

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, on 6 FEBRUARY 2018.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Stuart Borrowman, Harry Cartmill, Pauline Clark, Tom Conn, Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Charles Kennedy, Dave King, Sarah King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Dom McGuire (substituting for Cathy Muldoon), Andrew Miller, George Paul, Moira Shemilt, Kirsteen Sullivan; Appointed Representatives Heather Hughes, Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell

Apologies – Councillor Cathy Muldoon; Appointed Representatives Elsie Aitken and Myra Macpherson; Parent Council Representative Eric Lumsden

The Chair welcomed John Walker, Member of The Scottish Youth Parliament, to the meeting who was attending to observe proceedings.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 6 – Youth Music Initiative Year 16 Proposed Programme

Councillor Sarah King declared an interest as her child participated in the Saturday Strings project.

Councillor Andrew Miller declared an interest as his child participated in the Saturday Strings project.

2. MINUTES

- a) The Education Executive confirmed the minute of the meeting held on 28 November 2017 as being a correct record.
- b) The Education Executive confirmed the minute of the Special meeting held on 30 January 2018 as being a correct record.

The Chair thereafter signed both minutes.

3. PROMOTING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN WEST Lothian EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing details of the revised “Promoting Positive Relationships in West Lothian Educational Establishments” Policy for Education Services, details of which was attached as an appendix to the report.

The report advised that The Scottish Government published updated national guidance on preventing and managing school exclusions. The Inclusion and Wellbeing Manager advised that West Lothian Education Services developed local guidance based on the Scottish Government

overview. This resulted in an amalgamation of four existing policies namely the Exclusion, Hostings, Anti-Bullying and Managing Behaviour Policies. The result was a combined policy entitled “Promoting Positive Relationships in West Lothian Educational Establishments”. The revised Policy provided clarity and improved practice in supporting all children and young people to engage with their learning.

Once approved, it was intended that the policy would be shared with key education staff at the annual Inclusion and Wellbeing conference.

The Inclusion and Wellbeing Manager then responded to questions from members of the Education Executive. Members acknowledged the revised policy and the specific reference to Looked After Children and closing the attainment gap.

The Secondary/Special Education Appointed Representative recommended that Page 12 of the Policy (7.2.4 Looked After Children) – first paragraph – should be amended to include “teaching staff” in situations where the behaviour of a child could be seriously detrimental to order and discipline in the school or educational wellbeing of other children or young people there.

It was recommended that the Education Executive notes the report and approve the revised policy.

Decision

1. To note the recommendation by the Secondary/Special Education Appointed Representative to amend page 12 (7.2.4) of the Policy to include “teaching staff”; and
2. To approve the terms of the report.

4. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE YEAR 16 PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing details of the progress with the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) Year 16 application to Creative Scotland who grant the funding for YMI.

The report advised that YMI funding enabled schools to meet the refreshed Scottish Government commitment that “every school pupil in Scotland should be offered a year of free music tuition by the time they left primary school.” Youth Music Initiative projects enabled the council to tackle inequality and engage young people (of school age) who otherwise would not participate with meaningful, quality music making opportunities. These commitments were met by commissioning specialist individuals and organisations to deliver a range of music education projects to pupils in West Lothian.

Community Arts successfully applied to Creative Scotland for Year 15 funding for the YMI programme for 2017/18 and received the maximum award available of £220,896. The programme for August 2018 to June

2019 included sixteen projects plus investment in management, promotion and evaluation. The breakdown of the costs for each of the sixteen projects, totalling £220,896 was outlined within the report.

The Senior Arts Officer advised that the Year 16 application would be submitted to Creative Scotland by the deadline date of 31 March 2018 and confirmation was expected on whether the application was successful in May 2018.

The Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) advised that if the application for maximum funding for YMI Year 16 to Creative Scotland was not successful an adjustment would require to be made to the programme, which would be reported to the Education PDSP.

In response to a question from the Education/Special Education Appointed Representative relating to the number of hours of music teaching provided to young people over a year, she confirmed that this was generally 12 hours however, she would confirm this following the meeting.

The Education/Special Education Appointed Representative stated that while the Youth Music Initiative was welcomed the committee should recognise that this independent initiative enhanced the school's instrumental music programme.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approves the application for submission to Creative Scotland.

Decision

1. To note that the Senior Arts Officer undertook to confirm to members the number of hours of music teaching that was provided to young people over a year.
2. To approve the terms of the report.