Supporting the Educational needs of children born pre-term – Update noted – Instruction to Executive Director of Education Services.

2 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services regarding the work being undertaken in early learning centres and schools to support children and young people who are born pre-term, advising of the

(1) reasons why education professionals needed to be aware of pre-term birth in order to understand the implications on a child's development but also how families were supported;

(2) prevalence rates of pre-term birth and the health implications which they were more likely to experience compared to term-born babies;

(3) implications for a child's learning that pre-term babies might experience as well as behavioural, social and emotional issues compared with term-born children;

(4) partnership working that had been undertaken to raise awareness of the needs of children born pre-term, and details of the seminar which had taken place in June 2022 which included input from The Smallest Things Charity who were a registered charity supporting the needs of premature babies and their families following neonatal intensive care;

(5) results from a questionnaire that had been completed at the start and at the end of the seminar which indicated a change in the level of staff confidence and understanding of this topic; and

(6) operational changes that had been made by Education Services following the seminar to ensure that information about a child's development and the possibility of premature were noted.

After consideration, the committee

(a) noted the report; and

(b) instructed the Executive Director of Education Services to bring updated reports back to the committee, as appropriate.