

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE) COMMITTEE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 1 NOVEMBER 2022.

Present – Councillors Peter Heggie (Chair), Andrew McGuire, Stuart Borrowman, Pauline Clark, Moira McKee Shemilt and Sally Pattle; Appointed Member Kent Ballantyne

Apologies – Appointed Members Lynne McEwen, Margaret Russell and Andy Walker

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 MINUTES

The committee approved the minute of its meeting held on 30 August 2022. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

3 VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION: MELDRUM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DEANS NORTH EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE (ELC) SETTING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary, Early Years and Resources) informing members of the Meldrum Primary School and Deans North Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) setting validated self-evaluation and identified areas for improvement for session 2022–2023. Jennifer Russel, 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 highlighted the importance of building staff confidence especially for new staff members and expanded on how the school promoted staff confidence by regular consideration first of individual data and then through collaborative discussion, including at staff meetings. The role of the pedagogy officer and staff on cluster moderation activities were then discussed.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4 VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION: BANKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary, Early Years and Resources) informing members of Bankton Primary School's validated self-evaluation and identified areas for improvement for session 2022–2023. Yvonne Ferguson, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members.

In response to questions from members, the Head Teacher explained how the school listened to the pupils' voices in terms of planning their learning. The school maintained an excellent relationship with parents and had close links with the community. It also regularly supported children and families whose first language was not English. The school's outdoor learning programme was also discussed. Finally, further information was provided on the provocation stations, which promoted children's creativity and problem solving.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5 VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION: POLKEMMET PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE (ELC) SETTING

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary, Early Years and Resources) informing members of Polkemmet Primary School's validated self-evaluation and identified areas for improvement for session 2022–2023. Linda Baxter, Head Teacher, was in attendance to provide an update on the school's progress and to answer questions from committee members. Jackie Speirs, Quality Improvement Officer, was also in attendance to provide an update on the Equity Team's work.

Following the Head Teacher's presentation, Jackie Speirs spoke about the equity team, providing background and details of engagement with Polkemmet Primary School.

During discussion, the use of PEF on teachers as resources was highlighted. The school had excellent ties with the local community and beyond and parents were encouraged to engage with the school and linked agencies for support with issues such as the cost of living crisis. Unauthorised absence was addressed by engaging with parents and identifying barriers. The school provided targeted support in the effort to progress literacy and numeracy. Children's mental health was also supported and nurtured.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan.
2. To note that the Deans Community High School evaluation was completed on 28 October and a report would likely be presented at the meeting scheduled for 17 January 2023.