

**REPORT FROM SCOTTISH PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL**

1. Gathered Together - Cruinn Còmhla: There was a successful parliamentary event with Alasdair Allan MSP on 16 January. Work is underway in pilot areas (Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Fife, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Glasgow). The next steering group meeting takes place in March. A special issue of Backchat went to all SPTC members, with those in the pilot local authority areas also receiving more detailed information on the project.
2. SPTC Staff: We have a new Communications Officer, Lydia House, and a new Administration Officer, Mary Stark.
3. Consultations: We are planning to respond to current consultations on changes to Section 70 appeals and Accessibility Strategies.
4. Conference and AGM 2014: The 2014 conference will take place on 22 March at the Edinburgh Training and Conference Venue. Gillian Tee (Edinburgh City Council) and Howard Lipscombe (University of Strathclyde) are confirmed speakers and there will be a range of parent-led workshops on a range of topics. Booking information has been sent to all members and is available on the website. Members are also being asked to nominate parent and teacher directors to the Board and to vote on proposed amendments to SPTC's constitution.
5. Regional Advisors: Our programme of information and training sessions for parent groups is well underway (information attached).
6. Easyfundraising: SPTC has launched a partnership with Easyfundraising, which will enable member groups to raise funds through on-line purchases. Any parent or supporter of the PTA or PC can sign up, with a % of any purchase price being contributed to the group. This will also help raise funds for SPTC as an additional 20% will go to support SPTC's work.
7. Facebook and Website: SPTC's presence on Facebook is now up and running. We are also pressing ahead with a number of further refinements to the website, including a specific area for Gathered Together.
8. Referendum: We are drafting guidance for Parent Councils on what part they can play in how this issue is dealt with in schools.
9. Parents Voice: We are planning a survey on the question of religious observance.
10. New Leaflets: We have added new leaflets to the range available: a Template for Minutes and Guidelines for Committee Members.

Eileen Prior

21 February 2014

**Information and Training events scheduled for Edinburgh members to date:**

Parent Council Essentials  
Monday 3 March  
St Thomas of Aquins RC High School  
Chalmers Street, EH3 9NH

Focus on Communications  
Wednesday 2 April  
Drummond Community High School  
41 Bellevue Place, EH7 4BS

Organising Social and Fundraising Events  
Monday 26 May  
Leith Academy  
20 Academy Park, EH6 8JQ

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Legislation for Parent Councils  
Tuesday 10 June  
Boroughmuir High School  
Viewforth, EH10 4LR

Parent Council Essentials – the next steps  
Wednesday 10 September  
Broughton High School  
29 East Fettes Avenue, EH4 1EG

ALL SESSIONS RUN FROM 6.30pm to 8.30pm