

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE) COMMITTEE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 11 JANUARY 2022.

Present – Councillors Stuart Borrowman (Chair), David Dodds, Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Charles Kennedy, Maria MacAulay, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Andrew Miller, George Paul and Moira Shemilt; Appointed Members Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell

Apologies – Councillor Pauline Clark and Appointed Member Myra MacPherson

Absent – Councillor Bruce Fairbairn

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 7 - Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) Thematic Inspection Programme

Councillor Maria MacAulay stated that she had a child at Inveralmond Community High School and was a non-active member of the Parent Council. However, having applied the objective test she considered that this did not amount to an interest and so took part in the item of business.

Councillor Andrew Miller stated that he had a child at Inveralmond Community High School and was a member of the School Board. However, having applied the objective test he considered that this did not amount to an interest and so took part in the item of business.

2. MINUTE

The committee approved the Minute of its meeting held on Tuesday 02 November 2021 as a correct record.

3. VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION (VSE) REPORT ON LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT: DEANS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Secondary Schools) bringing to their attention the outcomes of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) of Deans Community High School. The VSE focussed specifically on Quality Indicator 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment. Pauline Allison, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

Mrs Allison advised committee that the VSE had been undertaken over two days with one day each dedicated to the Senior Phase and Broad General Education. This arrangement had allowed the good work identified within the Senior Phase, which was a focus in order to raise attainment, to be considered and adopted throughout the earlier stages of the school.

Responding to a query from committee on the presentation rates for both English and Maths, Mrs Allison explained the circumstances in relation to each subject and confirmed the measures that had been put in place to address these.

Discussion concluded with committee noting the positives within the report and the efforts of the school in making the improvements to date.

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. EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT: UPHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary) bringing to their attention Education Scotland's report on the progress of Uphall Primary School in addressing the areas for improvement identified in the Education Scotland report published on 14 May 2019. Julie Bruce, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

The committee noted Education Scotland had spoken positively on progress within the school. However, it was highlighted that the expected National Curriculum for Excellence Levels for both primary 4 and 7 suggested a decrease in these levels. Mrs Bruce explained that there was a focus on the curriculum and structures had been put in place to address individual stages and cohorts as they moved through the school. The validation from Education Scotland provided reassurance that the progress made provided a good grounding for ensuring the school were moving in the right direction to ensure the best possible outcome for each individual child.

Transition was discussed and Mrs Bruce advised that from an early stage, the school worked very closely with the catchment secondary school, between the different stages within school/nursery and wherever an individual pupil may be moving on to. This allowed the sharing of robust information enabling children to continue to make progress and build on their prior levels of knowledge.

Discussion led to moderation within the school and Mrs Bruce explained that to ensure robust assessment, moderation was being undertaken between both staff within the school and other schools within the cluster.

It was noted that the 2021/22 GIRFEC School totals detailed within the report were not accurate and these figures would be reviewed.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report

and the school's arrangements for continuing improvement.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and the update from the Head Teacher; and
2. To note the 2021/22 GIRFEC School figures would be reviewed.

5. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION (HMIE) THEMATIC INSPECTION PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education informing of West Lothian schools engagement in Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) thematic inspection programme for academic session 2021-22.

The report detailed that three West Lothian schools had been involved in the thematic inspections undertaken by HMIE. The Head Teacher from one of those schools, Fiona Stewart, Head Teacher of East Calder Primary School, attended the meeting to answer any questions from committee and share her own experience from their inspection.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the detail of the thematic inspection undertaken by HMIE in West Lothian schools.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION (HMIE) SCRUTINY PROGRAMME UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education informing of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE) updated scrutiny programme for academic session 2021-22.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and the changes to the programme of scrutiny outlined by HMIE.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan which was subject to change dependent on updates to Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance.