

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Education, Children and Families Policy Committee

Meeting held 8 March 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Dawn Dale (Co-Chair), Brian Holmshaw (Deputy Chair), Colin Ross (Group Spokesperson), Peter Garbutt, Mary Lea and Ann Whitaker

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mick Rooney.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 2.1 No items were identified where resolution was sought from the press and public.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declarations of interest were received.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 The minutes from the meeting held on 15 February 2023 are an accurate record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

- 5.1 No petitions had been received and none were asked at the meeting.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

- 6.1 The Committee received the Committee Work Programme for discussion and approval. The aim of the Work Programme is to set out substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of this Committee, other committees, officers and staff to work with and for the Committee. Changes to the Work Programme, including any new items, had been discussed at the meeting. The Deputy Chair and Group Spokesperson highlighted that the Committee had agreed to include items on agendas from March 2023.
- 6.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Work Programme set out in Appendix 1, be agreed, in relation to the items identified in Part 1, and with the approval of the Register pertaining to Education, Children and Families, the work programme for submission to the Council for approval.

Committee.

7. SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024/25

7.1 John Bigley was in attendance to present a report which sought to secure agreement of the school calendar for the 2024/25 academic year for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee approve: -

- The School calendar for the 2024/25 academic year.

7.3 Reasons for Decision

7.3.1 It is recommended that **Appendix A** be approved as the model school calendar for the 2024/25 academic year. The calendar applies to all Community schools, Voluntary Controlled Schools, Community Special Schools and maintained nursery schools. Voluntary Aided Schools, Trusts and Academies that are their own Admission Authority are recommended to adopt the model calendar to promote consistency across the City.

7.3.2 It is likely that Church Aided Schools will have their Easter Break around the religious festival. This has always been the case and Aided Schools will continue to set their own dates at Easter.

7.3.3 There was overwhelming support for fixing the Easter break at the beginning of April when the proposal was first consulted upon for the 2017/18 school calendar. It is accepted that there are many different views and opinions on the school calendar. The purpose of the consultation was to invite opinion and comment from all stakeholders. There have not been many responses to the proposed calendar, nor has there been any strong opposition to the proposed calendar for 2024/25 which indicates that the support expressed under last year's consultation continues.

7.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

7.4.1 In response to the overwhelming support for fixing the Easter Break during the 2017/18 consultation process the Authority has only consulted on this single model for 2024/25.

8. FUTURE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND THE LEARN SHEFFIELD COMMISSION

- 8.1 Officers requested a deferral of this item to be discussed at this meeting. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee meeting.

9. SHEFFIELD'S MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING STRATEGY

- 9.1 Tim Gollins and Louisa King outlined the current position.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:

- Endorse the All-Age Mental Health Strategy and note that approval was given by the Education Resources Committee in April 2022.
- Request that an accompanying report be produced in six months' time, along with a timeline for implementation.

- 9.2 Councillor Dale asked that the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee be involved in the delivery of the strategy and include members of the Committee.

10. CONVERSION PRACTICE - POSITION STATEMENT

- 10.1 Tim Gollins provided an introduction and overview of the report's contents, including the findings on Conversion Practice.

- 10.2 Councillor Garbutt asked that the Coroner's report be included in the Position Statement. Sarah E. had been created by the Adult Health and Social Care Commission and could therefore not be changed by the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee.

- 10.3 Councillor Garbutt declined to endorse the Position Statement and stated that the Position Statement had already been approved through the Safeguarding Committee and the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee Position Statement.