

# Consultative Committee with Parents

**6.30pm Tuesday 15 January 2013**

## **Appointment of Parent Representatives to the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee**

<b>Item number</b>	12.2
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	City Wide

### **Links**

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**Coalition pledges**

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**Single Outcome Agreement**

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# Executive summary

## Appointment of Parent Representatives to the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee

### Summary

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The Placing in Schools Appeal Committee was established under Section 28C of the Education (Scotland) Act 1981 to hear and decide appeals against decisions of the Council or relevant Head Teacher to refuse placing requests and exclude pupils in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended. The Committee also considers appeals against decisions by the Director of Children and Families to refuse early admission to school.

The Consultative Committee with Parents requires to nominate parent representatives to serve on the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee. These nominations require to be approved by the full Council.

The appointment is for four years to 31 January 2017 or until the parent's youngest child leaves school, whichever is earlier.

### Recommendations

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The Consultative Committee with Parents is asked:

- 1) to confirm the existing Panel 2 membership as set out in Appendix 1;
- 2) to nominate Christine MacGillivray together with an additional two members to serve on Panel 2 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee;
- 3) to re-appoint Dr Karen Traill to serve on Panel 2 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee.
- 4) to refer the appointments to the Council meeting on 31 January 2013 for approval.

### Measures of success

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Not applicable.

### Financial impact

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Not applicable.

### Equalities impact

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Not applicable.

### **Sustainability impact**

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Not applicable.

### **Consultation and engagement**

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Not applicable.

### **Background reading / external references**

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Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (as amended)

## Appointment of Parent Representatives to the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee

### 1. Background

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- 1.1 The Placing in Schools Appeal Committee was established under Section 28C of the Education (Scotland) Act 1981 to hear and decide appeals against decisions of the Council or relevant Head Teacher to refuse placing requests and exclude pupils in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended. The Committee also considers appeals against decisions by the Director of Children and Families to refuse early admission to school.

### 2. Main report

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- 2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council's Placing in School Appeal Committee comprises one member from each of the following three groups:

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|---------|--|
| Panel 1 | All Members of Council, religious and teacher and any parent representatives on the Education, Children and Families Committee.                            |
| Panel 2 | Parents of children of school age.   |
| Panel 3 | Persons with experience in education and acquainted with educational conditions in the Council's area, nominated by the Director of Children and Families. |

- 2.2 The current membership is detailed in the appendix to this report. It should be noted that:

- (a) members of the Pupil and Student Support Committee do not participate in the annual placing in schools Appeals process;
- (b) a Councillor cannot participate in an appeal if the school is within their ward or catchment area; and
- (c) a parent member cannot participate if their child attends the school for which the appeal is being made.

- 2.3 Vacancies on Panel 2 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee (Parents of Children of School Age) are nominated by the Consultative Committee with Parents for consideration by the Council at its next meeting.

- 2.4 The appointment is for four years, to 31 January 2017, or until the member's youngest child leaves school, whichever is earlier.
- 2.5 The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 requires that members of certain Committees are subject to the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme check to ensure that they are not disqualified from holding such positions. Persons appointed to the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee will require to comply with this.
- 2.6 The heaviest workload of the Appeal Committee is during May and June each year to deal with P1 and S1 appeals. Participation by Panel 2 members will be required, on average, once per week during this period. Other appeals are held throughout the year requiring members to attend for a morning or afternoon every couple of months.
- 2.7 Training is provided and appointment is conditional on attendance at the required training.

### 3. Recommendations

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- 3.1 The Consultative Committee with Parents is asked:
- 3.1.1 to confirm the existing Panel 2 membership as set out in Appendix 1;
  - 3.1.2 to nominate Christine MacGillivray together with an additional two members to serve on Panel 2 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee;
  - 3.1.3 to re-appoint Dr Karen Traill to serve on Panel 2 of the Placing in Schools Appeal Committee.
  - 3.1.4 to refer the appointments to the Council meeting on 31 January 2013 for approval.

### Alastair D Maclean

Director of Corporate Governance

### Links

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**Appendices**      Appendix 1 – Current Membership of Placing in Schools Appeal Committee

### Current Membership of Placing in Schools Appeal Committee

#### Panel 1

All Members of Council, religious and teacher and any parent representatives on the Education, Children and Families Committee.

#### Panel 2

Parents of children of school age:

Norma Devlin	Tollcross Primary School
Dr Julie-Ann Sime	Tollcross Primary School
Katherine Taylor	Parsons Green Primary School and Portobello High School
Dr Karen Traill	Liberton Primary School
Carol Swan	Murrayburn Primary School
Jennifer Walton	Murrayburn Primary School
Jenn Scott	Holy Cross RC Primary School
Neil Clarkson	Liberton High School

#### Panel 3

Persons with experience in education and acquainted with educational conditions in the Council's area, nominated by the Director of Children and Families to act as Chairpersons of the Appeal Committee:

Mary Clason

Brenda Devlin

Dorothy Dowie

David Fleming

Pru Irvine

Kirsty Jack

Iain McGillivray

Each Appeal Committee consists of one member from Panel 1, one member from Panel 2 and one member from Panel 3.

The Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance acts as Clerk to the Appeal Committee with authority to choose Panel Members for each Appeal Committee.