

4. Planning, Place, and the Wellbeing Economy

Place, planning, and wellbeing economy covers a wide range of activities and policies relating to economic development, built environment and climate change. This report set out COSLA's current position and priority workstreams for Members consideration. The report asked Members to consider the interconnected nature of the policies and how place based working and wellbeing economy are fundamental approaches to achieving a number of Board agreed priorities.

Irene Beautyman from the Improvement Service presented the Board with a short presentation to give Members further information on the work of a Place based working.

Members welcomed the report and requested that in addition could an infographic be created to aid in understanding of the themes within the report. Officers agreed to work with Irene to bring informative diagrams to Members.

Members shared and discussed various examples of the effect and complexity of place had on their communities.

The Board:

- i. Noted the current place, planning, and wellbeing economy priority areas and their strategic context;
- ii. Commented on the matters discussed in the report, informed the development of the new COSLA Board Plan and the work with stakeholders.

5. Biodiversity Policy

Globally there are two challenges on climate change and biodiversity loss. The implications of these crises on human health and economic wellbeing are profound and require a coordinated response locally and globally. This paper provided an opportunity for the Board to discuss the role which Local Government could play in bringing together work on climate change and biodiversity at the local and national level, with the aim of halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and restoring it by 2045.

Board Members commented that work on biodiversity should cross Local Authority borders and include input from key stakeholders to ensure that resources are best used to fit needs. Members raised that more funding would be beneficial to aid in Local Authority work on this policy area.

The Board:

- i. Noted the current position on biodiversity policy and its strategic context;
- ii. Commented on the matters discussed in the report, to inform the development of the new COSLA Board Plan and our work with stakeholders.

Recess called at 11.50am

Reconvened at 12.00pm

Items for Discussion and Decision

6. The Environment and Economy Board Plan

This paper provided an opportunity for Members to agree, with any changes, the Environment and Economy Board Plan.

The Board was informed that the Board Plan reflected the discussions held at the previous meeting of the Board (7th October 2022) on the introductory items and the overall shape of the document. It was also said that the Board that the Board Plan remained a live document that could be edited at anytime to best fit the needs and priorities of the Environment and Economy Board. A number of points on the Board Plan were clarified and it was suggested that further information on the operation of the RAG indicators would be helpful for the next meeting.

The Board:

- i. Discussed the proposal to identify key workstreams for additional scrutiny as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4;
- ii. Noted the links to priorities of the draft COSLA Plan 2022-2027;
- iii. Agreed, with any changes, the Environment and Economy Board Plan;
- iv. Noted that the Plan can be revised at any time if desired by the Board.

7. International Climate Policy and COP 27

The report provided an update on the 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held November 6th-18th in Sharm Sheikh, Egypt.

Board Members discussed the importance for Local Authorities to be recognised and represented as stakeholders at conferences such as COP 27.

Members also stressed that work on targeting Climate Change must include the flexibilities of approach so that it would work for all 32 Local Authorities.

The Board:

- i. Continued to support ambitious global climate action and international processes for climate change and biological diversity;
- ii. Supported the work of the global Local Government constituency, calling for stronger recognition for local and subnational governments in international agreements and in official decisions;
- iii. Reaffirmed shared ambition to combat the clear interlinked challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, highlighting the need for Local Government to be sufficiently empowered to respond

8. Climate Intelligence Service

This paper provided more information on the development of a climate intelligence service for Local Government. It sought the Board's approval that COSLA continued to engage in the development if the proposal.

Board Members welcomed the report. The collection and use of data was discussed by Members, and the need to avoid duplication. Members raised that work in this area needed to be remain usable, sustainable and run alongside work on climate change for all Local Authorities. Members commented that funding in this area would be key for this work.

The Board was informed that future papers to the Board and Leader would be brought in due course as the proposal developed.

The Board:

- i. Noted the development of the proposal for a climate intelligence service;
- ii. Agreed further work should take place and provided comments which COSLA should take into account.

9. Dates for 2023 – Friday 3rd March, Friday 5th May, Friday 23rd June, Friday 8th September, Friday 15th December

Councillor Macgregor concluded the board meeting and thanked Board Members for all their contribution. Meeting closed at 1.10pm

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF COSLA HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BOARD

Friday 20th January 2023

Via Microsoft Teams

Present

Aberdeen City Council	Cllr John Cooke
Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr Anne Stirling
Angus Council	Cllr Julie Bell
Argyll and Bute Council	Cllr Amanda Hampsey
City of Edinburgh Council	Cllr Tim Pogson
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Wendy Hamilton
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Cllr Andy Ferguson
Dundee City Council	Cllr Ken Lynn
East Ayrshire Council	Cllr Clare Maitland
East Lothian Council	Cllr Fiona Dugdale (Sub)
East Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Katie Pragnell
Falkirk Council	Cllr Stacey Davine (Sub)
Fife Council	Cllr David Graham
Glasgow City Council	Cllr Chris Cunningham
Highland Council	Cllr David Fraser
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Martin McCluskey
Moray Council	Cllr Tracy Coyler
North Ayrshire Council	Cllr Margaret Johnson
North Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Paul Kelly (Spokesperson)
North Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Gerry Brennan
Orkney Islands Council	Cllr Rachael King
Perth and Kinross Council	Cllr Sheila McCole
Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Jennifer Adam
Shetland Islands Council	Cllr John Fraser
South Ayrshire Council	Cllr Julie Dettbarn
Carers Representative	Peter Burke
IJB Chair	Peter Murray
IJB Chief Officers	Julie Murray
Public Health Scotland	George Dodds (Sub)
NHS Fife	John Brown (Sub)
SBC	Tom Weatherston
Social Work Scotland	Jennifer Rezendes
South Lanarkshire DoF	Paul Manning
South Lanarkshire HSC Partnership	Soumen Sengupta
SPDS	Archie Campbell (Sub)

Guests

Improvement Service	Laura James
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COSLA President

Cllr Shona Morrison

Apologies

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
East Dunbartonshire Council
East Lothian Council
Falkirk Council
Midlothian Council
Scottish Borders Council
South Lanarkshire Council
Stirling Council
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Lothian Council
Argyll and Bute HSCP
Fife DoF
Public Health Directors
Public Health Scotland
NHS Fife
Scottish Ambulance Service
Scottish Borders Council
SOLACE
SPDS

Calum Maclean
Cllr Pamela Marshall
Cllr Shamin Akhtar*
Cllr Fiona Collie*
Cllr Colin Cassidy
Cllr David Parker
Cllr Margaret B Walker
Cllr Danny Gibson
Cllr Michelle McGinty
Cllr Anne McMillan
Fiona Davies
Eileen Rowand
Dr Susan Webb
Angela Leitch*
Nicky Connor*
Pauline Howie
Michael Cook
Eddie Fraser
Claire Wallace*

**Denotes Substitute provided*

Public Session

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Kelly welcomed Board Members to this meeting of the Health and Social Care Board.

Cllr Kelly thanked Peter Burke, whom had been the Carers Representative on the Health and Social Care Board for the previous term and the start of the new term, for all his work with the Health and Social Care Board. The Board also thanked Peter for his work, and all wished him well in his retirement.

Apologies were noted separately for the minute.

2. Quality Improvement Framework for Trauma Informed Organisations – Dr Laura James, National Improvement Lead for Trauma, Improvement Service

A presentation was provided by Dr Laura James, the National Improvement Lead for Trauma from the Improvement Service. The presentation was titled “Creating Trauma-Informed Change: What, Why, and How”, based on the ongoing joint work of COSLA, the Improvement Service, Local Government, and NHS Scotland on the National Trauma Training Programme.

Members were aware of the ongoing work to maintain a trauma informed and responsive workforce and services across Scotland, with the Board welcoming the presentation and updated provided by Dr Laura James.

Members raised that staff who are trained in trauma-informed working would also be at risk of their work having an effect on their mental health, so would require enhanced support from supervisors and work packages. The hope with the framework that was outlined would be that it's implemented across entire organisations.

The impact of the current cost of living crisis is an area that would need to be considered and the impact it would have. Dr Laura James confirmed that work will be done with stakeholders to ensure that a financial burden is not add to Local Authorities when implementing this training.

The Board noted the update provided by Dr Laura James and thanked her for her presentation.

Private Session

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Board Members agreed the minute of the previous meeting as an accurate record.

There were no matters arising brought to the Board.

4. Health and Social Care Update Paper and Board Workplan

This report presented written and verbal updates on developments which did not require a stand-alone report but should be brought to the Board's attention. This also related to the Board Workplan taken as item 04A.

Eddie Follan provided a verbal to the Board, highlighting that since the last meeting of the Board had been a busy period for the Team. Focus had been placed on current system pressures across the Health and Social Care space, with the Beds announcement on the 11th of January being picked up with Scottish Government colleagues.

Also raised were the areas found within the Workplan highlighted in red, the following updates were provided:

- National Care Home Contract – negotiations around areas such as energy, food, sustainability had been difficult, and a report will be taken to COSLA Leaders in March.
- The move from analogue to digital telecare – the team hoped that a tender would be ready to be released by the end of January.
- Work with Public Health Scotland (PHS) – Officers have gone back to PHS who are to review resourcing within the team.

Board Members discussed issues around rurality and switching from analogue to digital and were assured that each Local Authority has its own agreed plans to best suit the needs of their rural communities.

It was also raised by Members that barriers to the accessibility of IT services should be captured, Officers confirmed that work with Social Work and Scottish Government to ensure that mitigations are taken to ensure there is accessibility for all.

Officers provided an update that no changes thus far had been made to non-residential charging, with work being conducted on what the implications would be if charges were to be removed.

The Board:

- i. Noted progress and discussed any emerging issues from the written update provided in this paper.

5. Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny, and Regulation

This report provided details on the independent review and asked Members to consider and agree COSLA's response to a call for evidence (Appendix A) and offered positions that Officers could present in their attendance as members of the Practitioner and Stakeholder Panel.

Jennifer Rezendes, from Social Work Scotland joined to provide further information and was available to answer questions the Board had. Members provided Officers with comments for further consideration in this area of work.

The Board:

- i. Considered and agreed COSLA's response to call for evidence, and the Independent Review; and
- ii. Agreed the position outlined in paragraphs 10 to 12.

6. Data Strategy for Health and Social Care

The refreshed digital health and care strategy, [Care in the Digital Age](#), published in October 2021, made a commitment to develop Scotland's first dedicated data strategy for health and social care. Following a period of consultation from May to August 2022 work has been progressing to develop a draft Data Strategy for Health and Social Care.

This paper set out the current position on the development of this data strategy.

A verbal update was provided by Ruth Griffith, that positive outcomes over the past 10 days, an update was provided on areas that Board Members needed to note.

COSLA Officers assured that all data sharing would be compliant with GDPR legislation.

The Board:

- i. Noted the progress made to date on this draft strategy;
- ii. Commented on the attached draft Data Strategy for Health and Social Care; and
- iii. Agreed that the final draft will be circulated to Board Members for approval.

7. Self-Directed Support Improvement Plan

In 2010, COSLA and Scottish Government jointly published the Self-directed Support Strategy 2010-2020, this was followed by an Implementation Plan for 2019-2020. Given the previous plan has now concluded, officers have engaged with Scottish Government and other key stakeholders to map and develop the next iteration.

This paper provided an update on the development of Self-directed Support Improvement Plan for 2023-2027 and asked for Board Members input and agreement on the overarching outcomes proposed for the plan.

Members welcomed this report, particularly the work on improvement on staff skills and support. Members were supportive of engagement with external stakeholders to encourage the sharing of knowledge and reduce the likelihood of the duplication work. Members also requested that further feedback should be brought back on the difficulties in accessing SDS.

The Board:

- i. Noted the update on SDS Improvement Plan; and
- ii. To agree the position in paragraphs 14 and 15.

8. Suicide Prevention Strategy Implementation and Governance Update

Following the publication of Creating Hope Together [Strategy](#) and [Action Plan](#) in September 2022, COSLA and Scottish Government officials had been working with stakeholders to develop the governance and delivery infrastructure which would support their implementation. This paper set out the current position.

Members asked about data collection and sharing between stakeholders working in this space could be improved to support. With Members sharing their willingness to pick up work in this area. Member also received clarification on how the Lived Experience panel had been composed and panellists are selected.

Members commented that staff supported in this work, however due to ongoing pressures, implementation had been difficult. Officers commented that local action plans would aid in this area.

The Board:

- i. Noted the progress towards implementation and delivery of Creating Hope Together; and
- ii. Agreed the approach set out to support delivery and governance.

9. Mental Health Strategy

Following the agreement of COSLA's Children and Young People Board, and discussions at the Health and Social Care Board, COSLA sought to agree with Scottish Government that the incoming Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy would be a joint COSLA/ Scottish Government strategy. To date these discussions had not been successful and on the 13th of January 2023 the Scottish Government shared a first draft of a Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for stakeholder comment.

Members provided comments for Officers to note in their work on the Mental Health Strategy, such as reducing mental health interventions; further investigation in groups within the community at higher risk (in particular children and young people); and the stigma faced by those who work within Mental Health.

Members also expressed their disappointment that Scottish Government did not collaborate in writing this paper. Officers assured Members that they will push for further information that the Board requested.

The Board:

- i. Provided their views on the draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy at Appendix A, particularly indicating whether they were supportive of the high-level outcomes.
- ii. Agreed that COSLA responds to the ask for stakeholder comment on the Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy, including the points at paragraph 10 and informed by the views of the Board and wider Local Government stakeholders.
- iii. Agreed the Health and Social Care Spokesperson sign off the final submission on the Board's behalf.
- iv. Agreed the revised position on the approach to partnership work around the strategy detailed at paragraph 13/14.

Recess called at 12.25pm

Reconvened at 12.30pm

10. Planning with People Updated Guidance

In 2021 Scottish Government and COSLA jointly published community engagement guidance called Planning with People. The guidance included a commitment to undertake a review of Planning with People to ensure alignment with recommendations from the Independent Review of Adult Social Care and gather feedback from users of the guidance.

Integration Authorities, Health Boards and Local Authorities have since provided feedback on the Planning with People guidance. This paper provided Members with an overview of the development and contents of an updated version of Planning with People.

Members raised that focus should be place on certain cohorts within the communities to ensure their needs are met within the updated Guidance.

The Board:

- i. Noted the process of updating the Planning with People guidance; and
- ii. Agreed the proposed COSLA position set out in paragraphs 15 and 16.

11. National Care Service

This report updated the Board on key National Care Service press, public affairs and parliamentary engagement since the previous meeting on 4th November 2022. The report also updated on key decisions taken, including:

- Leaders' agreement to carry forward plans to seek specialist and expert external legal input in relation to the National Care Service Bill's implications for Local Government.
- Leaders' endorsement of a COSLA response to a stakeholder document circulated by the Scottish Government's Mental Health Directorate on the

inclusion of services for mental health, neurodiverse conditions, and dementia within the National Care Service. (Appendix A).

- Leaders' agreement to call on the Scottish Government to pause current plans for structural change required to set up the National Care Service and redirect funding allocated within the Scottish Budget into social care and preventative services through Local Government.

Members welcomed this report.

The Board:

- i. Noted the decisions taken by Leaders; and
- ii. Provide any views on National Care Service developments and COSLA's press, public affairs, and parliamentary engagement work.

12. National Care Home Contract

The National Care Home Contract rates are negotiated annually between Local Government, care home providers, and Trade Unions with operational management of the contract sitting with Scottish Excel.

This report updated the Board on the 2023/24 NCHC fee negotiations to date, significant financial challenges and risks facing both the sector as well as Local Government which are impacting on the negotiating group's ability to meaningfully progress next year's fee negotiations.

Members were invited to note the update provided in this report and agree to recommend to COSLA Leaders that Officers should continue to work in partnership with the sector representatives to address challenges in relation to sustainability of the sector.

Members asked if any consideration had been given to conducting a best value review of care home commissioning. Officers commented that this would need to be conducted on a local level in the first instance but a national analysis could then be fed back to the Board, in collaboration with Scotland Excel.

Further points raised were on mitigation plans for services that were struggling in the current environment. Officers informed the Board that they would engage with Scottish Government and the sector if failures were to happen within services. Rurality was also an area that was raised to be investigated and impacts of loss of services for rural communities.

Concerns were also raised on funding and the allocation of any funding. Officers provided the update that they were looking at ethical commissioning through a joint working group with Scottish Government. Any updates would be brought back to the Board.

The Board:

- i. Noted the update provided in the report; and

- ii. Agreed to recommend to COSLA Leaders that Officers should continue to work in partnership with the sector representatives to address challenges in relation to sustainability of the sector.

13. Any Other Competent Business

No other additional competent points of business were noted.

14. Date of next meeting: 10th March 2023

Peter Burke thanked the Board for all the work conducted over his time on the Health and Social Care Board. Peter also wished Members and COSLA Officers all the best in their future endeavours.

Councillor Paul Kelly concluded the meeting and thanked Board Members for their attendance and participation. The meeting was closed at 12:50pm.

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF COSLA CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

Friday 3rd February 2023, 10.30am

At Verity House and Via Microsoft Teams

Present

COSLA Children and Young People Spokesperson	Cllr Tony Buchanan
Aberdeen City Council	Cllr Martin Greig
Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr Gillian Owen
Angus Council	Cllr Lynne Devine
Argyll and Bute Council	Cllr Daniel Hampsey*
City of Edinburgh Council	Cllr Euan Davidson
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Graham Lindsay
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Cllr Paul Finnegan
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Cllr Richard Brodie
Dundee City Council	Cllr Roisin Smith
East Ayrshire Council	Cllr Elaine Cowan
East Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Lynda Williamson
East Lothian Council	Cllr Fiona Dugdale
East Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Andrew Anderson
Falkirk Council	Cllr Laura Murtagh
Glasgow City Council	Cllr Christina Cannon
Highland Council	Cllr John Finlayson
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Jim Clocherty*
Midlothian Council	Cllr Ellen Scott
Moray Council	Cllr Kathleen Robertson
North Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Angela Campbell
Orkney Islands Council	Cllr Sandy Cowie*
Perth and Kinross Council	Cllr John Rebbeck
Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Emma Rodden
Scottish Borders Council	Cllr Leagh Douglas
Shetland Islands Council	Cllr Davie Sandison
South Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Gavin Keatt*
West Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Clare Steel
Public Health Scotland	Debbie Wason
Social Work Scotland	Ben Farrugia
SOLACE	Des Murray

Apologies

Argyll and Bute Council	Cllr Yvonne McNeilly
Fife Council	Cllr David Graham
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Francesca Brennan
North Ayrshire Council	Cllr Shaun Macaulay
Orkney Islands Council	Cllr Gwenda Shearer
South Ayrshire Council	Cllr Stephen Ferry
South Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Lynsey Hamilton

Stirling Council
 West Lothian Council
 ADES
 ADES
 CIPFA - Directors of Finance
 Directors of Finance
 Directors of Public Health
 North Ayrshire Council
 Public Health Scotland
 Scottish Borders Council
 NHS Lothian

Cllr Margaret Brisley
 Cllr Andrew McGuire
 Peter McNaughton
 Prof Michael Wood
 Alan Puckrin
 Hugh Dunn
 Dona Milne
 Craig Hatton
 Lynne McNiven
 Michael Cook
 Lorna Douglas

**Denotes substitute provided*

Public Session

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Buchanan welcomed Board members and thanked all for attending.

Apologies and substitutions were noted.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting of 22 November 2022

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Cllr Buchanan highlighted Sunday 5th February 2023 would mark the third anniversary of Scotland's promise that our children and young people will grow up loved, safe and respected. Cllr Buchanan highlighted the progress which had been made so far and noted members are committed to continue to keep The Promise along with Local Government partners.

Board Members welcomed the update.

General Teaching Council Scotland- COSLA representative update

Officers highlighted nominations were required to fill the two vacant COSLA seats on the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS). Officers noted they were grateful to those who expressed interest in these positions and Cllr Buchanan let Board Members know that Cllr Finlayson and Cllr Finnegan would represent COSLA on the GTCS.

3. Presentation- Children and Young People's Mental Health Joint Delivery Board

Officers provided Board Members with a presentation, updating on the progress of the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board which COSLA co-chairs alongside Scottish Government.

Board Members welcomed the presentation and noted further data may be beneficial to support understanding of how young people are accessing community services. Further information on the progress of Tests of Change for Neurodevelopmental Services was also felt to be of interest. Officers thanked members for their helpful comments and confirmed further information would be circulated.

4. Quality Improvement Framework for Trauma Informed Organisations

Councillor Buchanan welcomed Dr Laura James to the meeting and noted Dr James is the National Improvement Lead for Trauma at the Improvement Service and a presentation was delivered on the Quality Improvement Framework for Trauma Informed Organisations.

Board Members welcomed the presentation and noted it was very beneficial to see highlighted how this can support differing policy areas. Dr Laura James confirmed Local Authorities would continue to be supported to use the framework and share good practice.

5. Children and Young People Board Workplan

Officers provided a brief overview of ongoing work ongoing across all areas of COSLA.

Board Members noted and welcomed the updates and highlighted it would be essential that resources would need to be prioritised to meet Board workplan aims.

6. Children and Young People Board Update Paper

This paper provided Board Members with an update on areas of work within the board plan undertaken since the last Board meeting in November.

Board Members noted and welcomed the updates.

7. Developing the Young Workforce-Joint Scottish Government/Local Government Oversight of Regional Employer Groups Group

This paper outlined proposals for the establishment of an Officer led Group which will provide ongoing oversight of the Developing the Workforce Regional Employer Groups.

Board Members welcomed the paper and noted it may be beneficial to request funding is provided to Schools to be able to increase apprenticeships and expand skills to allow greater employability support.

Board Members:

- i. Commented on and provide feedback on the paper; and
- ii. Agreed the direction of travel outlined in paragraphs 8 and 9

8. Transfer of the functions of education appeal committees to the Scottish Tribunals Consultation

This report provided Board Members with an overview of the Scottish Government's consultation on the future of the education appeal committee. Board Members were invited to agree COSLA's response.

Board Members highlighted the importance of upholding local knowledge through local education appeals committees. Board Members reiterated the importance of doing all that was possible to ensure this remains in Local Authorities control.

Board Members:

- i. Considered and agreed the consultation response attached as annex A.

9. Period Products Reporting

This paper provided Board Members with an update on this initiative and associated reporting.

Board Members welcomed the update and noted support of changes to reporting, however, they also noted detail on data that will be required would be welcomed sufficiently ahead of time.

Board Members:

- i. Confirmed they are content with the approach to reporting outlined at paragraph 6.

Private Session

10. Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

This paper provided Board Members with an update on the current position of the incoming Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Board Members noted the importance of Children and Young People's voices within the strategy, highlighting this was already a part of many local approaches. The importance of supporting workforce capacity to deliver any strategy was emphasised along with the need to consider CYP transitions into adult services.

Board Members:

- i. Provided their views on the draft Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy at Appendix A.
- ii. Agreed the strategy should more strongly reflect the voices and needs of children and young people as indicated at paragraph 14.

11. Mental Health Resources and Communications

Board Members noted the development of new mental health resources under the JDB and proposed changes to information sharing arrangements related to plans for community-based supports and services.

Board Members:

- i. Agreed COSLA endorsement of the learning/ training resources produced under the JDB outlined at paragraph 2.
- ii. Provided any feedback on resources they would like to see included in the digital framework; and
- iii. Agreed an approach to communication and information sharing for services aligned to the Framework.

12. Education Update- National Discussion, ACEL data and School Census 2022

This paper provided Board Members with an update on the progress of the national discussion on the future vision on Scottish education, which is being co-convened by the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Officers highlighted following further engagement with the Cabinet Secretary and facilitators Professor Campbell and Harris will provide a further update at the March Board meeting.

In terms of school staff numbers, Cllr Buchanan highlighted a Leaders meeting had taken place earlier in the morning and Officers and Spokespeople will continue to work with the Scottish Government on the concerns raised. Leaders had highlighted the importance of focusing on the outcomes and the narrowing the attainment gap as opposed to measuring inputs and outputs. Board Members were in agreement that improving attainment requires support not only from teachers and involved a range of services across Local Government who support children and young people.

Board Members welcomed the update from Cllr Buchanan and echoed concerns raised by Leaders.

Board Members:

- i. Noted update on the National Discussion
- ii. Provided views on the ACEL data, the school census and subsequent correspondence with the Cabinet Secretary.

13. School Meal Debt- Good Practice and Principles

At the meeting of the Children and Young People Board in November 2022, Members agreed that COSLA officers should work with Local Government professional associations to develop a set of good practice principles in relation to the management of school meal debt. This report provided members with a draft of good practice principles for their agreement.

Board Members welcomed the principles, and emphasised the need to ensure it was clear that approaches to school meal debt, including any decisions about writing off debt, remain at the discretion of each local authority. In addition, Members commented that it would be important to prevent additional pressure on staff. Officers agreed with these points and noted that wording would be amended to ensure these points were reflected clearly within the principles document.

Board Members:

- i. Agreed the draft good practice principles attached as Appendix 1.

14. Foster and Kinship Care Allowances

This report provided Members with an update on discussions with Scottish Government on the Scottish Recommended Allowance for foster and kinship carers, and with The Fostering Network on the figures they believe should be used as a minimum for foster care allowance.

Board Members highlighted concerns as there had been limited progress due to limited resources and funding not being made available by Scottish Government to meet a Scottish Recommended Allowance.

Board Members:

- i. Agreed COSLA works with Scottish Government to ascertain whether the rates outlined in The Fostering Network report are more accurate than the Scottish Government's Recommended Allowance
- ii. Agreed COSLA continues to lobby Scottish Government for full funding to deliver on their commitment to a Scottish Recommended Allowance, or if the work detailed in (i) shows that the allowance rate should be higher than this, funding should be sought to deliver this.
- iii. Agreed COSLA officers continue to emphasise the need for coherence of approach to improving outcomes for care experienced children and young people.

15. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

This paper provided Members with an overview and update on current growing pressures on local authorities regarding the arrival and mandated placement of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Board Members welcomed the update and highlighted concerns over pressures on placements. It was also noted education colleagues are seeking support for expectations of young people over the age of sixteen.

Board Members:

- i. Noted the update on the number of UASC arriving in the UK and Scotland;
- ii. Noted the establishment of a national UASC Taskforce by the UK Government and the associated workstreams that are to be considered; and
- iii. Noted the recommendation to COSLA Leaders to consider the establishing of a short life working group to consider the viability of a Regional Intake Unit in Scotland.

16. Any Other Competent Business

No comments were raised.

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 24th March 2023

Councillor Buchanan closed the meeting at 1:15pm and thanked all Board Members for attending, it was noted the next meeting of the Children and Young People Board would be held as a virtual meeting.

Falkirk District Twinning Association

Minute of the meeting held on 27 February 2023 by Zoom.

Elaine Mitchell (EM, Chair)

Pat Reid (PR)

Ian Burt (IB)

Ewan McWilliams (EMC)

Laura McEwan (LM)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Elaine (EM) opened the Twinning meeting thanking everyone for their attendance. Given the short notice and focused agenda the invitation was only sent to the attending.

2. Student Visit

The students (4) and accompanying adults (2) would arrive in Scotland on Saturday 22 April and leave on Tuesday 25 April.

The visitors will stay at the Park Hotel. It was agreed that the group would aim to meet the visitors at their arrival airport (Glasgow) and take their luggage to the Park Hotel whilst the remainder visit in Glasgow.

The group would pull together a programme for Sunday (in Falkirk) and Monday (a potential visit with the Provost to Callendar House).

3. Any Other Business

N/A

4. Date of Next Meeting

15 March