

Note of meeting

Consultative Committee with Parents

6.30pm, Thursday, 4 December 2014, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Corbett, Dixon and Fullerton.

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Alison Bowyer, Craigmount High School (West Neighbourhood Group)
Sally Cavers, Dean Park Primary School (South West Neighbourhood Group)
Allan Crosbie (Teacher Rep, Education Children and Families Committee)
Lindsay Law (Parent Rep, Education Children and Families Committee)
Georgina Moore, Queensferry Community High School (West Neighbourhood Group)
Sharon Mortimer (North Neighbourhood Group)
Gareth Oakley, Craiglockhart Primary School (West Neighbourhood Group)
Stephen Preston, Firrhill High School (South West Neighbourhood Group)
Liz Purves, Woodlands (Special School Group)
Alexander Ramage, Prestonfield Primary School (South Neighbourhood Group)
David Robertson, Duddingston Primary School (East Neighbourhood Group)

Head Teacher Representatives

Stephen Kelly, Liberton High School
Ellen Muir, Pilrig Park School

Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Eileen Prior

Officers in Attendance

Gillian Tee, Director of Children and Families
Alistair Gaw, Head of Support to Children and Young People, Children and Families
Karen Prophet, Senior Education Manager (Schools, Quality and Curriculum), Children and Families
Grace Vickers, Quality Improvement Manager (Secondary), Children and Families
Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager (Inclusion and Pupil/Parent Support), Children and Families

Rosie Wilson, Service Manager (Special Schools and Specialist Provision), Children and Families

Maria Lloyd, Department Adviser to Councillor Paul Godzik

Lesley Birrell, Committee Services, Corporate Governance

Apologies

Tina Woolnough

1. Minutes

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 8 September 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 of Children and Families highlighted the following key areas:

2.2 Free School Meals – Update

As of January 2015 all pupils in P1 to P3 would be entitled to a free school meal. A number of schools had identified problems with physical accommodation. The Scottish Government had now confirmed that capital funding was in place which would allow the Council to provide the necessary accommodation to support the provision of free school meals. Other capital projects previously identified in the budget could now progress.

2.3 Scottish Learning Festival

The following representatives from Edinburgh had attended the two day Scottish Learning Festival and presented seminars sharing good practice on a range of issues particular to their individual areas of expertise:

Gracemount Primary

Children and Families Mental Health and Wellbeing Team

The Royal High School

Additional Support for Learning Service

Senior Development Officer for the Senior Phase

Pilrig Park School Theatre Group

Portobello High School

2.4 Standing Items for Future Neighbourhood Group Meetings

It was agreed that, with immediate effect, the following two issues would be placed on agendas for Neighbourhood Group meetings as standing items:

- Free School Meals
- Facilities Management

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

3. Curriculum for Excellence: Senior Phase - Presentation

Karen Prophet, Senior Education Manager and Grace Vickers, Quality Improvement Manager, gave a presentation on the opportunities provided within the curriculum for young people in S4 and above for developing skills for learning, life and work with a continuing focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Details were also given of the support mechanisms in place for young people towards moving into positive and sustained destinations beyond school.

The presentation focussed on the highlighted features of the senior phase and the partnership working which was key in facilitating delivery of the programme. 191 students had participated in the Academies.

Decision

- 1) To note the positive work taking place in the senior phase in the City's schools.
- 2) To thank Karen Prophet and Grace Vickers for their presentation.

(Reference – Presentation – The City of Edinburgh Curriculum for Excellence The Senior Phase, submitted)

4. Modern Foreign Languages – Presentation

Grace Vickers, Quality Improvement Manager gave a presentation on the proposed implementation programme for delivery of modern languages for the period 2014 to 2017. School clusters would prioritise modern languages for one of the next three years with language choices being decided jointly by cluster heads and modern language leads. A successful pilot of the model had been trialled during 2014/2015. All staff would be trained in using resource over the three year roll out.

Decision

- 1) To note the developments and proposals for delivery of modern languages for the period 2014 to 2017.
- 2) To thank Grace Vickers for her presentation.

(Reference – Presentation – City of Edinburgh Modern Languages, submitted)

5. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee 9 December 2014

The Director highlighted reports being presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 9 December 2014 as follows:

5.1 Rising School Rolls

An update would be provided to Committee on the primary school rising rolls programme including the latest forecast of projected future total primary school rolls

based on recent information on births and population projections provided by the National Records of Scotland suggesting that future birth rates would be greater than previously projected.

Information was also provided on the projected future position in the secondary sector where, from 2017 onwards, rolls were projected to start rising again following a period of decline. Further detailed analysis would be undertaken in this area during 2015 to determine the scale of any future accommodation pressures which may arise and to identify potential solutions.

5.2 Free School Meals

An update was provided on progress towards the implementation of the extended free school meal policy from January 2015. A detailed assessment of costs, sources of funding, and interim measures to address issues of capacity at Cramond, East Craigs, Sciennes and Towerbank Primary Schools was also provided.

5.3 Play Strategy

Details were provided of progress made in Outdoor Play and Active Learning from October 2013 - October 2014. The City of Edinburgh Play Strategy '*Play in Partnership: a Play Strategy for the City of Edinburgh*' had been reviewed in response to the latest national and international guidance. Results of an audit of current access arrangements to primary school playgrounds for play out with teaching hours and proposals for future access were also provided.

5.4 Asset Management Plan

The Education, Children and Families Committee would be asked to approve the updated Children and Families Asset Management Plan 2014, the proposed lifetime of which was two years with a further updated plan to be reported to Committee for consideration before the end of 2016. The Plan identified the significant capital expenditure that would be made in the Children and Families estate in the next five years.

Decision

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 December 2014.
- 2) To note that further update reports would be submitted to Committee on the capital funding in place to support additional accommodation required in specified schools as part of the free school meal programme.

(Reference - [Education Children and Families Committee 9 December 2014](#))

6. Neighbourhood Issues

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

West Neighbourhood Group 10 November 2014

- The Director of Children and Families confirmed that school travel plans were the responsibility of individual schools and that these were updated on a regular basis as required.
- Issues were raised about facilities management and there was frustration at the lack of direct answers, forward planning and action being taken to address a range of problems.

South Neighbourhood Group 17 November 2014

- Issues had been raised about getting supply staff into schools. The Senior Education Manager was looking into this and a new round of recruitment had started to populate the supply list. An initial audit of supply staff had revealed they were employed on short term contracts.

Special Schools Group 24 November 2014

- The Group had welcomed the fact that FEAST details had been sent to all special schools to be able to input and add onto timetables of events. The sessions were open to all children with additional support needs.
- There had been meetings to discuss the way parents park at school and ways to curb this. The Parking Operations Manager had been looking into this and an article highlighting the problem had been published in the Evening News.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised by the school neighbourhood groups.
- 2) To note that an update would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee on arrangements for getting supply staff into schools.
- 3) To note that facilities management issues were common to all Neighbourhood Groups and to invite Peter Watton, Acting Head of Corporate Property to the next meeting to provide an update on these issues.
- 4) To note that facilities management would be a standing item on future Neighbourhood Group agendas.

(References – minutes of Parent Neighbourhood Group meetings, submitted)

7. Report from National Parent Forum

Tina Woolnough had submitted apologies for this meeting.

Decision

To note that an update report would be provided to a future meeting.

8. Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Eileen Prior provided an update on the latest issues from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council. The following areas were highlighted:

- Backchat – this had been redesigned and the SPTC were keen to hear members' views. From this issue members would have to opt in to receive a paper version, otherwise it would be sent by email.
- Member Survey – a copy of the member survey had been sent to all member organisations to help inform SPTC that it was providing the support and services members wanted.
- Member Support in Edinburgh – a series of information and training sessions had been arranged for the next few months and emails with more details had been sent to Parent Councils.

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 December 2014, submitted)

9. Dates of Future Meetings – Session 2014-15

Decision

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

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