

GOVERNANCE

DECISION SHEET

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2024

Please let the Committee Officer know as soon as possible if you do not agree with any action proposed in this decision sheet. These are decisions of the Committee and there is an expectation that action will be taken. If for any reason it is apparent that you will not be able to act on these instructions in full or in part or that there will be a delay, please let the Committee Officer know as it may be necessary to advise the Committee or seek further instructions from the Committee.

	Item Title	Committee Decision	Cluster Required to take action	Officer to Action
3.1	<u>Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements</u>	These will be recorded in full in the minute.	Governance	S Dunsmuir
5.1	<u>Minute of Meeting of 17 September 2024</u>	The Committee resolved: (i) to note the correction to Dr Murray's transparency statement in respect of item 10.4 (School Estate Plan), namely that her son attended private school, rather than primary school; and (ii) to otherwise approve the minute as a correct record.	Governance	S Dunsmuir
6.1	<u>Committee Business Planner</u>	The Committee resolved: (i) to note the reason outlined in the planner for the delay to item 8 (Corporate Parenting Annual Report) and that the Chief Officer – Children's Social Work and Family Support had advised that he expected the report to be presented to Committee in early 2025;	Governance	S Dunsmuir – for planner

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		(ii) to note that the updates on the behaviour action plan would be presented as part of the regular performance reports; and (iii) to otherwise note the planner.		
9.1	<u>Performance Management Framework/National Improvement Framework Progress Update - CORS/24/338</u>	<p>The Committee resolved:</p> (i) to note that the Executive Director – Families and Communities would arrange for information to be issued to Members outwith the meeting on the provision of mentoring in various schools; (ii) in relation to page 43 of the report, and the figures which demonstrated that employment remained at a level which was below that of most other authorities, to note that Members had suggested it would be helpful to have a comparison with figures for other local authorities with universities and colleges; and (iii) to otherwise note the report.	Families and Communities / Education and Lifelong Learning Education and Lifelong Learning / Data Insights	E Sheppard / S Milne S Milne / A Paterson / R Stewart
9.2	<u>Education & Children's Services Committee Annual Effectiveness Report - CORS/24/276</u>	<p>The Committee resolved:</p> to note the annual report of the Education and Children's Services Committee.	Governance	S Dunsmuir
9.3	<u>Cluster Risk Registers and Assurance Maps - F&C/24/344</u>	<p>The Committee resolved:</p> (i) to note the feedback from Members that some control actions might need to be reviewed to demonstrate the drive in the risk register to resolve the specific issue (an example given was the "Risk that the number of Senior	Education and Lifelong Learning	S Milne

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		<p>(ii) Leadership vacancies leads to staff in posts that are not of required quality”); to note that officers had undertaken to consider the feedback from Members that it would be helpful for the matrix to reflect the previous year’s situation to allow for comparison and a clearer understanding of which risks had been effectively mitigated;</p> <p>(iii) in relation to page 119 of the report and the risk “The perception of failure to record incidents of violence and aggressive behaviour against school staff”, to note that the Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning had undertaken to amend the wording to reflect that the while the behaviour plan had been developed completely, it was still being implemented, and so the entirety of the action was not yet complete;</p> <p>(iv) to note the feedback from Members in relation to the phrasing of the risk “Child Migration including unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people (UASC) and all families requiring resettlement or with no recourse to public funds” and that the Chief Officer – Children’s Social Work and Family Services had undertaken to review this wording for the next report;</p> <p>(v) in relation to the control actions for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (SCAI) risk, to note that the Chief Officer –</p>	<p>Education & Lifelong Learning / Children’s Social Work & Family Services / Governance</p> <p>Education and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Children’s Social Work & Family Services</p> <p>Children’s Social Work & Family Services</p>	<p>S Milne / G Simpson / R McKean</p> <p>S Milne</p> <p>G Simpson</p> <p>G Simpson</p>

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		<p>Children’s Social Work and Family Services had undertaken to ensure that details were up to date in respect of those actions still to be closed off, but to note that the risk would likely be carried forward due to the timescales in relation to the Inquiry; and</p> <p>(vi) to otherwise note the Cluster Risk Registers and Assurance Maps set out in appendices A and B.</p>		
9.4	<u>Inspection Reporting - F&C/24/321</u>	<p><u>The Committee resolved:</u></p> <p>(i) to note that updates on Harlaw Academy would be provided every second meeting, as per the updates on Northfield Academy;</p> <p>(ii) to note that the Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning would issue a service update to Members outwith the meeting on what individual schools were implementing or had implemented in respect of mobile phones in the classroom;</p> <p>(iii) to note the content of the report;</p> <p>(iv) to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to continue to support Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings and schools to implement continuous improvement in keeping with agreed Quality Improvement Frameworks approved at Committee in July 2024;</p> <p>(v) to support and encourage the Harlaw Academy improvement journey, instruct the Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning to issue a</p>	<p>Education & Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Education & Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Education & Lifelong Learning</p>	<p>S Milne</p> <p>S Milne</p> <p>S Milne</p>

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		<p>service update to Members in early to mid January 2025 with information on the timeline for actioning the three priorities; and agrees that this information will be incorporated into the scheduled inspection reporting update to Committee on 18 February 2025;</p> <p>(vi) to note that Education Scotland said in their letter of 19 November that <i>“There have been very few improvements across the school since the last further inspection.”</i> This was despite intensive support from the central education team. And to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to review where opportunities were missed to identify the lack of progress, whether changes needed to be made to processes, procedures or the quality improvement framework and to report this back to Committee as part of the reset of the Quality Improvement Framework in July 2025; and</p> <p>(vii) to note that <i>“Young people are achieving at lower levels at Harlaw Academy across almost all national measures compared to learners with similar needs and backgrounds across Scotland”</i> and that the action plan identified reducing the number of presentations for young people at S4 from 8 to 6 courses to improve attainment and bring in line with</p>	Education & Lifelong Learning / Governance	S Milne / S Dunsmuir (for planner)

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		national guidance. In light of this, to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to issue a service update on the curriculum structure across the senior phase within secondary schools on attainment of the two year / eight course model across the city and consider whether there was a need to issue guidance to all local authority secondary schools.	Education & Lifelong Learning	S Milne
10.1	<u>Summer in the City Programme 2024 - F&C/24/318</u>	<p><u>The Committee resolved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to note the high level evaluation of the Summer in the City programme; and (ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning to report to Committee on the impact of the autumn (2024) and spring (2025) programmes through Service Update following delivery. 	Education & Lifelong Learning Governance	S Skene S Dunsmuir (to remove future reports from planner)
10.2	<u>Parental Involvement and Engagement Plan - F&C/24/315</u>	<p><u>The Committee resolved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to note the evaluation of the Council's current state; (ii) to approve the new Parental Involvement and Engagement Plan; and (iii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to report progress through the regular updates provided to Committee on progress towards delivery of the National Improvement Framework Plan. 	Education & Lifelong Learning	N Paterson

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10.3	<u>Riverbank School Excess Capacity Options - F&C/24/329</u>	<p><u>The Committee resolved:</u></p> <p>(i) to approve and welcome the proposal to relocate the Autism Outreach Service from the Ashgrove Children’s Centre building, and to establish an Early Intervention Space at the new Riverbank School building, as outlined under Option 3 Appendix 1 of the report;</p> <p>(ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning to write to the parents of Riverbank Primary to confirm the timeline for the completion of school, the decant of St Peter’s Primary to the existing school building and the plans for Autism Outreach Service; and</p> <p>(iii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to continue to monitor pupil numbers at Riverbank and the adjacent primary schools Sunnybank and St Peter’s, the use of space at the new Riverbank School building and to provide updates on any further action required in the future, through the annual School Estate Plan update reports.</p>	<p>Corporate Landlord</p> <p>Education and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Corporate Landlord</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>A Jones</p> <p>S Milne</p> <p>A Jones</p> <p>S Dunsmuir (for planner)</p>
10.4	<u>Behaviour Action Plan - F&C/24/322</u>	<p><u>The Committee resolved:</u></p> <p>(i) to note that the Executive Director – Families and Communities had advised that the required additional support for learning information for parents and carers was available on the Council website, and that she</p>	<p>Families and Communities</p>	<p>E Sheppard</p>

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		<p>would confirm that this was still the case;</p> <p>(ii) in relation to the chart on page 281 of the agenda pack (Percentage of Multiagency / Child's Plan by Associated School Group), to note that the Chief Officer – Education and Lifelong Learning had undertaken to review the data for Lochside Academy to ensure it was correct;</p> <p>(iii) to note that the Executive Director – Families and Communities would provide Ms Munro with the link to the Devolved School Management Scheme which provided details around the allocation of pupil support assistants to schools;</p> <p>(iv) to note the continued hard work undertaken by Aberdeen City schools to provide creative, learner-centred support for learners across the city;</p> <p>(v) to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to develop a proposed operating model for a cost neutral time limited Early Intervention provision, to be based at Riverbank School for up to 10 primary children, and bring a firmer proposal to Committee for approval within 2 Committee cycles;</p> <p>(vi) to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to work with Head Teachers to identify a solution that will allow Pupil Support Assistants to be released for</p>	<p>Education & Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Families and Communities</p> <p>Education & Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>Education & Lifelong Learning</p>	<p>S Milne</p> <p>E Sheppard</p> <p>E Powell</p> <p>S Dunsmuir (for planner)</p> <p>E Powell / S Milne</p>

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		(vi) professional learning; and to instruct the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to append a summary of progress against the Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Review recommendations and a summary of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Additional Support for Learning to the report being presented to Committee within two cycles.	Education & Lifelong Learning Governance	E Powell S Dunsmuir (for planner)
10.5	<u>Learning outcomes from Care Inspectorate Thematic Review - Disabled Children and Young People's experiences of Social Work Services - F&C/24/330</u>	The Committee resolved: (i) to note the Thematic Review; (ii) to approve the Action Plan (at Appendix A) developed to address findings and instruct the Chief Social Work Officer to report progress on delivering on the Key Findings in Autumn 2025; and (iii) to note that multi-agency learning from this Thematic Review would be used to inform the refresh of the Children's Services Plan.	Children's Social Work and Family Support Governance	C Davie / G Simpson S Dunsmuir (for planner)
11.1	<u>Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023/24 - F&C/24/334</u>	The Committee resolved: (i) to note that the Chief Officer – Children's Social Work and Family Support would circulate information to Members outwith the meeting on the Aberdeen Suicide Delivery Forum; (ii) to note that the Chief Officer – Children's Social Work and Family Support would circulate a service update to Members in respect of No Recourse to Public Funds and	Children's Social Work and Family Support Children's Social Work and Family Support	G Simpson G Simpson

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		<p>Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children;</p> <p>(iii) to otherwise note the contents of the annual report.</p>		
11.2	<u>Keeping the Promise - Year 3 Evaluation - F&C/24/337</u>	<p>The Committee resolved:</p> <p>(i) to note the local progress made in Year Three of Plan 21-24 as outlined in the appendix report (Appendix 1);</p> <p>(ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Children’s Social Work and Family Support to provide a report to Committee on the delivery plan for Plan 24-30 when it was published and on the proposed reporting arrangements for delivery of the plan; and</p> <p>(iii) to instruct the Chief Officer – Children’s Social Work and Family Support to provide a report to Committee updating the partnership’s Corporate Parenting Plan to take account of the delivery plan for Plan 24-30 and for this to include the voice and views of Aberdeen City’s care experienced children and young people.</p>	<p>Children’s Social Work and Family Support</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>Children’s Social Work and Family Support</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>G Simpson</p> <p>S Dunsmuir (for planner)</p> <p>G Simpson</p> <p>S Dunsmuir (for planner)</p>
11.3	<u>Aberdeen City’s Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2023-24 - F&C/24/312</u>	<p>The Committee resolved:</p> <p>(i) to request that officers ensure there was less use of acronyms in next year’s report;</p> <p>(ii) to note the content of the Child Protection Committee’s Annual Report 2023-24, including the conclusion of</p>	<p>Children’s Social Work and Family Support</p>	<p>A Anderson</p>

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		<p>the Child Protection Programme 2021-2024; and</p> <p>(iii) to instruct the Chief Social Work Officer to provide Committee with a further report in November 2025 detailing the continuing impact and effectiveness of partnership work in relation to child protection.</p>	<p>Children’s Social Work and Family Support</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>A Anderson</p> <p>S Dunsmuir (for planner)</p>
11.4	<p><u>Children's Social Work: Workforce Development Plan (2024-2030) - F&C/24/331</u></p>	<p><u>The Committee resolved:</u></p> <p>(i) to note that officers would build a ‘how we will do it’ column into the workforce plan;</p> <p>(ii) to note that the potential impacts of the national social work agency were currently unclear but that the Chief Officer – Children’s Social Work and Family Support would bring detail to Committee on this once clarity was available;</p> <p>(iii) to note that the workforce plan available in Appendix A aligned with the vision, values and goals of the Children’s Social Work service, and was in line with the Children’s Services Plan 2023-2026;</p> <p>(iv) to note the focus on employee wellbeing as a necessary component to ensure the workforce grew in confidence and competence to meet the increasingly complex needs of the most vulnerable children and their families;</p> <p>(v) to instruct the Chief Officer - Children’s Social Work and Family Support to align the service Learning</p>	<p>Children’s Social Work & Family Support</p> <p>Children’s Social Work & Family Support</p> <p>Children’s Social Work & Family Support</p>	<p>A McAlpine</p> <p>G Simpson</p> <p>A McAlpine / G Simpson</p>

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		<p>and Development programme to the workforce plan; and</p> <p>(vi) to instruct the Chief Officer - Children's Social Work and Family Support to present an evaluation of progress against the workforce plan to Committee in 2027.</p>	<p>Children's Social Work & Family Support</p> <p>Governance</p>	<p>A McAlpine / G Simpson</p> <p>S Dunsmuir (for planner)</p>

If you require any further information about this decision sheet, please contact Steph Dunsmuir, sdunsmuir@aberdeencity.gov.uk