

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, LIVINGSTON, on 11 DECEMBER 2014.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Jim Dixon, Carl John, Frank Toner, Jim Walker, John McGinty substituting for Cathy Muldoon

Apologies – Councillor Cathy Muldoon

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair ruled that Agenda Item 5 would be considered after Agenda Item 10.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Frank Toner declared a general non-financial interest arising from his position as a Non-Executive member of NHS Lothian and as a council appointee to West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership.

3. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2014 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4 COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on Community Learning and Development activities for the year 2014/15.

Appendix 1 to the report contained a summary of the performance figures from 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2014 across the main service activities of community based adult learning, community capacity building and crèche services.

Summary figures included:-

- Eighteen courses provided through voluntary organisations and childcare training calendar in quarter one for 2014. This delivered capacity building training to 142 participants. From 1 July 2014, responsibility for the co-ordination, administration and reporting of voluntary organisations and childcare training calendar activity transferred to the Regeneration and Employability Team.
- Community based adult learning engaged 302 learners. Of those

enrolled learners, 274 provided address information that showed that 31.75% resided in the worst 20% data zones in West Lothian. If data zones adjacent to the worst 20% were included the figure would be 43.80.

- 75.8% (229) of enrolled learners were engaged in learning that contributed to Digital Inclusion.
- The crèche serve provided 55 separate crèches with a total of 3937 child places. The service remained critical to enable adults to access learning programmes from Community Learning and Development and other council services, particularly the Psychology of Parenting Programme, Adult Basic Education, Community Based English as a Second Language or other Language (ESOL) and Surestart.

In conclusion the report illustrated the impact of the service and targeting of priority audiences in contributing to key outcomes within the single outcome agreement.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. PSYCHOLOGY OF PARENTING PROGRAMME

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing information on Area Services' enabling and delivery contributions to the Psychology of Parenting Project (PoPP) and its impact following completion of the first year of a three year roll out.

The report recommended that the panel note the content of the report and appendix which illustrated the results of PoPP at the end of the first year of delivery and the critical role of partnership working.

The report advised that the Psychology of Parenting Project was a Government sponsored project which was being rolled out nationally by NHS Education Scotland through Community Health and Care Partnerships and Community Planning Partnerships. The project was aimed at improving the available of high-quality evidence based parenting programmes for families with young children who had elevated levels of behaviour problems.

The Head of Area Services explained that the service contributed in the following ways:-

1. Committing two senior community education workers and three community education workers, as delivering practitioners, over the three year period of the Psychology of Parenting Project.
2. Expanding and providing a crèche service and training crèche workers to model best practise from PoPP so that parents were

able to access the Psychology of Parenting Project.

In conclusion the report advised that the significant impact of research based early intervention methods in contributing to key outcomes within the single outcome agreement was also evidenced.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and appendix.

6. ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on Adult Basic Education (ABE) activity and performance for the period 1 April 2014 – 31 October 2014.

The report recommended that the panel note the contents of the report, in particular:-

- 715 adults accessing provision;
- The commitment to West Lothian's Anti-Poverty Strategy with an increase in numbers accessing support with financial education;
- An increase in accreditation opportunities, in particular for ESOL learners and volunteers;
- The development of opportunities for students to recognise their learning achievements and the related impact on their everyday lives; and
- Both learners and volunteers progressing into employment

Appendix 1 to the report included a summary of the latest service performance figures and notable achievements over the past year. Customer satisfaction results were consistently high and the service continued to meet targets for working with hard-to-reach individuals.

The report highlighted increases in referrals to Adult Basic Education and the need for up-skilling relating to Welfare Reform, changing job search requirements and job uncertainty through temporary contracts. It also examined ways in which Adult Basic Education had sought to manage this need effectively and support positive impacts on learners' everyday lives.

In the conclusion the report asked the panel to note the progress made by Adult Basic Education in working towards enabling adults to acquire and use their skills effectively.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7 COMMUNITY FACILITIES UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on progress with the capital investment programme in relation to community facilities.

Appendix 1 to the report was a work plan of current projects, including status updates. It showed that a number of exciting community projects was being progressed in communities across West Lothian. Consultation and briefing arrangements would continue with local community stakeholder, elected members and service partners with regard to the projects in financial years 2014/15 up to 2017/18.

The report advised that the Sport and Outdoor Education team, in partnership with key local stakeholders was leading on the development of four new, full-size 3rd Generation Synthetic Turf Pitches at the following locations:-

- New Murrayfield Park, Blackburn;
- Linlithgow Leisure Centre;
- Broxburn Academy; and
- Fauldhouse Partnership Centre

In addition to the significant capital investment approved by the council, the projects in Blackburn and Linlithgow were supplemented by capital money secured through sportscotland's Sport Facilities Fund and the Cashback for Communities fund.

The report also advised that West Lothian Leisure was progressing plans for the proposed major extension to Linlithgow Leisure Centre with planning application now submitted and final design work being progressed. A site start was expected in Spring 2015.

In conclusion the report advised that progress continued to be made in conjunction with colleagues in Housing Construction and Building Services to develop projects funded in the West Lothian capital programme and West Lothian Leisure capital programme.

The report recommended that the panel consider the contents of the report and the progress made on the listed projects within the council's capital programme.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. WORKPLAN

The panel noted the Culture and Leisure PDSP workplan.

9. COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT WAR

The panel considered a report and presentation (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services providing an update on progress made with commemorative activities for the centenary of the Great War.

The report recommended that the panel:-

- Note the excellent progress made with activities undertaken since April 2014;
- Note the proposed activities over the coming months; and
- Agree to receive a further update report in six months.

The report advised that this year marked 100 years since the start of the First World War. Commemorative activities began to mark centenary as part of a four year programme of local and national acts of remembrance.

The report went on to provide details on a number of planned and prospective local and national activities to commemorate the Great War.

In conclusion the report advised that a great deal of activity had already taken place. Further activity and events were planned for the four year commemoration and West Lothian would also participate in national events where it was appropriate. The War100 leaflet detailing the local and national activities would be updated at the start of 2015.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and presentation.