

MINUTE
of
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting, held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on Thursday 6 February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Kate Campbell	Ms Fiona Gilchrist
Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)	Mr Des Morris
Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)	Ms Evelyn Yedd
Councillor Colm Merrick	

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Kathleen McGuire, (Quality Improvement Manager); Joe McCaig, Head of Education Services (Provision); Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager (Leading Change); Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager (Developing People); and Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Maria Kane, Head Teacher, St. Thomas' Primary School; David Gordon, Quality Improvement Officer; Sharon Hunter, Head Teacher, Mearns Primary and Christine Downie, Head Teacher, St Luke's High School.

Apologies:

Councillor Tony Buchanan, Councillor Danny Devlin and Ms Dorothy Graham.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1088 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

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PRESENTATION TO FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CLEANING SERVICE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR BEST PERFORMER UK APSE AWARD

1089 Councillor Anderson gave a presentation to facilities management cleaning service in recognition of their best performer UK APSE award. This was a great success for the team and it was acknowledged that it's not the first time they have won the award.

Members commended the work of the facilities management cleaning service in producing such excellent results.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON ST THOMAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

1090 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education informing members of the report produced by Education Scotland following its inspection of St. Thomas' Primary School and Nursery Class. A copy of the inspection report accompanied the report.

The inspection had been carried out by Education Scotland in September 2024. It had covered key aspects of the work of the school and had identified particular strengths and areas for improvement using the full model of the Education Scotland six-point scale and self-evaluation framework.

In assessing the indicators of quality in the school, Education Scotland found 2 aspects of the work to be very good: leadership of change and ensuring wellbeing, equality, and inclusion; and 2 areas to be good: learning, teaching and assessment and raising attainment and achievement.

The inspection team also identified 2 areas for improvement.

It was highlighted that the new head teacher has brought stability and cohesion to St Thomas' Primary School through her effective leadership within a short timeframe.

Members all congratulated the head teacher on the report especially in such a short space of time. A question was asked on the Monday motivation, Wednesday focus and Friday focus to which the head teacher responded that the school worked with the children to develop this and sought their views so the children decided what their focus is.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the content of the Education Scotland report on St. Thomas' Primary School; and
- (b) to approve the action plan to address the agreed areas for improvement.

SPOTLIGHT ON DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE

1091 Councillor Anderson invited the Director of Education to give an introduction on developing the young workforce, this encompassed skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The Director of Education explained that there had been a number of Spotlights that had come before Education Committee and that these were a deeper dive into work that was taking place in Education.

Members were given the opportunity to speak with the children and young people from both Mearns Primary School and St Luke's High School in the Members lounge before the Committee began who showcased and discussed how their curriculum had enabled them to develop and articulate a wide range of skills for learning, life and work.

The Quality Improvement Officer then gave a presentation on developing the young workforce alongside the Head Teacher's from Mearns Primary and St Luke's High Schools. They explained how they had worked with their children, young people and communities to design the curriculum; this included considering research and learning from best practice nationally and internationally. Both schools had provided extensive professional learning for staff. It was emphasised by both schools how important Metaskills, in key areas such as self-management and innovation were for preparing children for the future world, this gave them the tools that they require to thrive and shape the future as well as encouraging them to learn and reflect.

Members commended the work of pupils, teachers and staff in producing such excellent results.

DRAFT STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2023 – 2024

1092 The Committee considered the report on Draft Standards and Quality Report for the school session 2023–24. The report detailed how the schools and services had sought and achieved improvements in provision. The Standards and Quality report had been aligned under four main drivers – Empowerment and Leadership, Social Justice and Wellbeing, Pedagogy and Learning and Attainment.

The Local Improvement Plan, upon which this report was based, was approved by Education Committee in February 2023 and reflected the National Priorities for education, the Council's Community Plan and the department's contributions to the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan 2021 – 2024. The plan listed the expected outcomes and impact associated with the delivery of the department's vision 'Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving, through Excellent Experiences'.

The Standards and Quality Report highlighted very good and excellent standards and practice achieved by the department, its schools and services and was offered as a public record of some of the activities which were undertaken during the previous school session and their impact on stakeholders.

The report set out details on how evidence was gathered to inform the report via a range of reports, questionnaires, performance data and consultation activity. The Education Department planned to make the report available electronically to all parents of children attending an East Renfrewshire school or Early Learning and Childcare setting. A limited number of copies would also be distributed to libraries, education, sports and cultural centres as well as other Council buildings.

The question was raised about an executive summary being produced that would be issued to parents as the view was expressed that it was quite a large report for parents to read through

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as it was over 30 pages long. The Director of Education agreed to make this available along with the full report.

Discussion took place over some of the wording in the document under the Development Milestones section. The Director of Education confirmed that the decrease in the percentage of pupils achieving the milestones, particularly in Quintile 3, would be kept under review.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed to get the Director of Education to make any amendments and produce then issue copies of the report for parents.

DRAFT LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2025 – 2028

1093 The Committee considered the report on Draft Local Improvement Plan 2025 – 2028. The report took into account of 'A Place to Grow' East Renfrewshire Community Planning partnership's new vision, the department's Strategic Equity Plan and the National Improvement Framework (NIF) priorities had also been incorporated into the plan.

This gave an indication of the department's key areas for improvement over the next three years and is updated annually due to changing priorities. The report had been aligned under four main drivers – Empowerment and Leadership, Social Justice and Wellbeing, Pedagogy and Learning and Attainment.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed to approve the Local Improvement Plan 2025 – 2028 with an inclusion of the word percent on page 9.

CHAIR