

## **EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EARLY YEARS CITY POLICY COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.**

By video conference, 25th October 2022.

### **Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee.**

Present: Graham Campbell (Chair), Imran Alam, Blair Anderson, Ken Andrew (substitute for Fyeza Ikhlaq), Richard Bell, Jill Brown, Elaine Gallagher, Zen Ghani, Fiona Higgins, Paul McCabe (substitute for Ruairi Kelly), Malcolm Mitchell and Catherine Vallis.

Also present: Christina Cannon and Laura Doherty.

Apologies: Fyeza Ikhlaq and Ruairi Kelly.

Attending: D Brand (Clerk); D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; and F Ross (for the Head of Communication and Strategic Partnerships).

### **Partner Commissioning Arrangements – Proposals agreed – Reference to City Administration Committee.**

1 With reference to the minutes of the City Administration Committee of 29th September 2022 (Print 3, page 350), agreeing to refer to this committee a report by the Convener for Education, Communities and Equalities regarding the proposed rate for funded providers within Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) from August 2022, for an evidence-based discussion with funded providers to be carried out, and to include private and Third Sector nurseries and childminders, in order to inform the workings behind the benchmarking of commissioning rates for funded providers within ELC from August 2022 before a decision was taken to increase the commissioning rates, there was submitted the said report by the Executive Director of Education Services, advising that

- (1) the Council had been working closely with the Scottish Government in seeking to determine a sustainable commissioning rate which would work for both funded providers and deliver best value to the Council;
- (2) the Scottish Government had undertaken a nationwide analysis to determine a sustainable commissioning rate, and that this Council had used data gathered on the Regional Collaborative as the basis for the review and calculation;
- (3) it was proposed that the commissioning rate of £5.79 per hour for each funded child aged 3-5 years and £6.86 for each funded child aged 2-3 years would be payable from August 2022 for a 1-year period, and would be subject to future years' review, and that the uplift cost of the increase in the commissioning rate for 2022/23 would be met from the ELC Revenue Budget; and

- (4) in addition to the rate per hour all funded children were also entitled to a free school meal each day as part of their statutory entitlement, which was presently charged at £3 per child per half day session, and would contribute both to the affordability of services for families and ensure that more vulnerable children received the benefit of high quality food on a daily basis.

After consideration and having heard representation from Jonathan Broadbery, National Day Nurseries Association, Jane Brumpton, Early Years Scotland, and Graeme McAlister, Scottish Childminding Association outlining the anticipated issues their service would encounter should the proposed increases to the commissioning rates for 2 and 3 year olds be agreed, especially in relation to the future payment of the Real Living Wage to their employees, the committee

- (a) noted the evidence raised by the service providers should the proposed increase to the commissioning rates be agreed; and
- (b) agreed
- (i) that the report be referred back to the City Administration Committee for decision and to include the evidence raised by the service providers in order to inform its decision; and
- (ii) that a discussion takes place prior to reference back to the City Administration Committee between relevant officers in Education Services, the Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee, the Convener for Education, Communities and Equalities, the Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and Convener for Financial Inclusion and Opposition spokespersons regarding the issues raised by the service providers and the financial implications to the Council.