

MINUTE of MEETING of the CULTURE AND LEISURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST Lothian Council held within Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, on 12 October 2017.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Cathy Muldoon, Alison Adamson, Tom Conn, Charles Kennedy, Andrew McGuire

Absent – William Boyle

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Adamson declared a non-financial interest in that her grandchildren attended "Learn to Swim" from St Joseph's RC Primary, Whitburn.

2. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 12 October 2017 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. COMMUNITY ARTS PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing an update on Community Arts activities and performance since the previous report in April 2017 and highlighting notable achievements and developments.

The report provided the following appendices:

Appendix 1 Community Arts Performance Report (April 2017)

Appendix 2 Firefly Arts Ltd Report (October 2016 to March 2017)

Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of the latest performance figures and notable achievements over the past six months across the main services activities of arts venues, Youth Music Initiatives, Arts and Learning, Arts and Wellbeing, Public Art, Linlithgow Burgh Halls and supporting the voluntary arts sector. Information on the performance and achievements of Firefly Arts Ltd was attached at appendix 2 to the report.

The Community Arts Performance Report demonstrated the impact of the service and how it contributed to the relevant Single Outcome Agreement outcomes.

The panel noted that feedback received from performance indicators from customer surveys resulted in customers reporting very high satisfaction with the activities on offer.

The report recommended that the panel note the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

4. LIBRARY AND MUSEUM SERVICES PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on Library and Museum performance activities since the previous report in April 2017.

The panel noted that there was an updated version of Appendix one and agreed that it be circulated.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of the latest performance figures and notable achievements over the past six months across the main services activities Library and Museum Services. Appendix 1 also included an update on the progress made by Jura Consultants who were commissioned by Almond Valley Trust and West Lothian Council's Museums Service to conduct a study to develop plans for a museum based heritage service for West Lothian in partnership with the third sector organisations that operated in the area.

In conclusion the report advised that the service delivered on key outcomes of access to reading, learning and information and continued to work in an integrated way to deliver council information services in all communities.

The report recommended that the panel note the performance information and activities of the Library and Museum Service over the last six month period from April 2017 to September 2017.

The report recommended that the panel note the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. LEARN TO SWIM PLUS UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress on the implementation and delivery of the Learn to Swim Plus (LTS Plus) programme over 2016/17.

The report provided an overview of performance within the delivery of the Learn to Swim Plus programme over 2016/17 and was delivered by West Lothian Leisure through partnership funding provided by West Lothian Council.

West Lothian primary schools had a responsibility for issuing the West Lothian Leisure letters offering free swimming lessons to the parents/carers of children identified as non-swimmers.

From May 2016 to April 2017 a total of 2234 P4 or P5 children were assessed and 648 were identified as non-swimmers, 205 took up the offer of LTS Plus lessons and after completion of LTS Plus lessons an additional 103 children could swim at level 3 or above.

Further information relating to the breakdown of the LTS Plus, inclusive of all primary schools and Xcite venues from 2015 to 2017 was contained in Appendix A to the report.

In conclusion the report advised that 2234 children were assessed through the Learn to Swim Plus programme with 103 children swimming at level 3 or above after intervention.

The report recommended that the panel note THAT 2234 P4 and P5 children were assessed via the Learn to Swim Plus with 103 pupils completing the programme and now swimming at level 3 or above.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT YOUTH SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing an update on Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth Service activities and performance from 1 April 2016 to August 2017.

The report provided information in relation to a number of initiatives including, Children's Holiday Lunch Clubs, Career Ready Programme, Skills Training Programme, MCMC Keyworker support to schools, Activity Agreements, Helping Young People Engage, Schools Vocational Programme

In conclusion the report advised that the service continued to offer a good range of youth learning opportunities through group work as well as intensive one to one support.

In conclusion the report advised that the service continued to offer effective support and a good range of youth learning opportunities and interventions. These were effective measures in place to evidence impact across the varied learning offer. Young people were supported to reflect on their learning and the service gathered and responded appropriately to feedback from young people as well as other stakeholders.

The report recommended that the panel note the content of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

7. ADULT LEARNING PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing an update on Adult Learning Service team activity for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017.

The Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) explained that since implementation Adult Learning had engaged with 495 learners to achieve positive outcomes relating to personal experiences, family, and work and community activity.

A range of accredited opportunities were offered as part of both group and individual learning programmes. Qualifications offered through group delivery were popular options for IT ESOL learners, whereas literacies learners were more likely to embed accreditation into individual learning which matched their own personal contexts.

Family learning development continued to develop with activity over the summer linked to holiday lunch club provision which had positives outcomes relating to engagement and attendance with parents identifying an increase in confidence in supporting their children, in particular relating to language, literacy and numeracy.

Further information on the review was contained in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

It was recommended that the panel note the content of the report and in particular:

1. 495 adult learners engaged in a range of learning activity within the period of the report.
2. 15% gained accreditation through their learning including 44 % of IT learners and 22% of ESOL learners receiving awards.
3. Positive outcomes being achieved by learners involved in family learning provision, in particular through the development of summer activity.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

8. WORKPLAN

The panel considered a list of items that would form the basis of the panel's work over the coming months.

Decision

To note the workplan.