

Director of Children and Families Update for Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups September 2014

This report provides an update for parents/carers in relation to Children's Services in Edinburgh. We have also included feedback from the Neighbourhood Parent Forums and a progress update on matters arising.

1. Exam Results

Last week we saw the release of this year's exam results including results of the first year of the New Qualifications. I am really pleased to report record Higher results and a continued trend of improvement across the board:

- 95% of pupils gained 5 awards at level 3 (a six percentage point improvement since 2009)
- 61% of pupils gained 1 Higher (a thirteen percentage point improvement since 2009)
- 43% of pupils gained 3 Highers (an eight percentage point improvement since 2009)

Congratulations to our young people for their achievements.

Heartfelt thanks to our teachers for successfully introducing the new courses while at the same time continuing with existing Higher exams. The fact that our results continue to improve is a real testament to their hard work and dedication.

2. New Portobello High School

I am delighted to confirm that we have received Royal Assent to progress with the building of the New Portobello High School. This will be known as The City of Edinburgh Council (Portobello Park) Act 2014. The Act will allow work to commence on building the new Portobello High School on Portobello Park. The new school is anticipated to open in August 2016.

3. Tackling Bullying

At the last CCwP meeting you requested more advice for parents on tackling bullying.

A new booklet has been developed by the national anti-bullying organisation, Respectme that combines existing advice on face-to-face bullying and on-line bullying. It was sent to every school in Scotland in early June this year with information on where to get more copies. It is called "Bullying. A Guide for Parents and Carers" and is the last item on the publications page of Respectme (<http://www.respectme.org.uk/publications.html>)

There will also be more information from Respectme in the autumn following a large national research survey on bullying and cyberbullying.

4. Edinburgh and the Commonwealth Games

Whilst Glasgow has been the main host of this, we have had many events to join in the lead up to the Games to encourage more children and young people to participate in activity and sport to develop their health and well being.

Our Active schools colleagues in the Sports Unit have been helping to promote this positive attitude towards sport and exercise by organising numerous events over the year in which we have had the biggest number of pupils participating. This began with the first Tri-umph Triathlon for over 1700 Primary and Secondary pupils. The annual Interscholastic Event was then held with a Commonwealth theme where over 2000 pupils from 72 of our primary schools participated.

Following this was Games @ The Hub. This event celebrated 10 years of Active Schools and also the build up to the Commonwealth Games. It was a fantastic accomplishment to see over 80 primary schools with 1400 P6 pupils representing a Commonwealth Country and competing in 12 sports. There are still more events programmed until the end of December.

These great events have been successful due to the great partnership work of the Active Schools team, working alongside many volunteers, including coaches, senior pupils and teachers and PE specialists.

This has been a huge success that they will all continue next year.

5. Literacy Development and the Fresh Start Programme

Over 40 Primary schools are currently using this programme. Thanks to the development of this programme led by Sandra Milne and the dedication and commitment of staff, many pupils who were failing to make expected progress are now doing well. Sandra will be delivering a seminar on the Fresh Start programme at this year's Scottish Learning Festival in September. Feedback from parents, pupils and schools involved is very positive and a full evaluation of the programme supports this improvement. A full report on the success of this programme will go to the Education, Children and Families Committee in December.

6. Positive Destinations and Edinburgh Guarantee

The Edinburgh Guarantee continues to help young people into positive destinations. Many of the companies who support his work are giving our pupils the opportunity to experience full time work in the hope they will then improve their employability skills and their chance of moving into full time employment. This year positive and sustained destinations is the best ever at 91.4%. A focus this year from Economic Development colleagues showed how targeted support on Looked After young people has improved their positive destinations also.

7. Partnership with College and University

At the end of April, Senior Education Manager, Karen Prophet, signed an agreement with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh College and other Local Authorities to formalise the delivery of Higher National Certificate courses in the Senior School

curriculum. These courses in Health and Social Care, Hospitality, Food Science and Creative Industries aim to provide young people with a high quality educational experience involving delivery by schools, Edinburgh College, Queen Margaret University and employers. In session 2013/14, over 50 S5 pupils are undertaking these courses and these pupils will achieve an HNC by the end of S6. Successful completion of these courses provides access to second year at University in their chosen area.

8. New Playground developments

As part of the Scottish Government funded Grounds for Learning Playing Naturally project, six of our schools are involved in this initiative, which will develop national exemplars of good practice. The project has created a range of environments for play in the six schools, and the designs are all unique. The six schools involved are Lorne, Carrick Knowe, Castleview, Granton, Sighthill and Buckstone Primaries.

These developments are important in the benefits they bring for child development. Including:-

- Improving physical activity
- Developing social skills
- Stimulating creativity and imagination

Schools that develop their outdoor play provision report improvements in behaviour, classes that settle more quickly after break time and children who are happier and more content in school.

9. Scottish Government Target for 2 hours of quality PE for P7- S4

Our PE audit this year shows yet further improvement and we have achieved the target set from The Scottish Government. Currently 95% of Primary schools and 96% of Secondary schools are delivering two hours of PE. Our Special schools are also doing very well with 92% of schools meeting the PE target. I would like to take this opportunity to thank teachers for their ongoing commitment to this work.

10. Developing 1:1 Digital Learning

We are still working on extending the use of electronic tablets of students in schools, the rationale is simply to best prepare our learners for success in tomorrow's rapidly evolving and digital world, all schools will aim to deliver two key objectives:

- ICT is routinely and effectively embedded in all aspects of learning and teaching
- All learners have personal access to ICT whenever and wherever it benefits learning

The traditional model of ICT provision, using only fixed labs or desktop computers or laptop trolleys, has limited access for all learners. Learners and teachers need

universal access to ICT so they can use it whenever and wherever it is beneficial to learning.

The City of Edinburgh Council commissioned Hull University to carry out research on these pilots. The Edinburgh 1:1 Mobile Evaluation has recently been published and key findings include:

- Levels of engagement and motivation amongst students rose across each of the pilot schools
- Most teachers report changes in their attitudes and practices associated with their teaching style and approaches to learning
- Personal access to the Internet enable teachers to set more authentic and realistic tasks for students

We currently have over 9000 iPads in Children & Families, the vast majority of which are in schools and this work is supported by the Digital Learning Team.

11. Broughton Cluster achieve Cooperative Schools Award

The Broughton Cluster schools have successfully achieved the Cooperative Schools Award in partnership with Cooperative Education Trust Scotland (CETS).

The Cluster has achieved this award by successfully developing their values and principles across the Cluster. The focus for this initiative has been on Pupil Voice. The success in achieving the Cluster award has come from the dedication of the head teachers and staff in building on current good practice. A positive and innovative approach in the Cluster has been the creation of a Co-operative Learning Council, whereby two P6's from each primary school and two pupils from S1 in the High School meet twice per term to discuss Cluster issues.

We have secured a partnership with CETS for the next three years to continue to develop co-operative schools, with a plan to implement a three stage award similar to 'Healthy Schools' in good values.

12. After School Clubs Launch of the New Cooperative and Childcare Charter

The Education, Children and Families Convener Councillor Paul Godzik launched the new Charter at Murrayburn Primary School. This charter recognizes the existing expertise that many after school clubs already have and aims to establish greater co-operation and collaboration between clubs and other partners such as the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs and the City of Edinburgh Council. This will also support our commitment to a more desirable, flexible approach to childcare provision to help meet the demands of parents and carers in the local community. Our aim is to get as many organisations signed up to this as possible and also to get as many after school clubs operating in our schools.

13. What a successful summer play scheme we had! - The INC Consortium

Around 400 children with additional support needs from special schools and specialist provision in Edinburgh joined in our summer holiday activities. The great weather helped us to deliver an exciting and fun packed programme of activities.

The play schemes were held in a range of venues including Braidburn school, Oaklands school, Leith Academy and St Francis and Niddrie Mill primary schools. The children and young people enjoyed regular trips to the Yard, Zoo, Cinema, swimming pool and many other local attractions such as parks and beaches. This enabled them to become a closer part of their local community. A residential camp at Monymusk also gave some young people the chance of a 3 night activity break in Aberdeenshire.

All the different play schemes enjoyed regular visits from the Yard's play specialist, who delivered many creative and stimulating sessions of art and craft, role and messy play. In addition to that, great outdoor and sport facilities allowed children and young people to keep active and occupied.

From this summer the availability of the play schemes was increased from up to three weeks to up to six weeks. This allowed many new families to have their first time play scheme experience resulting in new relationships forming amongst children and young people. Following this positive experience, a number of families have already booked the play scheme service for other school holidays.

We are already looking forward to our next play scheme in October.

14. Achievement Awards

I am pleased to report that we have again had so many nominations for this year's award. Judging is happening at the moment and the ceremony will take place in the Assembly Rooms on 11 September 2014.

15. Paolozzi Prize Ceremony

This was a fabulous celebration of young people's art work across the City. The standard was even better than ever and I enjoyed being part of this glittering event at the Scottish National Gallery. There were nominations by Art teachers from 13 Secondary Schools and 3 Special schools with winners in three main categories of Overcoming Barriers, Talent and Creativity and New Directions, with an overall winner of the Paolozzi Prize. There was also fabulous music from Firrhill High School, the Royal High School and the Edinburgh Jazz Ensemble. The overall winner of the Paolozzi Prize was Kathryn Russell, an S5 pupil from Holyrood High School. Well done to all those who were nominated and to the worthy winners of each category.

16. Education, Children and Families Committee – 20 May 2014

The committee covered a range of reports including:

- Rising rolls
- Early years
- Community access to schools
- Additional support needs
- Special schools

For more information on any of the reports go to edinburghbrightfutures.com

The next meeting is on 11 September 2014.

17. Consultative Committee with Parents

The last CCWP meeting on 15 May focused on two main items. There was a presentation from Diana Dodd, Principal Officer Equalities, on Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice in Schools. This was well received and opened up good discussion and helpful ideas from parents which we will now take forward.

The second presentation was an update from Mike Rosendale and Alan Coyle from the Better Outcomes Learner Delivery (BOLD) program. The team outlined the reasons for BOLD, the timeline, the financial position, themes and ideas.

The next agenda for September, informed by parents/carers, will focus on the Local Development Plan and the implications for the school estate.

At a recent parking meeting there was a good discussion on the School Street work being undertaken by colleagues in Road Safety, which over 30 schools are interested in. Parents at this meeting requested that we investigate the use of CCTV to improve road safety around schools. Notes that CCTV has been successfully used for this purpose in some areas of England and Wales, but recognises that legislation in Scotland does not provide local authorities with the power to interfere in such measures. The Convener is requesting a report on the use of CCTV in England and Wales.

18. Useful Web information from our updated site

Our new responsive website was launched on 15 April 2014, providing customers with the same quality site, with full functionality, regardless of the device they use to access it.

This in itself is a huge step, but there are other things you can do on the site that may have escaped your attention. Here are 5 things you can do on our new website.

- **Download term dates to sync to your smart phone calendar or calendar application**

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/termdates

Our term dates pages offer iCalendar file downloads, which can be imported to your calendar software to instantly integrate with your own calendar.

- **Tailor your search for adult and community learning classes**

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/learninganddevelopment

Our Join in Edinburgh site lets you explore all our learning opportunities and filter them by location, age range, dates and times. Select 'advanced search' and apply the filters to see what is on offer.

- **See youth work opportunities across the city**

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/youthworkmap

The youth work map shows chances for young people to get involved in their community, area or city with an easy-to-use interactive tool.

You can filter the opportunities shown by project aims, activities, opening times and area served. Providers of youth work opportunities can add to the map by contacting CLD (community.learninganddevelopment@edinburgh.gov.uk.)

- **Find care, support and social services for a range of additional support needs**
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/edinburghchoices

The Edinburgh Choices directory collects a range of support services and resources for those in need of additional support. The entries are generated and maintained by service providers themselves to ensure accuracy and that all opportunities in the city are documented. The directory is maintained by Health and Social Care, however has been of use to GIRFEC practitioners and other Children and Families staff.

- **Find your school's Active Schools Coordinator's name and contact details**
<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/activeschools>

Another new feature implemented with the launch of the responsive site is the inclusion of the Active Schools Co-ordinator details in school directory records. This, combined with brand new content from Active Schools, makes it easier for parents to ensure their child can access all the opportunities for physical activity available in their school.

19. Improving Communication and highlighting good practice

I would encourage you to become a follower on the brightfutures blog, so that you can find out what is going on across the City in Children and Families. It is also a great way to tell everyone else all the good things you are doing and to make comments.

To do this all you need to do is go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/brightfutures. In the box titled 'subscribe by e-mail' enter your email address and click follow.

Gillian Tee
Director of Children and Families
2 September 2014

Issues Raised by Neighbourhood Parent Forums:

This report provides an update for parents in relation to Children's Services in Edinburgh. We have also included feedback from the Neighbourhood Parent Forums and a progress update on matters raised.

Group	Issue	Outcome	Lead
East	Achievement Awards	Parents would like a category where they could nominate	Gillian Hunt
	Parking issues at schools	City wide meeting to be arranged about parking outside schools	Moyra Wilson
	Update on new St Johns	Report back to school	Billy MacIntyre
South	Wisepay	Further information provided at CCWP – This is a Bold initiative	Jane Brown
	Local Development Plan	More information to be given at the next neighbourhood meeting	Crawford McGhie
	Bullying	Discussion at CCWP - Information booklet for parents available	Diana Dodd
	Modern Foreign Languages	Would like this discussed at CCWP next session	Karen Prophet
	Parking issues at schools	City wide meeting to be arranged about parking outside schools	Moyra Wilson
	Repairs and maintenance – long lists and problems in communication	Communications to be streamlined	Jim Davidson
	Achievement Awards	Parents would like a category where they could nominate	Gillian Hunt
North	Achievement Awards	Parents would like a category where they could nominate	Gillian Hunt
	Parking issues at schools	City wide meeting to be arranged about parking outside schools	Moyra Wilson

	Money for painting of classrooms	Information to be provided	Jim Davidson
	Quality of school meals	Update required	Jim Davidson
	Provision of free school meals for P1-3 space in schools for this	Update required	Billy McIntyre
West	Accommodation for school meals	Provide information	Billy McIntyre
	Achievement Awards	Parents would like a category where they could nominate	Gillian Hunt
	Parking issues at schools	City wide meeting to be arranged about parking outside schools	Moyra Wilson
	Reports to Committee in a short time are a challenge to digest	Can a summary of each report be provided	Maria Lloyd
	Study leave – Craigmount – staff and parents unhappy about this	Review of study leave and sharing of best practice	Karen Prophet
	Damp issues on class room wall at Fox Covert RC	Information update and solution to problem	Jim Davidson
	Can children who receive private music lessons also have school music lessons	No - information to be provided	Linda Lees
South West	Achievement Awards	Parents would like a category where they could nominate	Gillian Hunt
	Parking issues at schools	City wide meeting to be arranged about parking outside schools	Moyra Wilson
	Issue of accessing supply teachers	Can it be managed in house	Karen Prophet
	Query re rebuild for Dean Park		Billy McIntyre
Special Schools	Achievement Awards	Parents would like a category where they could nominate	Gillian Hunt

	What is the age range for disabled children accessing sports	Information to be provided	Ellen Muir Mel Coutts
	Menus not available in Prospect bank	Ask catering to arrange	Moyra Wilson
	Section 23 assessment form not user friendly	Will be reviewed in the review of disability services	Alistair Gaw