

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 Councillor Gail Smith and Councillor Mick Rooney.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude 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 the 31st January 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

- 5.1 No petitions had been received and no questions from members of the public were asked at the meeting.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

- 6.1 The Committee received the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme is to show all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this Committee, other committees, officers, partners and the public to plan their work with and for the Committee. Changes since the Committee's last meeting, including any new items, had been made in consultation with the Co-Chairs, Deputy Chair and Group Spokesperson, via their regular pre-meetings, and these were set out at the beginning of Appendix A of the report. It was highlighted that the Committee had begun to consider items which would be included on agendas from March 2023 onwards.

- 6.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1, be agreed, including the additions and amendments identified in Part 1, and with the addition of a report on the Opportunities Register pertaining to Education, Children and Families services being added to the work programme for submission at the next or subsequent meetings of the

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 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.

9. SHEFFIELD'S MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING STRATEGY

9.1 Tim Gollins and Louisa King outlined the report.

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

- Endorse the All-Age Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy and note that approval will be sought through the Strategy and Resources Committee in April 2023
- Request that an accompanying delivery plan is brought to the Committee in six months' time, along with an update of progress made

9.2 Councillor Dale asked that the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee be involved in the delivery plan. It was agreed that workshops would include members of the Committee.

10. CONVERSION PRACTICE - POSITION STATEMENT

10.1 Tim Gollins provided an introduction to the paper. Jeanette Munday gave an overview of the report's contents, which provided a position statement on Conversion Practice.

10.2 Councillor Garbutt asked that the Committee remove the term 'gender affirming' from the Position Statement. Sarah Bennett stated that the Position Statement had been created by the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee, and could therefore not be changed by the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee.

10.3 Councillor Garbutt declined to endorse the Position Statement. Andrew Jones stated that the Position Statement had previously been endorsed by the Council through the Safeguarding Committee. All other Members agreed to endorse the Position Statement.

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