

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2001 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Tommy Farrell, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Lilian MacLean, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Julie Faulds, Elaine Dinwoodie; Church Representatives, John Paterson and Matthew Sullivan; Teacher Representative, Iain Harvey and Parent Representative, Alasdair MacQueen.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Allan McDougall, Head of Resource Support; Graham Short, Head of Schools; Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work; Euan Couperwhite, Finance Officer (Educational and Social Services); Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Kenneth Hathaway, Client Services Manager; Alex Reid, Senior Procurement Officer; Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager; Janie Allen, Principal Officer, Pre-Fives; Kenneth MacKinlay, Principal Quality Development Officer; Anne Jackson, Principal Community Education Officer; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer and Marilyn Miller, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Brian McNeil, Willie Coffey, Finlay MacLean, Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillor Eric Ross.

CHAIR: Councillor Tommy Farrell, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS**(i) Parents' Open Day**

The Chair congratulated all who had taken part in the Parents' Open Day in the Grand Hall on 15 September 2001. The event had been an outstanding success and a tribute to the excellent work taking place in our educational establishments.

(ii) Ministerial Visit - Patna Primary School

The Chair was delighted to attend the Minister's quick visit to Patna Primary School on 17 September 2001 to congratulate the Head Teacher, staff and pupils on their outstanding Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI).

(iii) New Opportunities Fund

It was noted that the Council had received over £170,000 from the New Opportunities Fund recently to take forward the following initiatives:-

- Grange Academy received £43,560 for out-of-school hours learning activities;
- Doon Academy received £41,675 to develop a study support project focusing on writing skills; and
- the Educational and Social Services Department received £92,235 to offer a range of arts related activities.

(iv) Annanhill Primary School

The Chair congratulated Annanhill Primary School who had successfully secured a grant for year 2 of the Comenius Project - based on successful completion of year 1.

(v) Travelling Art Show

The Chair reported that the talent of our pre-5 children had been illustrated during the recent Travelling Art Roadshow which had taken place during August. This had enabled parents, staff, children and the communities of East Ayrshire to see examples of artwork produced in nursery establishments in their local area.

(vi) Woodstock School

The Chair congratulated Matthew Milligan a pupil at Woodstock School who had participated in the Special Olympics in Birmingham. Matthew took part in the swimming events winning two Gold medals and one Bronze medal. This had been a great achievement for a pupil at Woodstock School and the school were very proud of him.

(vii) Park School

The Chair extended congratulations to Park School who had been chosen as one of 15 schools from Scotland to showcase some of the "Inclusive ICT" work at the Scottish Education and Teaching Technology Conference in the SECC recently.

(viii) European Year of Languages

The Chair advised as part of the celebration of the European Year of Languages, that the Department of Educational and Social Services would be hosting four showings of "La vache et le President" at the end of September. An education pack to accompany the film would be provided to each school booking seats.

(ix) Hospital Education Service

It was noted that the Hospital Education Service had received £500 from the USI Computer Factory in Irvine. Staff at the factory had raised funds to go towards worthy causes and a parent of a child who had been supported by the service in Crosshouse Hospital had nominated the service.

(x) Craigie Educational Development Trust

It was noted that Stewarton Academy had received £1,000 from the Craigie Educational Development Trust to kick start a prefect induction/mentoring programme on team and character building.

(xi) Lottery Grant Sports Awards

Two local groups had received funding from the Lottery Grants Sports Awards - Stewarton Drama Group received £4,000 and Muirkirk Music Festival received £4,700.

(xii) Cumnock Academy - 75th Anniversary

The Chair congratulated Cumnock Academy on its 75th Anniversary and advised that an open night to celebrate the event had been held on Saturday evening. Over 300 people attended.

(xiii) James Hamilton Academy

It was noted that James Hamilton Academy had had a round of success recently:-

- “Wall of Hope” raised £1,156 for the Ayrshire Hospice;
- a party of 41 4th year pupils and five staff had taken part in a very successful 5-day visit to the World War 1 battlefields of France and Belgium recently.

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (TEACHERS) - MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD ON 29 MAY 2001**

1. There was submitted and approved, both as a correct record and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee (Teachers) of 29 May 2001 - Appendix 1.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT, EDUCATION
TO 29 JULY 2001 (PERIOD 4)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 10 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Education Service for the period ended 29 July 2001 (Period 4).

AWARDING OF TENDERS

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 31 August 2001 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted in respect of the Education Service.

**RAISING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT - SUMMER SCHOOLS IN EAST
AYRSHIRE**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the success of summer schools and summer activities in East Ayrshire.

LINKS WITH GEORGIA (USA) (Item 16, Page 1854)

5. There was submitted a report dated 10 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which brought the Committee up-to-date on links that had been established with Education Departments and Establishments in Georgia, USA.

It was reported and noted that a letter had been sent to education colleagues in Georgia on behalf of the Education Committee to offer their condolences following the terrorist attack in New York on 11 September 2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the strength of the links which had been established between the Educational and Social Services Department and a number of school districts in Georgia, USA;
- (ii) to note, with pleasure, the outstanding success of the recent visit of the East Ayrshire Schools Band and Choir to Georgia, USA;

- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services explore and develop links which would assist in the economic regeneration of East Ayrshire;
- (iv) to approve that a partnership agreement be established between the Department of Educational and Social Services and the Education Service in the state of Georgia, USA; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2001

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 29 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of absence rates for the Department of Educational and Social Services (former Education employees) for the quarterly period 1 January - 31 March 2001.

DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS

7. There was submitted a report dated 23 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of strategies used to communicate, consult with and involve parents in the life of our Educational Establishments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the strategies for communicating, consulting with and involving parents in the life of Educational Establishments in East Ayrshire;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services monitor the effectiveness of these strategies and report to Committee in due course; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION (Item 8, Page 1378)

8. There was submitted a report dated 24 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which updated the Committee on the progress of the Early Intervention Programme within the Department of Educational and Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services continue to monitor progress of the Early Intervention Programme and report to Committee in due course; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CHILD POVERTY PACKAGE - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE

9. There was submitted a report dated 3 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the Childcare Poverty Package which included additional resources for out-of-school care services from 2001-2004.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee outlining proposals for the utilisation of the

additional financial allocation to the Childcare Strategy Fund detailed in Section 4 of the report; and

- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCELLENCE FUND FOR SCHOOLS: ANNUAL REPORT (Item 5, Page 1716)

- 10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 24 July 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the contents of the annual report on the Excellence Fund for Schools core programmes.

ACTION PLAN: ANNUAL REPORT (Item 5, Page 1716)

- 11. There was submitted and noted a report dated 24 July 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of progress in the Education Action Plan Initiative in Shortlees and Bellfield Primary Schools and Grange Academy.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS ETC ACT 2000 - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (Item 11, Page 1243)

- 12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 July 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of a response to a consultation mounted by the Scottish Executive on the Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc Act 2000.

PROMOTING YOUNG PEOPLE AS ACTIVE CITIZENS

- 13. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for proposals which would enhance the current involvement of children and young people in decision making and active citizenship.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the proposals detailed at Section 5 of the report be approved subject to noting that any Member of the Education Committee would be eligible to participate in the proposed discussion forum for representatives of the Student Councils;
- (ii) that, as a result of the difficulties which had been experienced in the recruitment of Youth Representatives to serve on the Council's Local Committees, the Director of Educational and Social Services liaise with Secondary Schools to encourage the participation of young people in the decision-making process; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ACTION PLANS ON ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY

- 14. There was submitted a report dated 27 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the Scottish Executive Circular in relation to action plans on adult literacy and numeracy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services report to the Committee on progress regarding this matter; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**DEVELOPMENTS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND
CHILDCARE INITIATIVES (Item 5, Page 1380)**

15. There was submitted a report dated 24 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval of proposals for further developments of the Surestart Initiative, The Childcare Strategy and Childcare: The Training Challenge.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the developments set out in the report to further develop services for children and their families;
- (ii) to refer the personnel proposals detailed in the report to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**CHILDREN'S CHANGE FUND ALLOCATION FOR TACKLING DRUGS AND
ASSOCIATED DRUG REHABILITATION INITIATIVES**

16. There was submitted a report dated 4 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of proposals to develop a range of initiatives to tackle the problems of drugs misuse utilising the Children's Change Fund for Tackling Drugs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the strategy for tackling drugs and associated drug rehabilitation initiatives outlined in the report;
- (ii) to refer the personnel implications to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources committee for consideration; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXTERNAL ARTS FUNDING AWARDS (AUGUST 2001)

17. There was submitted and noted a report dated 30 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of two recent external funding awards which have supported arts developments in East Ayrshire.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS IMPROVEMENT FUND

18. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the additional financial resources for investment in school buildings received from the Scottish Executive.

“A SAFER PLACE”: REVISITED - A REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN PROPERTY RISK MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

19. There was submitted and noted a report dated 28 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which asked the Committee to note the contents of the Accounts Commission report, “A Safer Place”: Revisited, published in June 2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the impact of CCTV in improving security within schools; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

BUDGETED SCHOOL RUNNING COSTS: 2000-2001

20. There was submitted a report dated 23 April 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the information published regarding budgeted school running costs as contained in the Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin (Education Series) dated 29 March 2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide further annual reports based on school running costs to the Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES: HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

21. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which recommended a prioritised Departmental Health and Safety Action Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Departmental Health and Safety Action Plan detailed in summary in paragraph 4 of the report, as it related to services authorised by the Education Committee; and
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide a future update report on the Department’s response to the Action Plan.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE IN 2001/02

22. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 August 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the additional financial resources for schools received from the Scottish Executive.

GAELIC LANGUAGE IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

23. There was submitted a report dated 6 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a new Gaelic Language Initiative in the Primary Schools of East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve participation in phase 3 of the Gaelic Language Initiative Project in Primary Schools in East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

TOP PLAY/TOP SPORTS INITIATIVE

- 24.** There was submitted a joint report dated 11 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services and the Director of Community Services which advised of a successful funding bid to the Sports Lottery Fund to strategically develop the Top Play/Top Sports Initiative throughout East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Directors of Educational and Social Services and of Community Services provide annual progress reports relating to project performance; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 25.** The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT, ON-SITE SERVICES UNIT TO 29 JULY 2001 (PERIOD 4)

- 26.** There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 10 September 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the On-Site Services Business Unit for the period ended 29 July 2001 (Period 4).

The meeting terminated at 1138 hours.

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