

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.

By video conference, 19th May 2021.

Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee.

Present: Jane Morgan (Chair), Saqib Ahmed, Dr Martin Bartos, Richard Bell (substitute for Christina Cannon), Annette Christie, Feargal Dalton, Stephen Dornan, Gary Gray, Rashid Hussain, Aileen McKenzie, Jacqueline McLaren, Kenny McLean, Martin Rhodes and David Turner.

Apologies: Ade Aibinu and Christine Cannon.

Attending: M Hughes (Clerk); A Connolly, Strategic Adviser to the Chief Executive; D Black, Head of Audit and Inspection; M McKenna, Executive Director of Education Services; S Gillespie and S Sawers (for the Executive Director of Finance); and C MacKenzie (for the Head of Communication and Strategic Partnerships).

Education Services - Progress of priorities and impact of COVID-19 on service provision noted.

1 There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services regarding the performance of schools in session 2019/20 and an update on progress during 2020/21 in light of continued disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

- (1) advising that
 - (a) Education Services had written a recovery plan for schools and nurseries opening on a part-time basis from August 2020, which had to be re-written based on Government advice issued on 30th July 2020, with a dedicated web page on the Council's website having been used to keep parents and other stakeholders up-to-date;
 - (b) during the first lockdown period, a number of schools and nurseries had stayed open to provide childcare to the children of key workers but that free childcare for key workers had stopped on 7th August 2020;
 - (c) the key priority for Glasgow's education establishments was to ensure that all staff, children and young people and families remained connected with a focus on wellbeing, compassion and care as well as learning, and that schools and nurseries continued to work with families during the closures, offering support and advice, learning plans and resources for learning at home;

- (d) the Council's strategic priorities for Excellent and Inclusive Education continued to direct the work of the service and demonstrated the service's commitment to improving outcomes for all children and young people through performance in national qualifications and post-school destinations etc; and
 - (e) as a result of the pandemic the examination diet for 2020 had been cancelled and the SQA had immediately engaged with stakeholders to develop a contingency plan to enable young people to gain accreditation for their achievements, as detailed in the report;
- (2) detailing
- (a) a summary of performance in key areas; and
 - (b) statistics in relation to attendance and exclusions, which confirmed that overall exclusions were continuing to decrease; and
- (3) highlighting
- (a) other areas of performance, including the Duke of Edinburgh awards and engagement in relation to MCR Pathways, who continued to provide mentoring support to young people;
 - (b) details of positive destinations for young people, which remained strong, with 92.9% of Glasgow school leavers going to a positive destination;
 - (c) the support response for 2020/21 when schools and nurseries returned full-time in August 2020, which included additional Scottish Government funding for staffing that equated to 158 full time teachers, with funding also being provided to support the health and safety response, all as detailed in the report;
 - (d) work in relation to quality assurance as a result of remote learning; and
 - (e) the process for National Qualifications for 2021.