

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 2 FEBRUARY 2021.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Stuart Borrowman, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Peter Heggie, Tom Kerr, Andrew Miller and John McGinty; Appointed Members Heather Hughes, Myra MacPherson, Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell

Apologies – Appointed Members Elsie Aitken and Jackie Galbraith, West Lothian College

In attendance –

Elaine Cook (Lead Officer)

James Cameron (Head of Education – Learning, Policy and Resources)

Greg Welsh (Interim Head of Education – Primary)

Catrina Hatch (Interim Head of Education – Secondary)

Beverley Akinlami (CLD Youth Services Manager)

Pippa Plevin (Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils)

Jock Kerr (Unison)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Miller declared an interest in agenda item 5 as he was a member of the board on the Vennie.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The chair advised that an additional report would be considered which had been circulated to members with a supplementary agenda.

3. MINUTE

The panel approved the draft minute of its meeting held on 17 December 2020 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT YOUTH SERVICES

The panel considered a report by the Head of Education (copies of which had been circulated) advising of the outcomes of the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Youth Services Review on the impact of youth services provision in addressing these five key themes with the objective of developing a new youth services model to concentrate efforts to maximise benefit to those in most need through effective deployment of resources and partnership working to ensure positive outcomes for young people and communities.

It was recommended that the panel note:-

- (a) The key findings of the review and evidence-based case studies which demonstrated impact;
- (b) That the new service delivery model acknowledge the importance of more focussed work with young people to address the needs highlighted in the service review report and also in the youth work education recovery plan in response to the impact of Covid-19; and
- (c) The benefits of the new service delivery model, in particular partnership working and the establishment of a dedicated youth facility in the Centre, Livingston.

Arising from the discussion, officers undertook to provide a 1 year impact report on the new CLD youth services model together with information showing the tangible differences between both models. They also undertook to explore whether information on youth service provision could be disseminated to Local Area Committees to ensure local members were informed about the service provision within their wards.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan and that an amended workplan to include standard items would be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting.

6. PARENTAL AND LEARNER FEEDBACK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REMOTE LEARNING (JANUARY 2021)

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education informing members of the feedback received from parents/carers and learners of the effectiveness of the remote learning provision from January 2021 in the primary and secondary sectors.

It was recommended that the panel:-

- i) Notes the key findings from the authority's survey of parents/carers and learners
- ii) Notes the key areas of strength and areas for further improvement identified from stakeholder feedback.

Decision

- (a) To note the terms of the report.
- (b) To record congratulations to all staff for their professionalism and dedication to delivering excellent remote learning to pupils across West Lothian during the Covid-19 lockdown.