

Review of Consultative Committee with Parents

Consultative Committee with Parents

Date: September 2010

1 Background

- 1.1 A self evaluation programme carried out in 2009-10 included consideration of the effectiveness of the Consultative Committee with Parents. Parents and Headteachers were asked for their views and the results indicated a mixed assessment. Some respondents expressed support for the current approach and in particular the direct access to the Convener, Director and Senior Officers. The success of the CCwP in influencing the budget process was seen by some parents as evidence of the CCwP's effectiveness. Other members felt that the structure and operation of the Committee could be improved in relation to agenda setting, enabling more extensive participation of members in CCwP meetings, and addressing unrealistic expectations of members' capacity to communicate effectively with all Parent Councils in their cluster.
- 1.2 Discussion then took place at the CCwP in February 2010 in order to agree the best approach to reviewing the function, role, membership and operation of CCwP within the context of the department's overall approach to parental engagement. Views expressed at that meeting and in writing following the meeting were recorded and a focus group met to explore the issues further.
- 1.3 Discussions confirmed that while there were several issues of concern to parents, there was also a significant level of support for CCwP.

2 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 Taking account of all the views expressed so far about the future of CCwP, this report attempts to set out some proposed changes to the CCwP's structure and operation and how these might be taken forward. It is intended that these proposals will be discussed and agreement reached at the CCwP meeting on 28 September 2010.

3 Main Report

- 3.1 The CCwP is a consultative committee established by the Council to provide a forum for discussion and consultation with parents. It cannot take decisions on behalf of the Council and its duties and responsibilities are prescribed by its 'parent' committee, the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 3.2 While there is some flexibility regarding the operation of the committee, any changes which we wish to make to its structure and operation need to be agreed by the Education, Children and Families Committee.

Responding to feedback

- 3.3 In response to the issues raised and summarised above the Department proposes a number of immediate changes to the membership, structure and operation of CCwP which are detailed below.

Membership and structure of meetings

- 3.4 The expectation that CCwP members will act as two-way channels of communication between a cluster of Parent Councils and the Council places an unrealistic burden on members (information on current membership is included as appendix 1).

*Action: We propose that the current membership is changed so that there are three **CCwP meetings** every year, with all Parent Council chairs (or their representatives) as members. These meetings would focus on a single issue of city-wide significance, such as the budget, or issues of educational policy such as Curriculum for Excellence. The emphasis would be on providing information and seeking the views of all Parent Councils. The meetings would be interactive and participatory. The recent budget consultation with Parent Council Chairs demonstrates how such meetings can provide an opportunity for all Parent Councils to contribute effectively to the consideration of important issues.*

*Alongside these large-scale meetings, there would also be 3 **Executive group** meetings with 23 parents representing school clusters who would deal with other business and plan the agenda for the 3 larger meetings (see above).*

*In order to facilitate a deeper understanding of key issues we also propose to have a number of **sub groups**, supported by officers, focussing initially on finance, curriculum for excellence and additional support needs.*

Agenda planning

- 3.5 The Department acknowledges that there are issues around the planning of the CCwP agenda. Specifically, we have taken account of parents' concerns about how issues get on to the agenda in the first place and how they can influence the process.

Action: Children and Families proposes that the CCwP executive group consisting of the convener, officers and parents takes responsibility for planning the agenda from now on. The group would prepare an annual outline of issues to be discussed with an indicative timescale. The Executive would also deal with other business as appropriate. To ensure wide representation it is proposed that each cluster nominates one representative (where clusters currently have more than one, this could continue until next academic session.) The Executive Group agenda, with particular regard to other business would be drafted by officers and the convener in consultation with parents.

Further issues

- 3.6 The wider development of parental engagement needs to be considered as part of a review of the Department's current strategy. Specific issues to be addressed include the participation of the early year's sector, and capacity building at school, cluster and neighbourhood level. We propose that a working group is established to carry out the review and report back to CCwP before the end of the current academic session. The group would be led by Moyra Wilson, Head of Inclusion and Pupil Support, and would include one Headteacher from each sector, a CLD Manager, David Maguire, Principal Officer, Engagement and Involvement and 6 parent representatives. The group would be supported and serviced by the Parental Involvement Unit.

4 Financial implications

- 4.1 Organising three large-scale meetings per year will generate some additional costs in terms of venues and catering costs. These will be contained within current budgets.

5 Environmental impact

- 5.1 There are no adverse environmental impacts.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The CCwP is asked to agree:
- a) The changes in membership and operation detailed above:

- b) The proposed review of parental engagement

Mike Rosendale
Head of Schools and Community Services

Appendices	Appendix 1 – CCwP Membership List Appendix 2 – CCwP Remit
Contact/tel/Email	David Maguire 529 2132 david.maguire@edinburgh.gov.uk Graham Douglas 469 3131 graham.douglas@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	
Background Papers	

Appendix 1

CCWP MEMBERSHIP LIST (SEPTEMBER 2010)

Convener of Education, Children and Families Councillor Marilyne MacLaren (Liberal Democrat)
Director of Children and Families Gillian Tee
Children and Families Mike Rosendale, Head of Schools and Community Services
Neighbourhood Manager David Wright
Vice Convener of Education, Children and Families Councillor David Beckett (SNP)
Opposition Spokespersons Councillor Jeremy Balfour (Conservative) Councillor Paul Godzik (Labour) Councillor Alison Johnstone (Green)
Nursery Representatives Vacancy
Special School Representatives Andrea Bracher (Kaimes) Guri Le Riche (Prospect Bank)
Additional Support for Learning Representative 1 representative – Miranda Harvey
Head Teacher Representatives Rory MacKenzie, Balerno High School Arlene Mooney, Braidburn School Willie French, Parson's Green Primary School Jane Watson, Greengables Nursery
Teacher Representative Raymond Simpson, Queensferry High School
Observer Eileen Prior, Scottish Parent Teacher Council

NORTH

SECONDARY

Secondary Representatives (2)	Secondary Schools Represented (5)
David Martin, Broughton Dr Kevin O'Donnell, Trinity	Broughton, Craigroyston, Drummond. Leith Academy, Trinity Academy

PRIMARY

Broughton Cluster (0 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (5)
Lisa Mackenzie, Stockbridge	Ferryhill, Flora Stevenson, Granton, Stockbridge

Craigroyston Cluster (0) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (3)
Vacancy	Craigroyston, Forthview, Pirniehall

Drummond Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (3)
Gordon Chrumka, Broughton	Abbeyhill, Broughton, Leith Walk

Leith Academy Cluster (2 reps) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (4)
Tracy Rendall, Craigentenny Chris Marks, Leith	Craigentenny, Hermitage Park, Leith, Lorne

Trinity Academy Cluster (2 reps) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (4)
Paul Jeffrey, Trinity Susan Edwards, Victoria	Trinity, Victoria, Wardie

EAST**SECONDARY**

<i>Secondary Representatives (1 rep)</i>	<i>Secondary Schools Represented (3)</i>
Paul Ianetta, Holy Rood	Castlebrae, Holy Rood, Portobello

PRIMARY

<i>Castlebrae Cluster (0 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (4)</i>
Vacancy	Castleview, Newcraighall, Niddrie Mill, Prestonfield

<i>Holy Rood Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (6)</i>
David Manson, St John's	St Catherine's, St Francis, St John Vianney, St John's, St Mary's (Leith), St Ninian's

<i>Portobello Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (5)</i>
Sean Watters, Towerbank	Brunstane, Duddingston, Parson's Green, The Royal High, Towerbank

SOUTH

SECONDARY

<i>Secondary Representatives (3 reps)</i>	<i>Secondary Schools Represented (5)</i>
Karen Traill, Liberton Norma Devlin, St Thomas of Aquin's Ann Henderson, James Gillespie's	Boroughmuir, Gracemount, James Gillespie's, Liberton, St Thomas of Aquin's

PRIMARY

<i>Boroughmuir Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (3)</i>
Jeanna Brady, Bruntsfield	Buckstone, Bruntsfield, South Morningside

<i>Gracemount Cluster (0 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (2)</i>
Vacancy	Gracemount

<i>James Gillespie's Cluster (2 reps) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (5)</i>
Stuart Boutell, James Gillespie's Julie-Ann Sime, Tollcross	Royal Mile, Sciennes, James Gillespie's, Preston Street, Tollcross

<i>Liberton Cluster (1rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (4)</i>
Liberton, Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham	Craigour Park, Gilmerton, Liberton, Prestonfield

<i>St Thomas of Aquin's Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (4)</i>
Anne McGowan, St Peter's	Holy Cross, St Mark's, St Mary's (London Street), St Peter's

SOUTH WEST

SECONDARY

<i>Secondary Representatives (2)</i> Sally Smith, Currie Iain McGillivray, Firrhill	<i>Secondary Schools Represented (4)</i> Balerno, Currie, Firrhill, Wester Hailes Education Centre
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PRIMARY

<i>Balerno Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (2)</i>
Donald Craigie , Dean Park	Dean Park, Ratho

<i>Currie Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (3)</i>
David Thomson, Currie	Currie, Juniper Green, Nether Currie

<i>Firrhill Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (5)</i>
Martin Southern, Bonaly	Bonaly, Colinton, Longstone, Oxfangs, Pentland

<i>WHEC Cluster (0 rep) Primary School Representatives</i>	<i>Primary Schools Represented (3)</i>
Vacancy	Clovenstone, Canal View, Sighthill,

WEST**SECONDARY**

Secondary Representatives (2 reps)	Secondary Schools Represented (6)
Tina Woolnough, The Royal High Alison Walker, Tynecastle	Craigmount, Forrester, Queensferry, St Augustine's, The Royal High, Tynecastle

PRIMARY

Craigmount Cluster (2 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (6)
Bruce Sherry, East Craigs	Corstorphine, East Craigs, Fox Covert, Hillwood, Roseburn

Forrester Cluster (0 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (4)
Vacancy	Broomhouse, Carrick Knowe, Gylemuir, Murrayburn

Queensferry Cluster (0 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (4)
Vacancy	Dalmeny, Echline, Kirkliston, Queensferry

St Augustine's Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (5)
Lawrence Rea, Fox Covert RC	Fox Covert RC, St Cuthbert's, St David's, St Joseph's, St Margaret's

The Royal High Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (4)
Tina Woolnough, Blackhall	Blackhall, Clermiston, Cramond, Davidson's Mains

Tynecastle Cluster (1 rep) Primary School Representatives	Primary Schools Represented (4)
Gavin Corbett, Craiglockhart	Balgreen, Craiglockhart, Dalry, Stenhouse

Appendix 2

Remit of CCWP Members

- 1 Members will be expected to seek the views and consult with all Parent Councils or appropriate representative groups and to feed these views to the wider CCWP
- 2 Attend and contribute to discussion at CCWP meetings
- 3 Communicate the work of the CCWP to Parent Council Chairs of the schools they represent
- 4 Propose agenda items from the schools they represent, initially through the Parental Involvement Unit
- 5 Encourage Parent Councils to include CCWP business as a regular agenda item on Parent Council Agendas.
- 6 Secondary School representatives should report to all the secondary Parent Council Chairs in their Neighbourhood
- 7 Special school representatives should report to all Parent Council Chairs of special schools.
- 8 Nursery school representatives should report to all nursery parent council chairs
- 9 Primary school representatives should report to all primary parent council chairs within their cluster.