

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN HOUSE, on TUESDAY 26 MAY 2009.

Present- Councillors Andrew Miller (Chair), Ellen Glass, Greg McCarra, John McGinty and Cathy Muldoon (substituting for Lawrence Fitzpatrick); Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson and Mrs Myra MacPherson.

Apologies – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick and Jim Walker.

1. MINUTE

The Panel confirmed the Minute of its Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

2. PRIVATE SESSION

The Panel resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information which would be exempt under Paragraph 1 of Part 2 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 if it were before a meeting of the Council or one of its Committees or Sub-Committees.

3. SEAFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

In June 2009, HM Inspectors of Schools had visited Seafield Primary School as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education. The report and main findings (which had been circulated) were published on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The following key strengths were highlighted:-

- Motivated and well behaved children
- Staff teamwork and their willingness to take on responsibility
- The Headteacher's commitment to improvement and change.

HMI had identified the following two examples of good practice which had been added to their website to be shared nationally:-

- Enterprise activity throughout the school
- Go for Green behaviour reward system

The following areas of improvement had been agreed with the school and education authority:-

- Strengthen co-operation with all parents through improved consultation and communication

- Ensure all nursery children are fully challenged and their learning needs are met
- Build on developing good practice at the primary stages in strengthening children's skills in learning independently.

HMI were confident that the school would be able to make the necessary improvements in light of the inspection findings. As a result, they would make no further visits to the school following the inspection. The school and the education authority had prepared an improvement plan (which had been circulated) indicating how the main findings of the report would be addressed, which would be shared with parents. The school and education authority would inform parents about the school's progress in improving the quality of education.

#### Decisions

- (a) To note the contents of the report.
- (b) Note the school's improvement plan.
- (c) Commend the Headteacher, staff and pupils on the positive report.

#### 4. HMIE REPORT – ADDIEWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

In January 2009 HM Inspectors of Schools had visited Addiewell Primary School as part of a national sample of primary and nursery education. The report and main findings (which had been circulated) were published on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009. The following key strengths were highlighted:-

- Across nursery and primary classes, enthusiastic and well behaved children
- The teamwork of staff in the nursery and primary classes
- The high standard of pastoral care and the supportive ethos
- The welcome and attractive learning environment

HMI had identified the following example of good practice which would be added to their website to be shared nationally:-

- Partnership working with the staff and children of St. Thomas Primary School.

The following areas for improvement had been agreed with the school and education authority:-

- Increase the pace of learning and ensure that tasks and activities

present sufficient challenge to meet the needs of all children

- Continue to develop effective systems to monitor and track children's progress
- Continue to develop children's experiences in line with Curriculum for Excellence.

HM Inspectors were confident that the school would be able to make the necessary improvements in light of the inspection findings. As a result they would make no further visits to the school in relation to the inspection. The school and the education authority had prepared an action plan (which had been circulated) indicating how the main findings of the report would be addressed, which would be shared with parents. Within two years of publication of the inspection report, the education authority, working with the school, would report to parents on the school's progress in achieving the improvements.

#### Decisions

- (a) Note the contents of the HMIE report.
- (b) Note the school's action plan
- (c) Commend the Headteacher, staff and pupils on the positive report.

#### 5. HOPEFIELD NURSERY SCHOOL

In January 2009 HM Inspectors of Schools had visited Hopefield Nursery School as part of the integrated inspection programme on behalf of both HMIE and the Care Commission. The report and main findings (which had been circulated) were published on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The following key strengths were highlighted:-

- Positive and supportive relationships between staff, children and parents
- Children's progress in talking and listening
- Staff knowledge of individual children and their interactions with them
- Approaches to health promotion
- Extended day-care provision to meet the needs of families

The following areas for improvement had been agreed with the school and education authority:-

- Continue to involve children in planning, assessing and reflecting

on their own learning

- Extend self-evaluation and monitoring activities to ensure further improvement in learning across the nursery.

As a result of the very good quality of education provided by the centre, HM Inspectors would make no further visits or report in relation to the inspection. The school and the education authority had prepared an improvement plan (which had been circulated) indicating how the main findings of the report would be addressed, which would be shared with parents. Within two years of publication of the inspection report, the education authority, working with the school, would report to parents on the school's progress in achieving the improvements.

### Decisions

- (a) Note the contents of the HMIE report.
- (b) Note the school's improvement plan
- (c) Commend the Headteacher, staff and pupils on the positive report.

## 6. INVERALMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL – REVIEW

Inveralmond Community High School was last inspected by HMIE in 2003, with a follow through HMIE report in 2005. A council review team had carried out a mid-HMIE cycle review at the school from 13-15 October 2008. The review had evaluated the impact the senior management team had made within the school to promote a learning environment which met the learning needs of pupils and also its capacity to support a climate of continuous improvement. The inspection had focussed on self-evaluation, teaching and learning and pupil attainment.

A report on the findings of the mid-HMIE cycle review had been circulated. The following key strengths were highlighted:-

- Primary/secondary Pastoral Transition Programme
- The high level of care and welfare of pupils
- The impact of the pupil support manager on the learning of young people facing challenges
- Partnerships with curricular partners and external agencies

The report had identified the following areas for improvement:-

- To ensure the impact of the school's behaviour policy and

procedures in addressing low level disruption in some classes

- To implement a programme of challenge and support to improve pupils' experiences in Modern Languages
- Whole school review of ALN policies and practice and impact of these, to be undertaken by Senior Executive
- To implement monitoring and tracking policies and procedures in order to impact on pupils' learning experiences
- To develop a structured, strategic approach to coursing, progression routes and fast tracking which is visible and understood by all stakeholders
- To develop whole school self-evaluation through rigorous use of the HMIE support materials contained within Journey to Excellence.
- To implement a structured approach to the dissemination of best practice in active learning, Assessment is for Learning, differentiation, ICT and Curriculum for Excellence
- To further develop transition P7-S1 to ensure curriculum continuity and progression for pupils

An action plan had been prepared and the Head Teacher provided the panel with full details on the work that would be undertaken within the school to achieve the action plan goals. A further inspection of the school would be carried out by the council review team from 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

#### Decisions

- (a) To note the findings of the council's mid-HMIE inspection.
- (b) To note the terms of the action plan.
- (c) That a further report be provided to the Panel at a future date on the outcome of the June follow-up inspection.