

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **JOINT CABINET AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CABINET**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

#### **PRESENT:**

**REPRESENTING EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL:** Councillors Jim McMahon, Elaine Cowan, Iain Linton, Graham Barton, Neal Ingram, Clare Maitland and Drew Filson; and Religious Representatives: Dr David Lewis and Babs Mowat and Substitute Religious Representative: Clare McKellar; and Parent Representative: Jacqueline Livingston.

**REPRESENTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CABINET:** Sarah McCreadie, Kai MacLeod-Rye, David McGilp, Caleb Lincoln, Nya Mohammed, Owen Given, Dillan Young, Barry Dunn, Logan McLurkin, Tammy Whyte, Emma Simpson, Lucy Gemmell Owen, Luke Hyslop, Ruiradh McMeekin, Ada Dummigan, Aimee Sharp, Abi Affleck, Jessica McNicol, Alexander Gass, Megan Davis, Gordon Russell, Luke Hyslop, Sophie Hamilton and Morgan McPherson.

**ATTENDING:** Eddie Fraser, Chief Executive; Richard Grieveson, Depute Chief Executive; Craig McArthur, Director of Health & Social Care Partnership; Linda McAulay-Griffiths, Head of Education and Chief Education Officer; Joe McLachlan, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Finance and ICT; Marion MacAulay, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services; Blair Millar, Head of Housing and Communities; Suzanne Clark, Service Manager: Vibrant Communities; Kerry Dair, Team Coordinator; Donna Kirkwood-Emery, Education: Digital and Communications Officer; Heather McCormick, Team Coordinator; Barbara Rae, Road Safety Officer; Nicola Stewart, Principal Educational Psychologist; Adam Strain, Team Leader; Kevin Wells, Strategic Lead, Community; Aileen Anderson, Democratic Services Officer; and Christine Baillie, Democratic Services Team Leader.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Douglas Reid, John McFadzean, Maureen McKay and Barry Douglas; and Teacher Representative Norman Watt

**CHAIRS:** Sarah McCready, Children and Young People's Cabinet and Councillor McMahon, East Ayrshire Council.

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Councillor McMahon welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Sarah McCready would be the principal Chair for the meeting with support where appropriate. Sarah then again welcomed everyone to the meeting advising that the young people were delighted to be in attendance and had been looking forward to the discussions around the topics on the agenda.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

2. The 3 newly appointed members of the Scottish Youth Parliament were then introduced, namely:-  
David McGilp representing Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; and

Lucy MacKinnon and Morgan McPherson representing Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley  
The main priorities for the two year term were Education, the Environment and Poverty and Income Inequality.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

3. At this point it was agreed to alter the order of business to that shown below.

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS - YOUTH LED - UPDATE**

4. It was noted that the Children and Young People's Cabinet had been awarded £5,000 through Participatory Budgeting to host a Colour Run event which would take place in the Howard Park, Kilmarnock on 10 April 2024. The event would showcase local talent with food and drinks being provided.

#### **FUTURE CAMPAIGN CHOICES**

##### **5. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

The Children and Young People's Cabinet acknowledged that the Council had already made good progress in tackling mental health and wellbeing, such as the introduction of school counsellors, which had been utilised by many young people across the authority.

They also recognised however, that this style of counselling did not work for everyone and wondered what else could be done to support young people.

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- To note the additional, more informal resources available to young people i.e. wellbeing supports for U-10's; school focus groups; pastoral supports; and Wellbeing Champions/Mentors.
- To acknowledge that some young people would prefer to access support online rather than face-to face and this type of support was available both through school counselling services and through Kooth, which was an online counselling and emotional wellbeing service for young people up to the age of 26. It was further agreed that all young people need to be made aware of these supports and how to access them.
- To note the work being done to champion health and wellbeing in the community through the Active Schools Co-ordinators.
- To note the remodelling proposals currently being discussed in respect of Foundation Apprenticeships.
- To consider expanding the use of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations such as charities, for work experience and volunteering opportunities.

#### **RE-DESIGN OF YOUTH CABINET - RENEWAL OF MEMBERS**

6. Heather McCormick, Team Coordinator and lead support for the Children and Young People's Cabinet, outlined the re-design of the Youth Cabinet as follows:-
- The young people would be happy to make a presentation to the Council's Management Team on Children's Rights and the Youth Voice.

- The Governance documents had been updated and a handbook for new members had been developed, a copy of which had been circulated at the meeting.
- The Constitution had been updated which no longer aligned young people to the Council's elected member portfolios, given that some sub groups and focus groups covered more than one portfolio. The young people would continue to liaise with elected members where appropriate.
- A successful recruitment campaign had been carried out and expanded to include LGBT organisations and uniformed organisations. Presentations had also been made to SL33 and SL66 to raise awareness of the role of the Children and Young People's Cabinet.
- Departments were requested to utilise the online request form for consultation responses.

## **FUTURE CAMPAIGN CHOICES**

### **7.1 ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS**

The Council had proposed walking routes for those who previously received subsidised bus fares and asked if this could be expanded promoting community safety and reducing carbon emissions in support of the Council's Net Zero ambitions.

It was further suggested that additional support should be considered for those young people transitioning from P7 into S1 and for those transitioning out of school.

Following discussion it was agreed:

- To note that a pilot exercise was taking place between 27 May and 14 June during which non-statutory school transport would be withdrawn, encouraging young people to utilise active travel routes, public bus services and the proposed pilot bus service.
- That discussions would take place with young people and ARA around the possibility of deploying School Crossing Patrollers to more effective areas.
- To work with Junior Road Safety Officers to update School Travel Plans and consider the introduction of Junior Road Safety Officers into secondary schools.
- To include parents/carers and Parent Councils in the discussions around the development of active travel routes.
- To note the expansion of the School Streets programme, taking the total number of schools involved to 6.
- To note Transport Scotland's plans to drop the speed limit on most of Scotland's urban roads to 20mph by 2025
- To note that Road Safety Scotland had a wealth of education resources online at [www.roadsafety.scot](http://www.roadsafety.scot)
- To note the projects available to schools to assist with P7 – S1 transition and general road safety e.g. School Transport Safety Film focussing on seatbelt wearing, behaviour on school transport, crossing safety etc.; Bikeability Scotland cycle training; Journey to Jupiter; Trailblazers – which involves 5/10 minute from school signs on lampposts and stickers with QR codes along the route; and the

Developing New Driver Initiative in partnership with North Ayrshire Council Road Safety, Police Scotland Road Policing and Scottish Fire and Rescue.

### **5.3 SKILLS FOR LIFE SESSIONS/PEER LED**

The Children and Young People's Cabinet would like to develop and deliver workshops to support young people with life skills.

Following discussion it was agreed:

- To acknowledge that Skills for Life was important but could not be included within the current curriculum.
- To note the current Skills for Life supports available through Home Economics and Barclays LifeSkills (acknowledging that this aspect needs to be reinvigorated)
- To note that Vibrant Communities were looking to develop, in consultation with young people, a community based programme on developing Life Skills.
- That Vibrant Communities consider a Skills for Life session for senior pupils at the end of study leave.
- To note that advice on moving onto college/university was available through Guidance Teachers and Financial Inclusion Advisors located within schools and through UCAS

### **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

- 6.1** Councillor Cowan reiterated that, despite the Cabinet portfolios not now aligning, elected members would still be happy to meet young people to discuss issues/concerns.
- 6.2** To note that, in terms of First Aid Training, St John's Ambulance Service provided Defibrillator and Life Saving Skills in all secondary schools
- 6.3** To note that through the Youth Action Team Roadshow, Fire and Water Safety Training was provided to all 1<sup>st</sup> year pupils.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

- 7.** Sarah McCready thanked all attendees for their engagement and participation. Councillor McMahon echoed Sarah's comments and thanked Sarah for her excellent chairing skills.

The meeting terminated at 1205 hours.