

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE) COMMITTEE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 9 MARCH 2021.

Present – Councillors Stuart Borrowman (Chair), David Dodds, Pauline Clark, Bruce Fairbairn, Peter Heggie, Carl John, Charles Kennedy, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Andrew Miller and Moira Shemilt; Appointed Member Margaret Russell

Apologies – Councillor Chris Horne and George Paul; Appointed Members Lynne McEwen and Myra MacPherson

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 6 - Impact of West Lothian Digital Strategy and Delivery of Remote Learning: West Calder High School

Councillor Pauline Clark declared an interest in that she had two children attending West Calder High School but advised that she would participate in this item of business.

2 MINUTES

The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 12 January 2020.

3 IMPACT OF WEST LOTHIAN DIGITAL STRATEGY AND DELIVERY OF REMOTE LEARNING: SOUTHDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Councillor Charles Kennedy left the meeting during consideration of this item and did not participate in the remaining items of business.

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary) bring to members' attention the impact of the West Lothian Digital Strategy on improving learning, teaching and assessment at Southdale Primary School and the effectiveness of the school's delivery of remote learning. John Cloherty, 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 school was striving to avoid additional pressure on parents created by home schooling; communications with parents were ongoing and continual support was offered by the school. In response to members' questions, the Head Teacher indicated that virtual platforms would continue to be used out of lockdown as the school would like to develop ways to share learning at home. Children engagement was also discussed, and it was highlighted that engagement was tracked frequently and regularly and a range of support measures were in place for pupils and their families.

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.

4 IMPACT OF WEST LOTHIAN DIGITAL STRATEGY AND DELIVERY OF REMOTE LEARNING: WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Secondary) bringing to members' attention the impact of the West Lothian Digital Strategy on improving learning, teaching and assessment at West Calder High School and the effectiveness of the school's delivery of remote learning. Greg McDowall, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

During discussion, the Head Teacher expanded on the ways the school promoted creativity as well as the ways pupil wellbeing was supported. The school had also made efforts to reduce screen time for avoidance of virtual fatigue. Efforts to promote the school in order to attract pupils from the Kirknewton catchment area would continue. Pupil engagement was also continually monitored and supported. Benefits of virtual learning included additional virtual skills, problem solving and critical thinking, which were applicable in employment once young people had left school.

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 IMPACT OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM SUPPORTING SCHOOL CLOSURE PERIOD, REOPENING OF SCHOOLS AND REMOTE LEARNING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary) and the Head of Education (Secondary) informing members of the role and impact of the Quality Improvement Team in supporting schools during periods of school closure, reopening of schools and implementation of remote learning.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the authority's approaches for ensuring continuous improvement

throughout COVID period to date.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan.
2. To note that the workplan would be further populated once more details regarding education plans and reopening of schools were known.