

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE) COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 5 NOVEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors Stuart Borrowman (Chair), David Dodds, Pauline Clark, Peter Heggie, Charles Kennedy, Dave King, Andrew McGuire, Andrew Miller, George Paul, Moira Shemilt and Damian Timson; Appointed Members Eric Lumsden, Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell

Apologies – Councillors Chris Horne and Carl John; Appointed Member Myra McPherson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda item 8 - Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE): The James Young High School

Councillor Peter Heggie declared an interest as he had a child attending S2 at the James Young High School.

Appointed Member Eric Lumsden declared an interest as he had a child attending S6 and as he was Clerk of the Parent Council at the James Young High School.

2. MINUTE

The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 3 September 2019 as a correct record. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

3. UPHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) bringing to members' attention the progress made towards the actions arising from the school's Education Scotland inspection published in May 2019. Catriona MacRae, Seconded Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

During discussion, further details were provided about the staff rotational groups as a means for driving improvement. Parental involvement was also explored as well as a shift in the school ethos towards nurturing positive relationships as a way to address class disruption. The recent change in leadership in the school was also noted.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the school's progress in addressing identified areas for improvement.

The committee noted the school's progress since Education Scotland's inspection and requested a further update after Education Scotland revisited the school for inspection in spring 2020.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and the update from the Seconded Head Teacher.
2. The committee agreed that a further report would be produced after Education Scotland revisited the school for inspection in spring 2020, to be considered by the committee before or immediately after the summer break.

4. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT: SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND BONNYTOUN NURSERY

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) informing members of the outcome of the Education Scotland (HMI) inspection at Springfield Primary School and Bonnytoun Nursery. Mark Wells, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

It was noted during discussion that the school had a strong foundation for moving forward and building on the already positive results noted in the report.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the school's arrangements for continuing improvement.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and the update from the Head Teacher.

5. VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION (VSE): CEDARBANK SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) informing members of the outcome of the Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE) of Cedarbank School. Ann O'Hagan, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

Members requested further information regarding transition arrangements when pupils were about to leave school as well as details on the successful work placement programme offered by the school. The definition of incidents that would lead to exclusion was then clarified. It was noted that a school counsellor had been appointed to support pupils and address mental health issues. The committee was then assured that the school was committed to improving its gradings.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the school's arrangements for continuing improvement.

The committee requested that a further visit to the school take place before the end of the session to assess progress with the issues raised at the VSE.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and the update from the Head Teacher.
2. The committee agreed that a further inspection would take place before the end of the session to assess progress with the issues raised in the report.

6. VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION (VSE): THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) bring to members' attention the outcomes of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) of The James Young High School. Tricia Gallagher, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

During discussion, it was noted that the children's wellbeing was a priority for the school. The school faced particular challenges due to diversity in its catchment area, which it addressed by working closely with its cluster schools. The Head Teacher was confident that the 'satisfactory' quality indicator would have improved by the end of the session.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the school's arrangements for continuing improvement.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and the update from the Head Teacher.

7. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.