

## Update for Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups

### November 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.

At the previous CCwP the presentation from Billy MacIntyre Head of Resources for Children and Families was very well received. His presentation covered the areas of Rising Rolls/ Children and Families Estate/ Local Development Plan/ Free School Meals. (Reference – [Presentation - Rising Rolls, Children & Families Estate, Local Development Plan, Free School Meals](#))

#### Rising School Rolls update

The Convener and Vice Convener recently visited the five Primary schools (St David's, Victoria, Broughton, Stockbridge and Craighour Park) to see how they have been developed as part of the rising rolls process. They were very impressed by the high quality of the school extensions. The staff and pupils were also delighted with them.

#### Asset Management update

An updated Asset Management Plan is being progressed and will be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2014. It will 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. This report will be discussed at the CCwP meeting.

#### Free School Meals update

As of January 2015 all pupils in P1-P3 will be entitled to a free school meal. A number of schools have identified problems with physical accommodation and we are looking at ways to address these issues. We are awaiting information from the Government on funding.

#### Education, Children and Families Committee, 9 December

Paper for the next Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 December will be available from Committee Papers Online ([www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol)) on 2 December.

#### Online School Payments update – The Children and Families' Pilot

Over the past year I have been keeping you updated on the work in this area. I am pleased to report that the pilot in 5 of our schools – Sciennes, Currie, and Craighourston Primaries and Firhill and Balerno High schools has been a success.

This project has put in place an online payments system for an extensive range of activities including meals, milk, trips, events, fundraisers, sports coaching; an integrated communications system; and an integrated back office school fund management system.

The evaluation of the pilot has suggested there was wide scale support for online payments together with valuable feedback on how the system could be improved. There were also significant staff time savings through the removal of cash collection and more efficient reconciliation processes.

There is now a national online school procurement process. Once completed this can be rolled out to other establishments. This is likely to be in Spring 2015, subject to funding.

### **Parking at schools – update**

Following the last CCwP meeting, it was agreed that the Convener Paul Godzik would put forward a motion to Council on 25 September to consider requesting that the Council investigate the use of CCTV to improve road safety around schools. This motion was put forward and accepted.

### **1 plus 2 Languages update**

The great work in this area continues. Our 3 year rolling programme will see all primary schools delivering a second language (L2) from P1 at the latest and offering children the experience of an additional language (L3) from P5 at the latest. We are working to a timeline that will mean that all our primary schools will be delivering 1 plus 2 languages by the end of session 2016-17. This will be ahead of the Scottish Government's 2020 deadline for implementation.

An extensive range of high quality learning and teaching resources in different languages, (including Gaelic and Mandarin), is being developed. Activities are designed to be delivered using active approaches to engage and motivate children. These resources have been very positively evaluated both locally and nationally and are now in the process of being packaged to be sold to other local authorities.

The resources are accompanied by extensive training and on-going support for class teachers. We see class teachers' role as vital to successful and sustained implementation of 1+2 Languages. Alongside this training, we offer Primary Languages Learning courses for teachers in a number of languages. These courses aim to develop teacher skills and competence in all taught languages.

### **Budget Process**

I would like to encourage you to 'Have your say on how we invest and spend money' as a Council. The Council is deciding where to invest and where to save money. Have your say on how we do this by 19 December 2014.

Your feedback will help the Council to make its final budget decisions on 12 February 2015.

We are encouraging pupils in schools to look at the online planner as part of a lesson particularly in Secondary schools in Personal and Social Education, Mathematics and Modern Studies. I hope this keeps the momentum and interest going from the great engagement we had from senior pupils with the referendum.

As part of this ongoing engagement process all Parent Chairs have been invited by the Convener Paul Godzik to a budget consultation on the 11 November at the City Chambers (6.00 -7.30pm) to give time to look at the proposals and answer your questions.

To find out more about the budget and the 2015/16 proposals visit [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget)

## **So what is Edinburgh's budget challenge?**

*There are two main things for you to comment on related to Children and Families.*

### **The 2015/16 Proposals**

In 2015/16 we need to save at least £22 million and continue to deliver high quality services which meet our children's needs. To do this, the Council has made a number of proposals about changes we need to make. You can see these on the Council's website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget)

### **The 2015-2018 Online Budget Challenge**

We also need to plan ahead and think about which services where we can invest and save in 2015 to 2018. Below you can see the Council's priorities and the services where we have to make budget decisions. Read these and then have your say using the form at the end.

Services for Children and Families can be found on the online planner under; **Opportunities for All to Achieve Their Potential**

#### *Our Priorities*

- protecting spend on schools and delivering a first class education service

#### **Services to invest or save in:**

- early years which provide a good start to life and learning for all children from birth to five
- primary schools which educate children up to 11 years old
- secondary schools which prepare 11-18 year olds for exams and for leaving school for further education, employment and training
- special schools which meet the needs of children with disabilities and significant additional support needs
- vulnerable children, children's social work, additional support for learning, foster care and youth offending services which provide support for children who need extra help
- community services for adults and young people which provide adult learning, youth work, family learning, parenting support, and community centres

#### **October In-service in Secondary Schools**

For the third year running Children and Families Quality Improvement Officers delivered training all morning in all the curricular areas across the City. This is in response to the needs of teachers in helping implement the new qualifications.

Early feedback from staff is that this was a well received session allowing staff time to meet with each other and share best practice.

#### **Scottish Learning Festival**

This year at this two day National Event I was delighted that we had six representatives from Edinburgh sharing their good practice. Greg Dimeck, Headteacher at Gracemount Primary, presented a seminar on "**The School at the Heart of the Community**". Greg talked about

the importance of community engagement and the challenges faced by schools in promoting successful and dynamic parental engagement. Greg shared information about various strategies from setting up a dads' football team to solution focussed inter-agency working.

The Children and Families' Mental Health & Wellbeing Team presented a seminar on: **'Supporting the Promotion of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools'**. This seminar explored the work taking place in Secondary schools across Edinburgh, which aims to increase understanding and promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing in pupils, staff & parents. Jacquie Ramsay Deputy Headteacher from Tynecastle School gave an overview of the benefits and successes for their school community following participation in the 'Growing Confidence' programme.

Pauline Walker, Headteacher at The Royal High School presented a seminar **'Making the most of the Senior Phase'**. The flexibility of the new qualifications enables schools to provide a curriculum best suited to individual needs. Flexible pathways which provide varied approaches to learning and a wide range of curricular options provide new opportunities for learners to certificate at a time which is right for them to maximise success. This will allow our young people to access the best sustained positive destinations.

Sandra Milne, Deputy Headteacher Additional Support for Learning Service, presented a seminar on **'The Fresh Start Literacy Project for Upper Primary Pupils in Edinburgh'**. Sandra shared Edinburgh's successes in the Fresh Start Literacy Intervention Programme. The presentation included a film of Fresh Start in action, highlighting some of the teaching methodology and feedback from learners and their teachers.

Joyce Rochford, Senior Development Officer for the Senior Phase took part in the panel discussion entitled, **'The importance of effective partnership working. Lessons learned through citizenship & enterprise education: failed small, learned big'**. The seminar reflected upon effective partnership working within citizenship and enterprise education, drawing upon perspectives from the public, private and third sectors.

**Pilrig Park School's Theatre Arts Group** provided a welcomed entertainment break. Sixty pupils performed a 30 minute dance sequence from their show 'Going for Gold' which was staged at the Festival Theatre in June. These young performers received a standing ovation in the main arena and Head Girl Abigail Hillen spoke about how their Going for Gold performance was based on the theme of the Commonwealth Games and how each young person was trying to be the best they could be and achieve that gold medal in all areas of life.

## **The Drop In**

'The Drop In' was launched on Saturday 18 October. This is a new city wide service for families with a child/young person aged 0-18 years old with a disability and their siblings. It provides an opportunity for parents/carers to meet each other and chat over a cuppa whilst their children take part in activities run by experienced youth workers from FABB Scotland and CEC. We are encouraged by the positive feedback from the 24 families who attended on the first week. This is a really positive start and we are expecting numbers to increase as news travels about this new opportunity for families. The two hour sessions are held each Saturday at Jack Kane; Northfield and Willowbrae; Carrickvale; Royston Wardieburn.

## **Oaklands School welcomes Scotland's Minister for Learning**

On 20 August 2014 Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning, Science & Scotland's Languages visited Woodlands Special School.

The visit was initiated by Avril Elliot, chair of Oakland's School Parent Council. The school shared with the minister the hard work that goes on in Oaklands and their commitment to achieving the very best for pupils, which were recognised in the school's recent positive [HMle inspection report](#).

## **FEAST - Families' Edinburgh Additional Support Training**

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new families training group open to all families and their friends who live in Edinburgh and the Lothian's across all school settings.

The group was formed after a request from parents and professionals to have training covering a range of supports for families with children and young people with additional support needs and disabilities. A series of course/events are running across four key themes Health; Benefits; Behaviour and Parent Support; Communications.

If you are would like to be notified of the up and coming events please subscribe to our mailing list at: [feastcontactus@gmail.com](mailto:feastcontactus@gmail.com) or like our facebook page:

Your school will also issue you with notification of dates.

Contacts: Susan Shipway, HT, Redhall School; Kirsty Rosie, HT, Prospect Bank School, Alison Nicolson, Parent Council, Redhall School, Kirsty Lawson, Parent Council, Prospect Bank School.

## **Psychology of Parenting Project**

We are delighted that Edinburgh has been selected as a site for the national rollout of Psychology of Parenting Project (PoPP).

PoPP is aimed at improving the availability of high-quality evidence-based parenting programmes for families with young children (3/4 year olds) who have behaviour problems.

Effective interventions are needed for these children because approximately 10% of preschool children display high levels of behaviour problems (aggression, noncompliance and poor temper control) that are strongly predictive of a host of poor outcomes such as school exclusion, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse and mental health difficulties later in life.

Practitioners from a range of services have been identified and facilitator training for the two programmes, Incredible Years and Level 4 Group Triple P is underway.

## **Creative Writing course**

Over 200 S5 and S6 pupils from 20 Edinburgh schools attended this year's Creative Writing Conference on 5 September 2014. The conference was held in partnership with

- University of Edinburgh
- Scottish Book Trust
- Scottish Poetry Library

The event was held at Edinburgh University School of Education, where the students heard a keynote address by Anne Donovan, award winning author of 'Buddha Da'. After this they took part in two workshops, designed to inspire them to write creatively as part of their Higher and Advanced Higher English programme.

The workshops were led by English teachers and professional writers from a range of genres, including fantasy, crime, short stories, poetry and drama. Pupil comments were very positive:

*Really loved this event and got me inspired for writing*

*I felt inspired to write and try out ideas from the workshops. I received good tips and advice which I think will benefit me and improve my writing.*

*The teacher workshop helped me think of different ways to create my folio. The author workshop was inspiring as we received useful tips for the future.*

Thanks to all the teachers, professional writers and Edinburgh University staff involved in the event, for all their help to make this a memorable day for all who attended.

## **Early Years update**

Since the implementation of the Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 children aged three and four are now entitled to additional hours of early learning and childcare.

Many children and families across Edinburgh are now benefitting from additional hours of early learning and childcare. We have increased nursery opening hours across local authority nursery schools, classes and Early Years Centres for three and four year olds. Parents who use partner provider early years establishments will receive more financial support. This is the first phase of changes in the way parents can access nursery provision for their children. We will be looking, in future years, at ways to make our early years provision more flexible in the hours that parents can access.

We are also offering places in our nursery settings to some two year olds. We are currently sending out information to our schools and centre's about the application process, including criteria for eligibility and an explanation of where places are available.

In order to deliver increased hours we require more staff across early years. We have established an Early Learning and Childcare Academy which is providing a unique opportunity to young people in Edinburgh who wish to pursue a career in early learning and childcare. We have recruited 11 Modern Apprentice Early Years Practitioners who will work in our nurseries and access training at Edinburgh College. This is linked with the Edinburgh Guarantee.

We have also introduced a trainee Early Years Practitioner programme which was open to anyone wishing to pursue a career in early years. Successful candidates will be able to earn while training. The training will be delivered by successful leaders working in early years in Edinburgh and in our own local authority settings. The programme that has been designed has been described as a 'flagship' for early years training.

## **Improving school websites**

As part of our drive to help improve school websites across the city, we have recently launched:

- A new easy-to-follow, comprehensive school websites guidelines that schools can access

- A dedicated section of the Orb ( staff site) called Schools on the Orb to support schools in creating their website
- A school website template

The first training course on creating web content for schools ran recently and the second will run near the end of the year.

Over the last year we have audited all primary, secondary and special school websites to check for compliance with legislation and policy and to ensure basic information was in place to help parent's complete popular tasks. We will report on the findings of the audit to schools directly. It is hoped that this will improve your experience of school websites and also give a strong first impression to others looking at our schools.

### **Achievement Awards**

This event held on 11 September, has been a highlight of my year. It is a ceremony that celebrates outstanding achievements from across Children and Families. The evening brings all the applications to life. All entries were of high quality, but the winners of each of the seven categories stood out in improving the lives of children and young people. My award went to the Active Schools team, which I was delighted about, as they do an amazing job increasing young people's participation in physical activity and sport. The Convener's award went to the Speak Up Speak Out campaign, which was a thoroughly worthy winner as they have successfully improved the public's understanding of child protection, particularly issues surrounding the use of social media.

Over the next few weeks there will be features on the Bright Futures Blog of the winners and those highly commended in each of the seven categories. Please take time to have a look at them [www.edinburghbrightfutures.com](http://www.edinburghbrightfutures.com)

### **Dates of Future CCwP meetings – Session 2014-15**

Thursday 4 December 2014 (6.30-8.30pm)

Thursday 26 February 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)

Thursday 14 May 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)

Gillian Tee  
Director of Children and Families  
27 November 2014

**1. Issues Raised by Neighbourhood Parent Forums from the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Groups of the session. The major part of these groups were devoted to the Local Development Planning Process.**

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.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Completed/ Ongoing</b>
East Neighbourhood	Closure of Duddingston Road West	Reassurance on safety of Pupils	Gavin Brown	Completed
	Free school Meals St Johns requirements	Smooth Implementation of meals system in January	Laura Nisbet	Completed
	School websites	Reasons for change explained Systems must be accessible for a variety of hardware	Graeme Smith	Completed
	Charitable Trust	Information on how Duddingston set up a trust to be shared with others	Chair of Parent Council and DHT Duddingston	Next meeting
South Neighbourhood	Free School Meals	Implementation Plan	Laura Nisbet Moyra Wilson to update next meeting	Ongoing
	Issues of planning near Taobh Na Pairce	Can parent council contest a planning application for a building	Planning Department Moyra Wilson passed information to chair	Completed
	Traffic Order Gracemount	The traffic order is in place	Highways	To date MW has been advised they have no knowledge of a traffic order
	Grounds for learning	Update on next steps	Margaret Westwood	Completed
	Can child care vouchers be used for after childcare	Yes	Jane Ramage	Completed



North	Parking	Update to be sent to group	Moyra Wilson	Completed
West	Damp issues on class room wall at Fox Covert RC	Information update and solution to problem	Peter Watton	Ongoing
	Pedestrian Crossing out of operation since June	Crossing working	Caroline Burwell Gavin Brown	Completed
	Appeals Process	The process explained to the group	Moyra Wilson	Completed
	Cramond New School sign	Erection of new school sign	Peter Watton	Ongoing
	Cramond Swimming	Is there a nearer pool. Parents paying for transport	Robin Yellowlees	Ongoing
	Re assessment of exams	Who pays for this	Karen Prophet	Ongoing
	Why does council not follow Sports Scotland Guidelines in connection with new sports halls being built	They do	Crawford McGhie	Completed
South West	Query re rebuild for Dean Park	There was no money set aside for a rebuild	Billy McIntyre	Completed
	Implementation of free school meals P1-3	Briefing by MW at November meetings	Laura Nisbet	Completed
Special Schools	Access to services through Section 23	AG to invite Carol Chalmers to a meeting.	Alistair Gaw	Completed
	Sharing good practice	Parents attend the FEAST programme	Ellen Muir	Completed
	Summer play schemes	Feedback to be sent to AG	Alistair Gaw	Ongoing
	Funding for Woodlands Astro turf	AG to enquire about this	Alistair Gaw	Ongoing
	Blue Badge Assessment	Parents updated on how this is done in November	Rosie Wilson	Completed
	Use of CCTV Cameras in schools	For Security only. data protection	Rosie Wilson	Completed