

PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE AS AT 18 MARCH, 2021

	Item Title	Date of Meeting	Action Agreed	Responsible Officer	Progress to Date
1.	DEVOLVING BUDGETS IN AN EMPOWERED SCHOOL SYSTEM.	29 08 19	Noted that a further report providing an update on key workstreams would be submitted to the Committee at an appropriate time.	Anne Marie Davies MacLeod	<p>As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, progress has been limited in relation to updating the DSM scheme and changes have had to be made to the roll-out of the cluster pilots.</p> <p>It is the intention of the Service, in line with revised national expectations, to have the updated DSM scheme in place for financial year 2022/23 and, as a consequence, an update report will be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 27 May 2021 with a final report and the revised scheme to follow thereafter.</p>
2.	LONGHAVEN SCHOOL.	29 08 19	Agreed to receive a further report in due course.	Rachael Goldring	<p>The first in a series of engagement sessions with the community took place on 9 October, 2019. Officers were looking to stage the next engagement session in May, 2020 but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this will require to be revisited. There continue to be challenges around holding face to face meetings. Parents were able to apply for Longhaven School during the P1 admission period in January but selected other schools within the cluster.</p>

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3.	PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018-2021 – “LEARNING TOGETHER IN ABERDEENSHIRE”.	10 10 19	Instructed the PESHA team and CLD to present a six month implementation report to the Committee by April, 2020.	Philip Boath	<p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication toolkit including key principles of parental involvement in development to support school senior leaders in communicating effectively with parents. • Learning at Home and School (focus on parental engagement and learning at home) pilot targeting the New Scots Community has been delivered. • In partnership with Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Officer six information and discussion sessions took place in November to look at how Covid-19 has impacted on local communities. • Addressing Concerns and Complaints – Education Service specific guidance and face to face and online training created to support senior school leaders in dealing with concerns and complaints using case studies as tools for learning. • Headteacher induction/probationer sessions delivered to support and develop understanding of Parental Involvement and engagement with Parent Councils • CLPL sessions highlighting case studies of good practice in schools who are developing their Parental Involvement. • The Director of Education and Head of Education have held regular meetings with Parent Council chairs during Covid-19 to keep them informed on key developments
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					<p>Areas of Work – Now to May 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Learning Strategy, in the process of drafting a strategy for Aberdeenshire (RIC and PESHHA)• Cost of the School Day awareness sessions to be offered for schools and parent councils to develop a poverty proof action plan for their school or cluster.• Parental engagement factsheets on the Council website to be reviewed, amended and added to as required.• Offer CLPL EAL and Learning at Home and School.• Parental Involvement in Assessment & Planning Processes – CLPL will be offered to support schools in engaging with parents in School Improvement Planning process. A survey will be going out to schools in April to identify training needs in relation to parental engagement and family learning. A similar survey will be issued to Parent Councils in April 2021.• Investigating accreditation opportunities for parents and carers and their children (Volunteering, Hi5 and children's university). This activity will enable us to submit a report at the May 2021 Committee.
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4.	LEARNING ESTATES UPDATE.	19 03 20	Instructed officers to submit further update reports on progress with the Learning Estate to the Committee meeting in March, 2021.	Maxine Booth	The report is on the agenda for this meeting.
5.	SCHOOL CATERING UPDATE.	27 08 20	Agreed that a visit would be arranged to a secondary school to enable members of the Committee to sample a school lunch, whenever pandemic conditions might permit.	Ian Paterson/ Liz Powell	A visit to both a primary and a secondary school to sample a school lunch will be arranged for councillors as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow.

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6.	LITERACIES STRATEGY UPDATE.	27 08 20	Instructed officers to submit a further progress report, containing a first draft of the Literacies Strategy, to a meeting of the Committee in 2021.	Philip Boath	<p>The emphasis of the Strategy is currently being reviewed in light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Progress to date:</p> <p>Meeting with Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer and Gypsy Traveller Teacher held in February 2021 – exploring impact of Covid-19 on the community. Issues continue to be similar to pre pandemic but with an increased focus on digital literacies.</p> <p>Meeting held with NHS Education for Scotland to discuss health equalities and health literacies during the pandemic - September 2021.</p> <p>Local Learning Community Partnerships (LLCP) have been providing feedback through CLD facilitated sessions. CLD, Primary & Secondary Education, Employment Support, NHS and the Third Sector views and knowledge are represented. It was envisaged that this would be complete by end of December 2020 but due to differing LLCP meeting timetables and local priorities this is still on going. Expected completion April 2021. Initial feedback indicates an increased focus on health, emotional and digital literacies.</p> <p>Scottish Government Adult Learning Strategy Consultation - February 2020.</p> <p>Feedback in relation to Aberdeenshire Literacies still to be analysed.</p>
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					<p>Areas of work March-May 2021</p> <p>Engagement with young people through local youth voice forums will take place in March, April and May 2021. Views will be sought on the impact of Covid-19 on literacies and what has changed for young people with regards to literacies support.</p> <p>Contact to be made with Young Peoples Organising and Campaigning Group (YPOC) to establish a link and exploring the impact of Covid-19 on literacies for young people who are or have been looked after away from home.</p> <p>Analysis of available data for inclusion in the Literacies Strategy' Scottish Government Adult Learning Consultation (Aberdeenshire Feedback), National Improvement Framework, Northern Alliance Emerging Literacies, SDS/Scottish Government School Leavers Destination Information, UNESCO Youth & Adult Literacy in the time of Covid-19 etc.</p> <p>A report to be submitted to ECS Committee in May 2021 with the first draft of the Literacies Strategy being presented later in the year.</p>
7.	ABERDEENSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020-2023 INCLUDING ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20.	03 12 20	Requested that a report be brought back on trauma informed communities in due course.	Leigh Jolly	A briefing will be prepared and circulated to Councillors and will be followed up with a workshop in the Spring.

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8.	MERGER OF DALES PARK AND MEETHILL SCHOOLS.	03 12 20	Noted that Transportation Officers would undertake a further assessment of Meethill Road; Feedback to be provided to Local Members.	Maxine Booth/ Rachael Goldring	The consultation is ongoing and feedback on the transport assessment will be part of the final report brought to committees in due course.
9.	EQALITIES PRESENTATION.	28 01 21	Requested Officers to organise a workshop on Equalities (legislation, impact assessing etc).	Fiona McCallum & Lynne Gravener	Following discussions with the Director of ECS, it has been agreed that the workshop scheduled for 26 March with the Northern Alliance - Barriers to Learning that Poverty Creates – will be a useful forum for Members to give some context to equalities legislation and impact assessing. The Business Strategy Manager will liaise with Northern Alliance prior to the workshop.
10.	NORTHERN ALLIANCE REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE – PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT.	28 01 21	Requested Officers to organise a workshop / briefing session on tackling poverty and inequalities at Aberdeenshire level (with local examples included).	Laurence Findlay	A workshop has been arranged with Councillors on 26 March 2021.
11.	GARTLY PRIMARY SCHOOL – UPDATE.	28 01 21	Officers to complete a full options appraisal, including the option to reinstate the school as well as further developed alternatives and return to the Committee in June 2021.	Maxine Booth	This work is progressing, we have had the initial meeting with the parents and are communicating with the wider community in the coming weeks through letters and public engagement.