

Item: 6

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 8 February 2023.

Health and Wellbeing Census.

Proposed Establishment of Short-life Working Group.

Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the establishment of a short-life member/officer working group to consider a Health and Wellbeing Survey for Orkney's Children and Young People.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, during academic year 2021/22, all local authorities across Scotland were asked to make a Health and Wellbeing Census available to Primary 5 to Secondary 6 pupils.

2.2.

That, due to concerns over the survey tool being deployed, a management decision was taken to suspend work on the survey until such time as a wider and more inclusive consultative exercise could be conducted.

It is recommended:

2.3.

That a short-life member/officer working group, comprising the undernoted core membership, be established to design both the style and content of a Health and Wellbeing Survey for Orkney's children and young people:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- 2 Additional Elected Members of Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- 1 Teacher Representative from Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Head of Education.
- Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion).
- Team Leader (Education Resources).

- 3 Additional Teachers/Head Teachers (1 Primary, 2 Secondary).
- 1 Staff representative from Papdale Halls of Residence.
- 1 Staff representative from Community Learning and Development.
- 1 Representative from Orkney Health and Care (Social Work).
- 2 Representatives from NHS Orkney (eg Health Promotion).
- 2 Representatives from Orkney's Third Sector Organisations.

2.4.

That the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report, to the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee in February 2024, advising of the outcome of the work of the short-life working group and presenting a draft survey for consideration.

3. Background

3.1.

During the academic year 2021/2022 all local authorities across Scotland were invited by the Scottish Government to make a Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Census available to primary 5 to secondary 6 pupils.

3.2.

The HWB Census was totally voluntary, both for local authorities to undertake and to parents/carers and pupils to take part in. The survey involved children and young people being asked to complete an online questionnaire, during class time, that took around 20 to 40 minutes.

3.3.

The proposed survey attracted significant adverse attention nationally due to issues with confidentiality and the human rights of the participants as well as the manner in which some topics were approached by the survey tool.

3.4.

While options at the time included offering an edited version of the survey, having taken soundings and advice, a management decision was taken to suspend work on the survey until such time as a wider and more inclusive consultative exercise could be conducted.

4. Next Steps

4.1.

It is proposed to establish a short life member/officer working group to design both the style and content of a Health and Wellbeing Survey for Orkney's Children and Young People in the age range of Primary 5 to Secondary 6. The group membership should represent the sectors that provide services to children and young people that

promote health and wellbeing as well as supporting wellbeing interventions as and when necessary.

4.2.

It is proposed that the short life member/officer working group should comprise the undernoted core membership, who will also consult within their own services and organisations, involving relevant stakeholders as and when required:

- Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Vice Chair, Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- 2 Additional Elected Members of Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- 1 Teacher Representative from Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Head of Education.
- Service Manager (Support for Learning and Inclusion).
- Team Leader (Education Resources).
- 3 Additional Teachers/Head Teachers (1 Primary, 2 Secondary).
- 1 Staff representative from Papdale Halls of Residence.
- 1 Staff representative from Community Learning and Development.
- 1 Representative from Orkney Health and Care (Social Work).
- 2 Representatives from NHS Orkney (eg Health Promotion).
- 2 Representatives from Orkney's Third Sector Organisations.

4.3.

The Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing will nominate the three additional teachers/Head Teachers, together with the staff representatives from Papdale Halls of Residence and Community Learning and Development.

4.4.

For the representatives from NHS Orkney and Orkney's Third Sector Organisations, the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing will seek representation from relevant partners.

4.5.

It is anticipated that this work can be completed by December 2023 and the survey conducted between March and May 2024. Should the short-life member/officer working group determine that wider consultation needs to be undertaken, then the timeframe will be extended.

4.6.

Accordingly, it is proposed that a report be submitted to the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee in February 2024, advising of the outcome of the work of the

short-life member/officer working group and presenting a draft survey for consideration.

5. Links to Council Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Thriving Communities.

6. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Community Wellbeing and Sustainable Recovery.

7. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

8. Legal Aspects

8.1.

A working group is not a committee or sub-committee of the Council. A working group does not have delegated authority to make decisions.

8.2.

On 21 June 2016, when considering proposed changes to the Council's governance arrangements, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that the following principles be adopted in respect of Member/Officer Working Groups:

- The working group should be subject specific.
- The working group should have a short life, ideally no longer than six months.
- The relevant Corporate Director should report the findings of the working group to the service Committee, including a recommendation to disestablish the working group.
- Member/Officer Consultative Groups should be considered where the work of the group was expected to continue beyond six months.

9. Contact Officers

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