

Note of meeting

Consultative Committee with Parents

6.30pm, Monday, 8 September 2014, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Fullerton (Chair), Corbett and Dixon.

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Alexandra Black, Broughton High School (North Neighbourhood Group)

Alison Bowyer, Craigmount High School (West Neighbourhood Group)

Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham, Gracemount High School (South Neighbourhood Group)

Anne Heggie, Pilrig Park School (Special Schools Group)

Gareth Oakley, Craiglockhart Primary School (West Neighbourhood Group)

Alexander Ramage, Prestonfield Primary School (South Neighbourhood Group)

Head Teacher Representatives

Willie French, Parsons Green Primary School

Ellen Muir, Pilrig Park School

Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Eileen Prior

Officers in Attendance

Gillian Tee, Director, Children and Families

Alistair Gaw, Head of Support to Children and Young People, Children and Families

Andy Gray, Head of Schools and Community Services, Children and Families

Billy McIntyre, Head of Resources, Children and Families

Moyra Wilson, Inclusion and Pupil/Parent Support, Children and Families

Rosie Wilson, Special Schools and Specialist Provision, Children and Families

Lesley Birrell, Committee Services, Corporate Governance

Susan Weir, Committee Services, Corporate Governance

Apologies

Councillors Godzik and Redpath, Sally Cavers, Simon Collins, Allan Crosbie, Lindsay Law, Maria Lloyd and Tina Woolnough.

1. Minutes

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 15 May 2014 was approved as a correct record.

2. Director's Update

2.1 Report to Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups

A report had been circulated to Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups providing an update for parents/carers in relation to Children's Services in Edinburgh. The report also included feedback from the Neighbourhood Parent forums and a progress update on matters arising. The Director highlighted the following areas:

2.1.1 Exam Results

This year's exam results included the first year of the New Qualifications. The Director was pleased to report record Higher results and a continued trend of improvement across the board. The Director thanked teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication in successfully introducing the new courses and congratulated young people for their achievements.

2.1.2 Partnership with College and University - Launch of HNC Academy

Agreement had been reached with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh College and other Local Authorities to formalise the delivery of Higher National Certificate courses in the senior school curriculum. Courses in Health and Social Care, Hospitality, Food Science and Creative Industries would provide young people with a high quality educational experience. In session 2013/14, over fifty S5 pupils were undertaking courses to achieve an HNC by the end of S6. Successful completion of these courses would provide access to second year at University in their chosen area.

2.1.3 Summer Playscheme for Children with Additional Support Needs

Around 400 children with additional support needs from special schools and specialist provision in Edinburgh had joined in summer holiday playscheme activities.

(Reference – report dated September 2014 by the Director of Children and Families, submitted)

2.2 Minutes from Neighbourhood Groups and Neighbourhood Updates

Minutes of the most recent meetings of the Parent Neighbourhood Groups were tabled. Some of the issues raised by the individual School Neighbourhood Groups were highlighted as follows:

West Neighbourhood Group

- The issue of persistent damp and the presence of spores on the wall of a classroom at Fox Covert had been reported a few months ago but had still to be dealt with.

South Neighbourhood Group

- Would like to see sharing of good practice promoted between different neighbourhood areas.

- Road build at Gracemount Primary School had not yet been adopted by Highways.
- Concerns regarding licensing issues for new student housing at Boroughmuir High and Bruntsfield Primary Schools.

Special Schools Group

- There had been a lot of positive feedback from parents on the summer playscheme.

Decision

- 1) To note the update report by the Director.
- 2) To note the issues raised by the school neighbourhood groups.
- 3) To note that issues would be followed up through the Issues Log where appropriate.
- 4) That Karen Prophet be invited to provide further information for parents on the college/university partnership to deliver Higher National Certificate courses in the Senior School curriculum.

(References – minutes of Parent Neighbourhood Group meetings

[East Neighbourhood Group 1 September 2014](#)

[North Neighbourhood Group 25 August 2014](#)

[South Neighbourhood Group 3 September 2014](#)

[South West Neighbourhood Group 19 August 2014](#)

[Special Schools Group 27 August 2014](#)

[West Neighbourhood Group 19 August 2014](#))

3. Rising Rolls/ Children and Families Estate/ Local Development Plan/ Free School Meals

Billy MacIntyre, Head of Resources for Children and Families, presented information on a number of issues as follows:

3.1 Rising School Rolls

Births and P1 intakes were currently rising with significant variations on primary school intakes in different parts of the city. It was expected that rising rolls would impact on the primary estate until approximately 2020. An outline was provided of the rising rolls in 2014, new buildings delivered, and the potential future pressures for rising rolls in 2015 and beyond. Consultation would be undertaken with schools and parent councils to review all options. A decision on progressing options would be made in early 2015. The impact of rising rolls in the primary sector would be considered for increased secondary intakes from 2019.

3.2 Children and Families Estate

Information was provided on investments in the Children and Families estate including Early Years, Primary Schools, Special Schools, Residential and High School provision.

3.3 Local Development Plan

Local authorities were required to produce a Local Development Plan every five years. As part of the process, education needs were assessed cumulatively with requirements set out in Educational Infrastructure Appraisal, produced by Children and Families as part of the Local Development Plan process.

A refreshed Asset Management Plan was being progressed for consideration in draft by Committee in December 2014 and would include a full assessment of all anticipated changes in the Children and Families estate including the impact of rising rolls and the Local Development Plan.

3.4 Free School Meals

Eligibility of free school meals was being extended from January 2015 to include all P1 to P3 pupils. A number of schools identified as having potential dining capacity issues from the estimated new uptake had been assessed for solutions.

Arising from the presentation on the above issues, a number of matters were discussed including:

- An outline of new build efficiencies/ renewables/ energy usage.
- An outline of the process for new schools/roll projections where land was allocated for housing in the Local Development Plan.
- Tribute was paid to Billy MacIntyre and the staff team for the work undertaken on the consultation and engagement process with parents on rising school rolls and the good feedback which had been received.

Decision

- 1) To note the points raised during discussion of the presentation.
- 2) To thank Billy MacIntyre for the presentation.

(Reference – [Presentation - Rising Rolls, Children & Families Estate, Local Development Plan, Free School Meals](#))

4. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee 11 September 2014

The Director highlighted reports being presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 11 September 2014 as follows:-

4.1 Early Years Capital Investment

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 set the requirement to expand free nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours a year for all three and four year olds and for certain two year olds.

The Scottish Government had provided additional capital funding to respond to the necessity to deliver additional capacity across the estate as a result of the new requirements.

Committee approval was being sought to utilise part of the additional funding received to progress priority projects involving the replacement and/or expansion of the early years provision at five key locations across the City.

4.2 Energy in Schools

Details were provided of school energy consumption in 2013/14 and a high level analysis of consumption trends. Information was also provided on progress made against the action plan presented in last year's Schools Energy Report.

4.3 Free School Meals

The Scottish Government had committed to give all children in primary 1 to 3 the option of a free school meal from January 2015. Details were provided on practical and financial issues associated with the introduction of the policy in terms of accommodating and producing the extra volume of meals.

4.4 Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit

Details were provided of front line service delivery by the Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit for children and young people in schools and in community settings. The body of work within the Unit was wide ranging and covered team and individual sports, outdoor learning, residential outdoor centres, the acquisition of achievement awards, the support of school to club links and the development of school based sport hubs.

The Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit consists of Active Schools Co-ordinators, Sports Coaches, Outdoor Instructors, Swimming teachers, Modern Apprentices and other project specific staff members leading learning and coaching, organising tournaments, festivals and adventure activity trips, coaching and supporting others and being involved in planning for children and young people to become more active.

Recent research had indicated that daily intense bursts of physical activity were beneficial to children's health and fitness. A new project to pilot this idea would start in Craigour Park Primary School. The project was being developed in partnership with the Early Years Collaborative and the NHS. If successful, it would be rolled out to other schools in due course.

4.5 Parental Engagement

An update was provided on progress with the implementation of the Parental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.

Decision

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 11 September 2014.
- 2) That an update on Parental Engagement be considered as a future item of business for the CCWP.
- 3) That the Director provide further information on the selection process for the Small Steps energy awareness campaign in schools.
- 4) To note that guidelines from SportScotland were followed for new build schools.

(Reference - [Full Meeting Papers- Education, Children & Families Committee 11 September 2014](#))

5. Neighbourhood Issues

5.1 Parking at schools – update

Moyra Wilson provided an update on the issue of parking at schools. The first meeting of the Working Group established to discuss parking issues had taken place at the end of June. Some of the issues which had been discussed included:

- Possible fines, although this might not be practical as parents moved vehicles before fines could be issued. It was noted however that legislation existed in England where CCTV was used to impose fines.
- Pilot for School Streets campaign involving five schools.
- Good practice for parking to be shared between schools.
- It was noted that the idea of name and shame would be difficult.
- The road safety team had highlighted the importance of schools having updated travel plans.

Councillor Fullerton advised that following feedback from parents, Councillor Godzik, Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee, proposed to submit the following motion to the Council:-

“Council:

Notes the ongoing pilot, led by the Transport & Environment Committee, seeking to improve road safety around schools in Edinburgh by banning cars from roads immediately outside schools where appropriate, and recognises that parking outside of schools has been a major concern for Head Teachers and parents for many years.

Further notes that the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP) has requested that the Council investigate the use of CCTV to improve road safety around schools.

Requests a report on the possible introduction of CCTV around schools not suitable for the current schools street pilot. This would include potential benefits, cost and legal barriers currently in place.”

Decision

- 1) To note the information provided on discussion at the Transport at Schools Working Group.
- 2) To agree the terms of Councillor Godzik’s proposed motion for submission to Council.

6. Report from National Parent Forum Representative

An update report on the latest issues from the National Parent Forum had been circulated.

Decision

- 1) To note the update from the National Parent Forum.
- 2) To note that further information on Nationals in a Nutshell could be obtained at <http://www.npfs.org.uk/highers-in-a-nutshell> .

(Reference – report by the National Parent Forum of Scotland September 2014, submitted)

7. Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Eileen Prior provided an update on the latest issues from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council.

Decision

- 1) To note the update from the SPTC.

- 2) To note that feedback on any of the issues in the report could be made to sptc@sptc.info

(Reference – report by the Scottish Parent Teacher Council 29 August 2014, submitted)

8. Scottish Learning Festival

The Director was pleased to announce that four schools would represent Edinburgh at this year's Scottish Learning Festival in September.

Decision

To note that further information would be made available to parents about the Festival.

9. Future Items of Business

Possible items of business for future CCWP meetings were suggested. Where appropriate, the agreed items of business would be discussed in Neighbourhood Groups in the first instance.

- Exam results, including study leave, best practice in schools
- S5 and S6 new models, including HNC Academy, Broughton High School former pupils
- Facilities Management
- Quality of School Meals
- Parental Engagement
- Council Budget Meeting for Parents
- Modern Foreign Languages

10. Dates of Future Meetings – Session 2014-15

Decision

To note the dates for future meetings of the Consultative Committee as follows:

- Thursday 4 December 2014 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 26 February 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 14 May 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)