Section 5 of the report;**

- (2) updates provided on the remaining infrastructure projects as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, and
- (3) financial position as outlined in Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the report.

#### **ECYE52. SQA Attainment and Destinations of Falkirk School Leavers in 2020/21**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which advised on the attainment of young people leaving Falkirk Council's secondary schools in 2020/21. The report focused solely on point of exit data which represented the totality of school leaver attainment.

The performance information for Falkirk Council schools was benchmarked against the national average, 'Virtual Comparator' (VC) and where available, against that of the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC). The VC was made up of pupils from schools in other local authorities who had similar characteristics to the pupils in Falkirk's schools, based on their gender, additional support needs (ASN), level of deprivation (SIMD) and leaving stage. The VC calculation took no account of characteristics such as Looked After status or level of English, nor did it take account of varying curriculum structures in schools.

The report set out information relating to:-

- School Leaver Destinations;
- Attainment in Literacy;
- Attainment in Numeracy;
- Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap;
- Improving Attainment for All, and
- Vocational Qualifications.

#### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) noted Falkirk Council secondary school leavers' results for 2020/21;
- (2) noted the positive progress made by Falkirk Council pupils across a range of attainment measures, and
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services continue to engage with schools on tracking and monitoring pupil progress, and with partners in planning for positive leaver destinations.