

City Wide Specials Schools Group Meeting

Pilrig Park

Item 7.2

Tuesday 3 February 2015

Attendees:

Chair: Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manger, Children and Families

Minute Taker: Rosie Wilson, Service Manager Special Schools & Specialist Provision

Present:

Ellen Muir, Head Teacher, Pilrig Park School

Susie Burr, Parent Council Chair, Pilrig Park

Liz Power, Parent Council Chair, Woodlands School

Fiona Campbell, Parent Council Chair, Kaimes School

Colin Burrow, Parent Council Chair, Redhall School

Karen Church, Parent Council, St Crispins

Sarah Kyambi, Parent, St Crispins

Rosie Wilson, Service Manager Special Schools & Specialist Provision

Alistair Gaw, Head of Services to Young People

		Action
1.	<p>Welcome Moyra welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received None</p>	
2.	<p>Previous minutes and accuracy Accepted</p>	
3.	<p>Directors Report</p> <p>a. <u>Education Scotland Feedback</u> MW gave out a summary sheet from Gillian Tee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Foreign Languages Asked if other special schools provided French. In one school it motivated learners and worked well. This could be raised at the Headteachers' meeting and within specific schools. • EM shared that special schools are performing well. <p>b. <u>Partnership with Festival City Theatre Trust</u> RW, EM and AG give their perspectives on the relaxed performance on 15/01/2015. It had been an incredible experience for all involved and it was generously funded through 'Cash for Kids'. The schools are making a 'thank you' book for the Festival City Theatre Trust and 'Cash for Kids'. Parents reported that their children had a very good experience and hoped it may happen again. RW reported it was planned for 2016 – Snow White. The organisation and work that had gone into the event had enabled it all to go very smoothly.</p> <p>c. <u>Making a Difference – Special Schools</u> Every special school presented a workshop on an area which makes a difference in their school. This involved presenting a</p>	<p>EM will raise at HTs' meeting</p>

	<p>workshop and then professional dialogue session. T Dwyer (Gorgie Mills) presented a keynote speech on reflective practice. This was very well received and the whole event was very positive and a lot of effective proactive shared to take forward in all special schools.</p> <p>d.<u>Pride in Our People</u> This was noted.</p> <p>e.<u>Website Update</u> In special schools a range of staff take responsibility of updating the website including DHT/BM etc.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Vision for Schools MW provided an overview of the Vision for Schools document.</p> <p><u>Improved Life Skills for Children in Need</u> The SALT provision in Kaimes has been reduced and the parents often don't know if they are getting SALT. Parents report the communication from SALT is not very good in terms of what is being offered. SALT has not been cut overall in Edinburgh but is spread more thinly. This was also identified as an issue.</p> <p>The Hannen programme has been offered but the parents feel their children have greater needs than this programme offers. The parents had attended the Hannen programme and do not feel this is appropriate again.</p> <p>Schools reported that the SALT provision had been halved in a number of schools.</p> <p><u>Parental and Pupil Engagement</u> Cuts in respite services means parents don't have time and energy to engage. One parent indicated a 'full' package is 24 nights but thought in the past was 38 nights.</p> <p><u>Parent Mail</u> The BM could access the e-mails or school admin.</p>	<p>RW to ask relevant managers to produce information for the next meeting</p> <p>RW to seek information re the different understanding of respite packages</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Property and Facilities Management</p> <p><u>Property</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property and Meals issues have been sent to Peter Watten 	

6.	<p>Better Relationships Policy</p> <p>Comments had been received from parents and this would now be updated and finalised.</p>	
7.	<p>Review of Nursery Nurse and Support Staff</p> <p>Discussion in one school at the PC indicated that the school was best to take this forward keeping the parents informed.</p> <p>RW provided a progress report as follows:</p> <p>Working Groups had been formed under 3 workstreams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability including nursery nurses and pupil support assistants working in primary, secondary and all through (3-18 years) special schools. • Social, emotional and behaviour needs including behavioural support assistants, family support, group workers. • Specialist provision, nursery nurses (language and communication classes within 6 mainstream schools). <p>Each working group has met and Headteacher(s) supported the discussion.</p> <p>The comments from the working groups were circulated to all staff within each work stream via Headteachers. Feedback from each school was due at the end of January and once this is analysed further information from Headteachers, chairs of the working groups will be collated to begin the key support service roles for the future.</p> <p>Two further activities involve looking at the range of historical support staff posts and benchmarking practice from other Scottish Councils.</p> <p>The special school city-wide group will be updated on progress at the next meeting.</p>	
8.	<p>Appointment of a Parent Representative to E, C& F</p> <p>In March the members of the CCwP will be asked to nominate a representative to replace Lyndsey Law.</p> <p>The next CCwP is on 26 February 2015 and only parents can vote for the representative.</p> <p>Colin will attend the CCwP on 26 February 2015 and Liz Power will put her name down as the second parent for voting purposes.</p>	
9.	<p>Sharing Good Practice</p>	

	<p><u>ICT – raising money for SMART Boards</u> Funding for SMART boards has been an issue and some schools have received some funding. There are a number of charities which can support specific areas.</p> <p><u>Film Theatre Animation in Kaimes</u> It was a great success and the presentation was well attended and enjoyed by all.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting: Thursday 7 May 2015 in Pilrig Park at 6.30pm</p>		