

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 14 September 2021 at 10.10 a.m.**

Councillors:

David Alexander
Robert Bissett
Fiona Collie
Joan Coombes
Nigel Harris
James Kerr
Adanna McCue
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)
Lynn Munro
Laura Murtagh
Alan Nimmo
Pat Reid

**Representatives
of Religious
Bodies:**

Maureen Harkins
Rev Michael Rollo

Co-Optees:

Charlotte Clem, Pupil Representative
John Chalmers, Teacher Representative
Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative
Isa Santos, Care Experienced Young Person
Cameron Simmons, Pupil Representative

Officers:

Danny Cairney, Senior Service Manager Corporate
Finance
Jack Frawley, Team Leader – Committee Services
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
Lesley James, Senior Service Manager
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
David Mackay, Head of Education
Mark Meechan, Community, Learning & Development
Manager
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services

ECYE12. Apologies

There were apologies from Karen Procek, Parent Representative; and Merle Stevenson, Parent Representative

ECYE13. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ECYE14. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Executive held on 1 June 2021 was approved.

ECYE15. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 1 June 2021 was provided. Items 546 – Succeed Today Excel Tomorrow; 552 – Falkirk Community Learning and Development Annual Update on Action Plan 2018 – 2021, and 559 – Early Learning & Childcare 1140 Expansion Plan Update were all subject of reports on the agenda and accordingly fell from the Rolling Action Log.

Decision

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

ECYE16. Education, Children and Young People Executive Membership

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services inviting the appointment of a Care Experienced Young Person representative. The Chief Governance Officer also provided a verbal update to advise that two new pupil representatives had been identified and their appointment was also invited.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive agreed to appoint:-

- (1) Isa Santos as the Care Experienced Young Person on the Education, Children and Young People Executive, with immediate effect until the next local government elections, and**

(2) Charlotte Clem and Cameron Simmons as the pupil representatives on the Education, Children & Young People Executive with immediate effect.

Fiona Craig and Maureen Harkins joined the meeting during the following item.

ECYE17. 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 Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans; information on the Scottish Government's Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme; details of the changes made to the Sustainable Rates Payment from August 2021, and a summary of the overall project financial position.

There were seven infrastructure work projects that remained in progress. and updated information was contained in appendix 1 to the report.

As agreed by the E,C&YP Executive at its meeting of 1 June 2021, the Director of Children's Services agreed to set increased rates to private sector partners as:-

Core Hourly Rate Per Child:-
Partner Nurseries £5.55
Partner Childminders £5.05

Meal Payment:-
£0.37 per hour/child
£1.90 per day/child.

These rates compared favourably with those set by other local authorities and were closely aligned to those set by both Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils.

In line with previous practice, there had been consultation with appropriate stakeholders on the preferred options for the names for the undernoted new establishments. This had resulted in the undernoted names:-

- Callendar Park - proposed name was Woodlands ELCC
- Kinglass - proposed name was Borrowstoun ELCC.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the updates on the remaining infrastructure projects as detailed in appendix 1 to the report and the current challenges highlighted in section 3.2 of the report;**
- (2) noted the updates provided in sections 4.2 to 4.5 of the report on other aspects of the project;**
- (3) agreed the proposed ELCC names as outlined in section 4.6 of the report, and**
- (4) noted the overall financial position and agreed to the CFCR adjustment as detailed in sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the report.**

ECYE18. Connected Falkirk 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 Connected Falkirk programme and on the overall financial position of the programme.

The Audio-Visual (AV) elements of the Connected Falkirk programme had been procured including the contract for the purchase and fitting of 1,000 Apple TV devices. These devices were fitted to existing TV and display technologies within classrooms, allowing staff and pupils to:-

- Wirelessly connect their Connected Falkirk device to the class display screen from wherever they are in the room, and
- Aid with demonstration and lesson delivery, without the need for sharing devices or using cables.

An important part of Connected Falkirk was the dedicated Internet connectivity and Wi-Fi for each school. COVID safety procedures in schools had restricted the periods of time that contractors could work. However, of the 58 school sites covered in the Connected Falkirk programme 56 schools had their new Internet lines and Wi-Fi in use, while 2 remaining schools had their Wi-Fi access points fitted.

To support teachers in their use of Connected Falkirk devices and the blending of digital pedagogies into learning experiences, the Connected Falkirk Sprint Team had provided a range of Professional Learning opportunities for staff.

Decision

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

ECYE19. Falkirk Community Learning and Development (CLD) - Annual Update on CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 and Falkirk's Draft CLD Plan 2021-2024

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which providing an update on Year 3 of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan (2020-2021) (FCLDAP) and to agree the draft Falkirk CLD Plan 2021-2024 (FCLDP).

The aim of Falkirk's CLD Plan was to make a major contribution to the 6 priority areas and community planning outcomes in supporting community empowerment.

During 2020/21 Falkirk's CLD partners continued to offer front-line responses during the Covid pandemic through adapting the CLD offer to include:-

- contribution in responding to food emergency work and medicine delivery;
- being a first point of contact for vulnerable communities;
- developing and supporting networks of volunteers;
- moving services online and addressing emerging issues around mental health and wellbeing;
- providing front line support for vulnerable children and families;
- supporting communities to develop local responses to the crisis, providing information and advice networks;
- continuing to be a front-line presence in the most deprived communities when many services had to withdraw, and
- offering a blended learning model that provided more opportunities for learning.

Since September 2020, Falkirk's CLD partners had focused their efforts on developing services that particularly aimed to mitigate the impact of the Covid pandemic. Appendix 1 to the report detailed examples of the progress made across 7 Priority Actions areas.

Falkirk's Draft 3-year CLD Plan 2021-2024 built on the previous CLD Action Plan 2018-2021. In particular, the structure of Plan and strategic linkages, the use of data to secure improvement, clarification of Falkirk's CLD offer and governance and reporting arrangements were areas that the new Plan sought to improve. The Delivery Plan identified the priority actions that Falkirk's CLD partners intended to contribute to the achievement of Falkirk's Community Planning outcomes.

It was proposed that Falkirk's Adult Learning Services Network, Falkirk Youth Services Network, Falkirk's Communities Network and Falkirk's CLD Workforce Network would each review progress against all aspects of the Draft 3-year Plan on an ongoing basis. Each CLD Network would

develop their own, more detailed broad delivery plan to take forward the CLD priority actions.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) endorsed the progress made against 7 of the Priority Areas outlined in appendix 1 to the report;**
- (2) approved Falkirk's Draft CLD Plan 2021-2024 as detailed in appendix 2 to the report, and**
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services provides an Annual Report updating progress on Year 1 (2021-22) of the new Falkirk CLD Plan 2021-2024 in September 2022.**

ECYE20. SQA National Qualifications Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2021)

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided information on the initial analysis of Scottish National Qualifications attainment within Falkirk Council secondary schools in 2021. By February 2022, Insight data would take account of outcomes for school leavers and would include national and virtual comparator authority figures.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the SQA attainment of Falkirk Council secondary schools, and**
- (2) agreed that a future report would be presented in the spring of 2022 to take account of updated and additional SQA and other attainment data.**

ECYE21. Council of the Future – Closer to Home

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided information on the Council of the Future project – Closer to Home.

The current national policy context for Children's Services was complex and challenging with potential unprecedented change in how public services were governed, structured, and delivered. Significant policy developments in relation to a new National Care Service had been

proposed within the recently published consultation document resulting from the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

The scope of the consultation included not only adult care but children and justice social work services in relation to how services would be structured both in governance and delivery models.

The Promise developed after 3 years of review and consultation involving 5,500 care experienced children, young people and adults, brought with it the need for widespread change in how services engaged and supported children and their families, recognising the crucial importance of family and relationships. As part of the delivery of The Promise, legislative changes in relation to the rights of brothers and sisters had both cost and resource implications.

New National Child Protection Guidance had been launched with anticipated timescales from implementation within the next year, which brought with it challenges and resource demand in key areas of multi-agency practice in child protection.

Consideration of the future of the IRT would come forward in a report to the Executive in the second quarter of 2022/23. The 7th Closer to Home project would become active by November 2021 in relation to Self-Directed Support which enabled families to determine their own solutions, with aligned budgets to empower families. Families would be enabled to purchase service or support to address needs and improve family relationships and care, enabling children to remain at home where possible.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted:-

- (1) the progress and achievements of the Closer to Home Strategy;**
- (2) that a report in relation to the service re-design of the Initial Response Team (IRT) pilot would be taken to the Executive in the second quarter of 2022/23, and**
- (3) the savings within the revised Closer to Home Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2022-26.**