



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Committee for Education

### Minutes of Proceedings

3 March 2022

**Meeting Location:** Teleconference

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Nicola Brogan MLA  
Mrs Diane Dodds MLA  
Mr Harry Harvey MLA  
Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Marcus Matthews (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealy (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

Mr Robbie Butler MLA  
Mr Robin Newton MBE MLA  
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA



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The meeting commenced at 9:13am in public session.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies as above.

Mr Butler has delegated his vote to Mr Lyttle.

Mr Harvey has delegated his vote to Mrs Dodds.

### **2. Oral Briefing from THRiVE**

The Committee noted a briefing paper from THRiVE.

The following witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 9:13am:

Ms Claire Humphrey, Coordinator, THRiVE

Mr Paul Johnston, Monkstown Boxing Club

Ms Lorna Thompson, Parent Champion

Ms Hilary Johnston, Public Health Agency

Ms Joanne Griffith, Principal, Abbots Cross Primary School

The witnesses briefed the Committee on work of THRiVE supporting Children and Families in Rathcoole and Monkstown.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Ms Brogan left the meeting at 9:45am

Mr Sheehan left the meeting at 9:54am.



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Mr Harvey left the meeting at 9:59am.

Mr McNulty joined the meeting at 10:01am.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Education on its concerns that urging a firm commitment to Fair Start as a non-negotiable programme, seeking a breakdown on the budget required to support Fair Start over the next 3 years and asking if the Department will be able to commit to this funding.

### **3. Supporting Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing - Oral Briefing from the Bytes Project**

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Bytes Project.

The following witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 10:10am:

Mr Stephen Dallas, Chief Executive Officer, The Bytes Project

Mr John Peacock, National Secretary, YMCA Ireland

The witnesses briefed the Committee on work of the Bytes Project and its work supporting Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Mrs Dodds left the meeting at 10:40am

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Education forwarding the Bytes Project and Thrive Project presentations and seeking further information on funding for Youth Services.



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**4. Any Other Business**

**5. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March 2022 by video conference at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.

**Chris Lyttle MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for Education  
9 March 2022**