

Department of Education, Sport & Culture Education Council Meeting Minutes

Date	26 th June 2019	Time	10.00am	Location	Conference Room, Hamilton House
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Attendees	
Mrs Ann Corlett, MHK	Department Member
Professor Ronald Barr	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Robin Turton	Education Council Member
Mr Ray Smith	Education Council Member
Mr Steven Bevan	Education Council Member
Mr Alex Downie	Education Council Member
Mrs Margaret Mansfield	Education Council Member
Mrs Diane Brown	Education Council Member
Mrs Malgorzata Simpson	Education Council Member
Mrs Louise Strickett	Education Council Member
Mr Andrew Shipley	Legal and Administration Manager
Apologies	
Mr Graham Cregeen, MHK	Minister for Education, Sport and Culture
Mrs Marlene Maska, MLC	Department Member
Mrs Barbara Brereton	Education Council Member
Mr Steven Bevan	Education Council Member

AGENDA ITEMS

1	<p>Apologies for Absence Mr Graham Cregeen, MHK, Minister for Education Sport and Culture; Mrs Marlene Maska, MLC, Department Member; Mrs Barbara Brereton and Mr Steven Bevan, Education Council Members offered their apologies for the Education Council Meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 27th March 2019 Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2019 were agreed after minor amendments as an accurate record.</p>	
3	<p>MATTERS ARISING – From minutes dated 27th March 2019</p> <p>a) Behaviour Review The Chief Executive Officer provided an update. The Department has commissioned work by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. It is anticipated this will be completed by November 2019.</p> <p>In addition the Department is working with the University of Southern California, who are researching strategies to target challenging behaviour patterns that involve music and drama. Following attendance at an Education Summit in Edinburgh, the Department is looking at the practices implemented at the Education Support Centre to consider changes to enable support of a wider range of pupils.</p> <p>Concerns were raised by Education Council members about the education provision for children who have been suspended / excluded from school, particularly High School</p>	

students. It was felt that Social Services should have a larger presence in supporting children and their families in this situation. The recruitment and retention of social workers was discussed. It was acknowledged there appears to be an impact upon children in this situation due to the continuity of support available from Social Care.

Discussion took place regarding provision in other jurisdictions and if there are any lessons the Department can learn. The Chief Executive Officer confirmed the Department has contacted unions and associations and has received no response. DESC is to seek to contact local authorities and the Chief Executive Officer and Department Member will raise Education Council members concerns at the next Department meeting. It was proposed that when children are suspended for extended periods, an automatic response could be an allocation of a social worker. However, it was acknowledged social services do not have the resources and families do not always want support due to the perceived stigma.

It was agreed by attendees that this is an ongoing issue that will require Departments to work together to meet the needs of the child. It was also acknowledged that there is pressure on schools to provide provision while the child is suspended. The Legal and Administration Manager commented that a number of the schools use the community farm, MSPCA, work experience placements amongst other strategies and Level 1 meetings take place with the Police; the Youth Service are generally involved as well. The possibility of inviting the support the 3rd Sector in these instances, for example local initiatives, voluntary activities hosted by charities/small businesses potentially was considered.

4 Matters Arising – From the minutes dated 27th March 2019

Update on £500 Waiver – Education Council members shared feedback from the schools that the change to a £2000 limit has been favourably received.

Pressure on School Administrators – Concerns were raised that school administrators are under increasing pressure. The Legal and Administration Manager advised that administrators should contact the Department to raise any concerns and any queries regarding the £2000 waiver.

ParentPay – The Chief Executive Officer and the Legal and Administration Manager advised that ParentPay is successfully being incorporated into the Island's Primary Schools.

Pupil Premium Update – The Chief Executive Officer advised that the pupil premium has not been a success in England and that the DESC are looking for a more targeted approach with measurable outcomes, possibly a matrix to include clothing, breakfast club, and numeracy and literacy levels. The Chair advised that she will be attending a conference in London, alongside the Director of Education and will be attending a presentation on pupils on the margins of Education on 27/06/19.

Endowment funds applications were discussed. It was confirmed by the Legal and Administration Manager that the Department has received numerous requests for school uniforms and funding for school trips from families in need.

	<p>Update on the Education Bill – The Legal and Administration Manager provided an update; the DESC received approximately 580 responses to the latest consultation on the Bill. The Department anticipates the overview to the consultation will be available at the end of the week.</p> <p>The Department has sent the comments on the draft to the Legislative Drafter and the Legal and Administration Manager expects this to be finalised over the Summer holidays.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer advised that he, Mr Hooper, MHK and Minister Cregeen have met with the Bishop to discuss a number of issues.</p> <p>DESC properties – concerns were raised over the upkeep of DESC buildings that are no longer used by Education. It was confirmed the Salvation Army have renewed their lease for the next two years and that St Thomas’ is the Department’s responsibility. An Education Council Member highlighted the facilities at Knockaloe and asked fellow Education Council members to encourage schools to visit.</p> <p>TT Holidays – Clarity was sought as to why TT holidays are an inconsistent length. It was confirmed the Department has preference that there be 2 weeks of school holidays over the TT period, but unions disagree.</p> <p>Update on Teacher’s Pay- The Chief Executive Officer advised that it is likely that the Department will face industrial action from Teaching unions for the first time over a disagreement in pay increases. The Department will be considering options such as an independent person to consider matters. There has been a suggestion from the unions that the Department model a system based on the London weighting allowance. At this time there is no indication what teacher’s pay rise will be for the forthcoming year. The Chief Executive Officer has advised Treasury that if 3.5% increase is to go ahead across all staff the Department will not be on budget and that there is a financial risk to the Department.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Risk Register- The Legal and Administration Manager is to provide blanket guidance on risk registers in future.</p> <p>Equality Act – The Legal and Administration Manager advised that Education Council Members will need to engage in Equality Act Training at some future time.</p> <p>May Day Bank Holiday 2020 – The May day bank holiday has been moved to the 8th May 2020.</p> <p>Dates for further Education Council Meetings – Not set at present. The Legal and Administration Manager to provide an update in future.</p> <p>Playing Fields – The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Consultation on the Eastern Area Plan will most likely have implications for DESC in terms of school sites in future. The Department is mindful that we may require further sites in future.</p>	<p>AS</p>

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