

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 4 MAY 2021.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Stuart Borrowman, Peter Heggie, Tom Kerr, John McGinty, Andrew Miller; Appointed Members Heather Hughes, Elsie Aitken, Lynne McEwen, Derek Cornwall

Apologies – Appointed Member Margaret Russell, Pippa Plevin (Joint Forum of Community Councils)

In attendance – Jackie Galbraith (Chief Executive of West Lothian College), Leona Mullarky (Joint Forum of West Lothian Community Councils)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the draft minute of its meeting held on Tuesday 02 March 2021 as a correct record.

3. INITIAL SCHOOL LEAVERS DESTINATIONS (SLDR)

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Interim Head of Education (Secondary) informing of the outcome contained in the Scottish Government publication of Initial Destinations of School Leavers 2019/20.

It was recommended that the Panel note the progress made as a result of the strategies to support young people into a positive post school destination.

Arising from the discussion, officers undertook to provide a report detailing wider statistics for the age group 16-24 years.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To request officers report wider statistics for the age group 16-24 years at a future meeting.

4. EQUALITY MAINSTREAMING AND EQUALITY OUTCOMES

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services presenting an update on progress on delivering the Council's Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress

Report 2019-2021 and to present the draft Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Framework 2021 -2025.

It was recommended that the Panel:

1. Note the terms of the Council's Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Progress Report 2019-2021,
2. Note the terms of the Education Equality and Diversity Mainstreaming Report and Outcome Plan 2019-2021, and
3. Consider and provide comment on the draft Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Framework 2021–2025 which is to be reported to Council Executive for approval.

Following discussion it was noted that Early Years and Childcare staff were not detailed in the Education service area of the report. The Head of Corporate Services undertook to update the report accordingly.

The Panel noted that six secondary schools were working directly with LGBT Youth Scotland. The Head of Education (Secondary) agreed to discuss future involvement with the five schools currently not participating.

#### Decision

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To request that information regarding Early Years and Childcare staff be included in the Education service area of the report.
3. To request that the Head of Education (Secondary) discuss future involvement with LGBT Youth Scotland with the five schools reported not to be participating.

#### 5. RELOCATION OF BEATLIE SCHOOL, LIVINGSTON

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) informing of the proposal to commence formal public consultation, to relocate Beatlie School to purpose built accommodation at a location to be agreed by Council Executive.

The report also presented the draft consultation document prepared by West Lothian Council officers.

It was recommended that the Panel note the proposal which was intended for submission to the Education Executive for consideration.

#### Decision

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To agree the recommendation that the report be submitted to

Education Executive for consideration.

6. SCHOOL SESSION DATES

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) informing of the proposed school session dates for 2022/23.

It was recommended that the Panel note the proposed dates for submission to the Education Executive for consideration.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To agree the recommendation that the report be submitted to Education Executive for approval.

7. EDUCATION SERVICES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021/22

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education presenting the Education Services Management Plan for 2021/22.

It was recommended that the Panel note the Education Services Management Plan for 2021/22.

Decision

To note the content of the report.

8. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

The Panel were informed that the School Leaver Destinations report would not require to be reported to Education Executive so the workplan would be updated accordingly.

Decision

1. To note the content of the workplan.
2. To note the School Leavers Destinations report would not progress to Education Executive.
3. To request the addition of a report on the Participation Measure.