



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 2 OCTOBER 2024

COMMITTEE DECISION REPORT

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

At its meeting on 24 September 2024, the Education, Sport and Children's Services considered the business referred to below. The Committee has approved the recommendations detailed for approval by the Comhairle. Where the Committee has exercised delegated powers or used the conditional delegation provisions for any item, this is stated.

Items marked with an asterisk* were considered with the press and public excluded from the Meeting.

<i>Item Title</i>	<i>Agenda Number</i>	<i>Committee's Decision</i>
Minute of Meeting of 18 June 2024	1	The Minute of the Meeting of 18 June 2024 was approved.
Declaration of Interest	2	Mr Kenneth M Macleod declared an interest in item 8 as a community representative on the Community Learning and Development Steering Group.
Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2022-23	3	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the continuation of improvement activity in relation to the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators set out in the Report.
Residential Placements for Children and Young People	4 *	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle note the financial position for specialist residential provision for 2024/25.
Review of Residential Care Provision	5 *	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle: (1) Note the Report: and (2) agree to the establishment of a Children's Services Member Officer Working Group with a remit to include the appraisal of options for, and implications of, developing an on-island complex care residential facility.
Foster Care Fee Rates	6	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agree that: (1) given the length of time without any increase to the fee, increase the fostering fee rate by 10%; (2) the rate of fee paid would be reviewed every 2 years; (3) the retention fee would not apply to foster carers offering short breaks/respite and for continuing care where the young person resides in the placement intermittently; and (4) Level 3 carers, should they wish to continue to receive the fee beyond the 6-week retention period, to provide on average 22 hours per week to supporting Children's Services.
Child Protection National Minimum Dataset	7	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note: (1) that the number of child protection activities in the past two quarters shows a general cycle of the data increasing by 50% quarter by quarter;

			<p>(2) the number of children on the Child Protection Register is at its highest level for past 7 quarters;</p> <p>(3) the strong performance in terms of meeting the timescales for Child Protection meetings; and</p> <p>(4) the significant increase in both offence and non-offence referrals to the Children's Reporter.</p>
Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2024-27	8		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle approve the Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2024-27 and agree to its implementation.
Young Partnership Performance Update	9	Scot –	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.
Volunteer Western Funding	10	Centre Isles	<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <p>(1) extend the Service Level Agreement between Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar and Volunteer Centre Western Isles to 31 March 2025;</p> <p>(2) approve the payment of grant to Volunteer Centre Western Isles of £22,000 for 2024/25; and</p> <p>(3) authorise the Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services to promote and publicise the opportunities for volunteering.</p>
e-Sgoil Impact 2023-24	11	Annual Report	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.
Reports by Care Inspectorate of Early Learning and Childcare Provision	12		<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle</p> <p>(1) note the Report and continue to support Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings to implement continuous improvement in keeping with the Quality Frameworks; and</p> <p>(2) make representations to the Scottish Government in relation the structure of inspections.</p>
Report by HM Inspectors of Education: Sgoil Bhaile A' Mhanaich June 2024	13		<p>It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle:</p> <p>(1) note the findings of the Inspection Report, including key strengths and areas for development;</p> <p>(2) supports Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich agus Sgoil Àraich to develop and implement an effective action plan which will address the areas for improvement within the HMI report; and</p> <p>(3) agree to arrange a Seminar on broad change and innovation in Education, including Scottish Government proposals for education reform.</p>
Northern Alliance Learning, Teaching and Assessment Project	14		It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report and continue to support the work of the Quality Improvement Officer to reduce variation and raise standards in learning, teaching, and assessment in Western Isles schools.

Attainment: Broad General Education and SQA National Qualifications 2024	15	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.
Collaborative Review of Additional Support Needs Education Barra and Vatersay Community Campus	16	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report, recognise the findings of the review and support the improvement priorities it identifies.
	17	It was agreed to recommend, insofar as the interests of the Committee were concerned, that the Comhairle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) note the Report: and (2) agrees the revised project governance arrangements as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report with both Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh Elected Members appointed as members of the Project Board.
LNCT Minute of Meeting of 27 August 2024	18	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Minute.
Reports Outstanding	19	It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle note the Report.