

1. Membership: SPTC is delighted to welcome Edinburgh and Falkirk parent councils into membership. Their local authorities are paying for membership as part of a three-year agreement, which includes membership-linked insurance and access to a wide range of supports and information, including free information and training sessions.
2. Gathered Together (Cruinn Còmhla): This is a joint project between SPTC and Bemis (umbrella organisation for cultural and ethnic minority groups). We hope to be working in seven pilot local authority areas (Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Falkirk, Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Fife, Glasgow) to increase participation of parents and carers from ethnic/cultural minorities in their children's education, and to build awareness of practical strategies for Parent Councils to build participation among the wider parent forum.
3. Insurance: This year we have changed insurer so there are some changes to the membership-linked insurance (leaflet available).
4. Consultations: SPTC is currently preparing responses to the following:
 - i. Consultation issued by OSCR regarding charities accounting
 - ii. Petitions Committee at Parliament in relation to religious observance
5. Conference 2014: Edinburgh City Council will partner with SPTC for our 2014 conference. The conference will bring together parent groups from all over Scotland to talk about their experiences, as well as hearing from a small number of keynote speakers.
6. Children and Young People's Bill: Evidence was submitted by SPTC to Parliament (available on www.sptc.info). The Education and Culture Committee is currently hearing evidence on the Bill. SPTC has particular concerns regarding the Named Person proposal and also plans for information sharing: both of these proposals, we believe, undermine the role of parents and infringe rights to confidentiality.
7. Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People: SPTC was delighted to back the commissioner's campaign for improvement of school toilets.
8. SQA, Reasonable Adjustments: SPTC is very concerned by SQA's change to the reasonable adjustments available to some pupils during assessment for qualifications, specifically the N3 and N4 Literacy Unit, which readers and scribes are not to be allowed. We believe this to be discriminatory as it disadvantages the least able students: those working at N5 will be allowed readers and scribes. SPTC is taking this forward with SQA and a number of organisations.
9. Referendum 2014: SPTC is in discussion with NPFS regarding joint production of guidance for Parent Councils in relation to the ways in which schools deal with this issue and involve their parent body.
10. NPFS Conference 5 October: this event takes place in Bishopbriggs and SPTC will be represented.