

Agenda

Consultative Committee with Parents

6.30 – 8.30pm, Thursday, 14 May 2015

European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Contacts

Clerk: Susan Weir, Committee Services

E-mail: susan.weir@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4240

Directorate Lead Officer: Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager

E-mail: moyra.wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3066

1. Order of Business

- 1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 In terms of Section 5.4 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3. Note of Previous Meeting

- 3.1 Consultative Committee with Parents: 26 February 2015 (circulated)

4. Director's Update

- 4.1 Report to Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups May 2015 (circulated)

5. Presentations/Reports

- 5.1 Rising Rolls, Local Development Plan, Wave 4 - Crawford McGhie, Asset Planning Manager
- 5.2 1:1 Digital Learning - David McKee, Quality Improvement Officer, Technologies

6. Education, Children and Families Committee Reports

The agenda, minutes and reports for the Education, Children and Families Committee of 19 May 2015 will be available by the afternoon of Wednesday 13 May 2015. The papers for this Committee and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings

- 6.1 Term Dates
- 6.2 P1-3 Free School Meals
- 6.3 Early Years
- 6.4 Preventing and Responding to Bullying

7. Education, Children and Families Committee - Parent Representative

- 7.1 Appointment of Parent Representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee – report (to follow)

8. Neighbourhood Representatives – Key Issues

Comments from Parent Representatives – minutes from Neighbourhood Groups (to follow).

- 8.1 West Neighbourhood Group 29 April 2015

- 8.2 South West Neighbourhood Group 5 May 2015
- 8.3 South Neighbourhood Group 6 May 2015
- 8.4 Special Schools Citywide Group 7 May 2015
- 8.5 North Neighbourhood Group 11 May 2015
- 8.6 East Neighbourhood Group 12 May 2015

9. Report from National Parent Forum Representative

- 9.1 Report by Barbara Schuler, National Parent Forum Scotland

10. Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council Representative

- 10.1 Report by Eileen Prior, Scottish Parent Teacher Council (to follow)

11. Dates of future meetings (6.30pm-8.30pm)

Thursday 1 October 2015

Thursday 3 December 2015

Thursday 25 February 2016

Thursday 19 May 2016

Carol Campbell

Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance

Membership

Members appointed by the Education, Children and Families Committee

- Councillors Godzik (Convener), Aldridge, Corbett, Dixon, Fullerton, Redpath and Rust
- Allan Crosbie, teacher representative from the Education, Children and Families Committee

Parent and outside agency representatives

- Two parent representatives from each of the Neighbourhood Groups
- One parent representative from the citywide Special Schools Group
- One parent representative from the Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Forum
- One head teacher from each sector on a rota basis
- One representative from the National Parent Forum
- One representative from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Lead officers

- Gillian Tee, Director of Children and Families
- Andy Gray, Head of Schools and Community Services, Children and Families
- Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager, Children and Families

Information about the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP)

The CCwP is a Forum for discussion and consultation with parents on citywide and national issues.

A parent representative from the CCwP is appointed to the Council's Education, Children and Families Committee with full voting rights.

Further information on the CCwP may be obtained from the link below:

[Parental Engagement Report](#)

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Susan Weir, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2.1, Waverley Court, East Market Street, Edinburgh, Tel 0131 529 4107, e-mail susan.weir@edinburgh.gov.uk .

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol.

Note of meeting

Item No. 3.1

Consultative Committee with Parents 6.30pm, Thursday, 26 February 2015, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillor Robson (Chair).

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Alexandra Black, North Neighbourhood Group
Alison Bowyer, West Neighbourhood Group
Lindsay Law, North Neighbourhood Group
Gareth Oakley, West Neighbourhood Group
Liz Power, Citywide Special Schools Group
Alexander Ramage, South Neighbourhood Group
David Robertson, East Neighbourhood Group

National Parent Forum Scotland

Tina Woolnough

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
Andy Gray, Head of Schools and Community Services
Grace Vickers, Quality Improvement Manager, Children and Families
Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager (Inclusion and Pupil/Parent Support),
Children and Families
Maria Lloyd, Department Adviser to Convener of Education, Children and Families
Peter Watton, Head of Corporate Property
Murdo MacLeod, Acting Compliance Manager, Services for Communities
Susan Weir, Assistant Committee Clerk, Corporate Governance

Apologies

Councillors Corbett, Dixon, Fullerton and Godzik; Colin Burrow, Sally Cavers, Simon Collins, Allan Crosbie, Willie French, Stephen Harrold, Stephen Preston and Rosie Wilson.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Keith Robson introduced himself to members of the CCWP. As a member of the Education, Children and Families Committee, he had been invited to chair the meeting on behalf of Councillor Godzik who was unable to attend.

1.1 Ellen Muir MBE

Councillor Robson noted congratulations to Ellen Muir, Head Teacher of Pilrig Park School and representative on the CCWP, who had been recently honoured with a Member of the British Empire. Ellen's commitment and leadership had been recognised as an inspiration to both staff and pupils.

2. Minutes

Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 4 December 2014 was approved as a correct record.

3. Director's Update

3.1 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 included feedback from the Neighbourhood Parent Groups and a progress update on matters arising. The Director of Children and Families highlighted the following key areas:

3.2 Ministerial Visits

Details were provided on a number of visits which had provided the opportunity to see different examples of work and good practice going on in schools.

3.3 Education Scotland – Feedback

Education Scotland's annual report on education services in Edinburgh had been very positive. A summary of the areas commended by Education Scotland was provided along with the areas which would be developed further.

3.4 Council Budget

The budget engagement process had ended on 19 December 2014. The Director expressed her thanks to everyone who had contributed to the process feeding into the Council's budget meeting on 12 February 2015. She was pleased to report that school budgets had been protected from significant further reductions.

Decision

To note the update report by the Director of Children and Families.

(Reference – report dated February 2015 by the Director of Children and Families; summary sheet on feedback from Education Scotland, submitted)

4. Facilities Management Issues – School Meals and Property Repairs and Maintenance

The Director introduced Peter Watton and Murdo MacLeod who had been invited to present information on school meals and procedures for dealing with property repairs and maintenance issues.

The presentation focussed on:

- the structure of Total FM which served to understand and deliver customer facilities management requirements.
- the school meals service.
- cleaning and janitorial services.
- repairs and maintenance issues including information on the work of the new asset management section to deliver an ongoing condition survey programme across the estate.

A number of issues were discussed including:

- Wave 4 schools programme – it was noted that work was ongoing on new build work priorities and that this would be reported later in the year.
- Improved communication and compliance for sub-contractors meeting timescales and signing off work.
- Improvements to the computerised system to provide information on where logged calls were situated in the queue.

Decision

- 1) To thank Peter Watton and Murdo MacLeod for their presentation.
- 2) To request that Billy MacIntyre be invited to the next meeting of the CCWP to present an update on priorities for new build work in the school estate.
- 3) To note that the [Children and Families Asset Management Plan 2014](#) submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 December 2014 would be circulated to CCWP representatives.

(Reference – presentation by the Head of Corporate Property, submitted)

5. Educational Attainment – Improving Outcomes for Learners

Grace Vickers, Quality Improvement Manager had been invited to present information on improving attainment and outcomes for learners.

The presentation gave an overview of improvements in attainment, positive destinations and wider achievement. Details were provided on how schools tracked progress in tackling disadvantage by improving attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers. The various opportunities for wider achievement offered to pupils such as volunteering were outlined, together with areas proposed for further improvement to improve outcomes.

Decision

- 1) To note that the information presented would be shared more widely including school parent council meetings and parent neighbourhood groups.
- 2) To note that improving outcomes for learners in special schools would be reported at a later date, and to request that a presentation on ASL be made at a future meeting of the CCWP.
- 2) To thank Grace Vickers for her presentation.

(Reference – Presentation by the Director of Children and Families, submitted)

6. Appointment of Parent Representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee

The term of office for the parent representative on the Education, Children and Families Committee was due to expire at the end of June 2015. A timetable for the nomination/election process for the position commencing session 2015-2016 was outlined. The nomination/election process would be undertaken during spring 2015 with further details provided to eligible members in March 2015.

Decision

To note the information.

(Reference – Briefing paper by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, submitted)

7. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee 3 March 2015

The Director highlighted reports being presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 3 March 2015 as follows:

7.1 Vision for Schools

Details were provided of progress on the Vision for Schools for all children and young people to have the best start in life; be physically and emotionally healthy; be successful learners, confident individuals, and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities; and to leave school into a positive destination well prepared for work, leisure, family life and lifelong learning.

7.2 Integrated Literacy Strategy

An update was provided on progress of priorities within the 2014-2015 Edinburgh Integrated Literacy Strategy (EILS) action plan.

The overarching vision of the strategy was to improve literacy skills and raise standards for all learners at all stages, enabling them to participate confidently in a wide range of roles in modern society and to contribute to their local community.

7.3 Primary School Estate Rising Rolls

The latest primary school roll projections at a city-wide level estimated that the primary school roll would rise from the position of 28,010 pupils at the start of session 2014/15 to an estimated 31,700 pupils by 2020 and 35,400 pupils by 2030.

To help predict how rising rolls might affect each primary school catchment area, detailed analysis was undertaken each year to identify schools where there could be insufficient accommodation to meet future catchment demand. Schools which would potentially face accommodation pressures in August 2016 and beyond had been identified, with options to address issues at each school.

Engagement would be undertaken with each school community to identify preferred options and would be reported back to Committee in May 2015.

In respect of proposals to alter catchment boundaries between Towerbank Primary School and neighbouring primary schools, initial informal consultation was underway with the affected schools to establish if there were any other feasible or preferred options for alterations to catchment boundaries which would still achieve the required outcome.

7.4 School Based Sports Hubs

Community Sport Hubs were a national initiative designed to improve school to club links and develop partnerships with sports clubs and other community organisations.

The Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit had taken the lead role in the successful development of three school based Community Sport Hubs - Forrester/St Augustine's High School Campus, Broughton High School and more recently The Royal High School. The sport hub approach would be rolled out to other schools and neighbourhoods in the city.

The Director also noted that funding was now available for defibrillators to be placed in all secondary schools.

Decision

To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 3 March 2015.

(Reference - [Education, Children and Families Committee 3 March 2015](#))

8. Neighbourhood Issues

Minutes of the most recent meetings of the Parent Neighbourhood Groups had been circulated. Councillor Robson invited any additional information or issues parents wished to raise. Discussion on specific issues raised included the following:-

- **School term dates** – concern had been expressed at the West Neighbourhood Group that parental consultation on school term dates had not been taken on board. It was suggested that it would be useful if confirmation could be given to parents prior to future consultation, that the Council had no preferred option for term dates. A request was also made for the adoption of an evidence-based approach to school holidays to be considered in terms of what would be best for children educationally, rather than adhering to the current traditional holidays. The Director confirmed that staff and trade unions had also been consulted on the term dates.

- **Catchment and non-catchment schools** – It was confirmed that a parent could make a request for a non-catchment school and at the same time reserve a place in their catchment school.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised by the school neighbourhood groups.
- 2) To note the request for consideration of an evidence-based approach for determining school holidays.

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

9. Report from National Parent Forum Scotland

Tina Woolnough provided an update on issues from the National Parent Forum Scotland, highlighting the following:

- Edinburgh High School Parent Focus Group on Improving Attainment for All – Thursday 12 March 2015 at 7pm. Volunteers were sought to attend this event which would be hosted by facilitators to produce a report on the findings of the event and the next steps.
- Updated National 5 Revision and Curriculum for Excellence Higher Revision in a Nutshell Guides. These Revision guides would be available on the National Parent Forum website soon.
- Learning Pathways in a Nutshell. This new Nutshell illustrated and explained the various pathways available for young people to gather awards and qualifications at school, college, university and the workplace.
- Parent Survey of Early Years and Childcare Provision.

Decision

- 1) To note the update from the National Parent Forum Scotland.
- 2) To note that further information on any of the issues could be obtained from the website www.parentforumscotland.org.
- 3) To note that this would be Tina's last meeting representing the National Parent Forum on the Consultative Committee with Parents and to thank Tina for all her work supporting the CCWP.

(Reference – report by the National Parent Forum Scotland representative February 2015, submitted)

10. 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:

- AGM and Lecture – the SPTC were moving to an annual lecture format instead of a conference. This year's AGM and Lecture would be held on 3 March at the Glasgow Science Centre.
- Information Sessions to Parents and Teachers around Scotland – two new sessions had been developed with the Gathered Together project and Helping to

Improve Your School which looked at practical ways for parent councils to take forward school improvement goals.

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 February 2015, submitted)

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Decision

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

- Thursday 14 May 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 1 October 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 3 December 2015 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 25 February 2016 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 19 May 2016 (6.30-8.30pm)

Director of Children and Families
Update for Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups
May 2015

Item 4.1

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.

I was delighted at full Council in March that the good work of Children and Families was publicly recognised by the Council Leader who highlighted the positive Education Scotland report on Education Services in Edinburgh. Andrew Burns thanked all staff in Children and Families and particularly those in schools for their hard work and commitment which is delivering good and improving education services.

Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP)

The last meeting was on 26 February 2015. The first presentation was on [Educational Attainment](#) which I am pleased to say has improved year on year since 2007 and is now better than national and comparators on most measures. The presentation also described the new way of monitoring educational attainment nationally through a tool called Insight. Parents asked if they could have a copy of this helpful presentation including data on their own school's performance and this was agreed. The second presentation related to Facilities Management. Peter Watton, Acting Head of Corporate Property gave a helpful presentation and responded to parents questions. He clarified that condition surveys had been completed for the whole school estate and extra capital and revenue funding has been allocated to take this forward. He explained the financial challenge but emphasised that the budget would always be there to ensure that health and safety issues are addressed as a priority.

The Budget

As we start another financial year I can report that we delivered a balanced budget for 2014-2015. For 2015/16 we have another £14m savings to find in Children and Families but I am pleased to say that school budgets have been protected from any further reductions.

Vision for Schools

This [report](#) describes the good progress which has been made in implementing our Vision for Schools. Educational attainment has improved, there is strong commitment meeting the needs of vulnerable children and children's wider achievements are highly valued.

The following areas are identified as priorities for development:

- Moving our schools from good to great
- Continuing and sustaining improvements in education attainment
- Continuing to strengthen support for children with additional support needs
- Continuing to improve early years
- Continuing to develop and upgrade the school estate

Education, Children and Families Committee on 3 March 2015 - A summary of all the reports is available [here](#). The next Education, Children and Families Committee on 19 May 2015 will be available from [Committee Papers Online](#) on 13 May 2015.

Sub Committee on Standards in schools – 9 March 2015

The recent Sub Committee on Standards chaired by the Convener Paul Godzik was able to celebrate two very positive School Inspection reports from [Kirkliston Primary School](#) and [Craigroyston Community High School](#). There was also a positive report on the Craigroyston Learning Community. A report on the ongoing work of [Total Craigroyston](#)

also went to Committee on 3 March 2015 and was highly praised for its innovative work which is already improving outcomes for children and families.

Third Party Working Group - 4 February 2015

For the future we want to rethink how we award grants so they are more closely linked to our priorities and our Commissioning Plan. We are re-designing our approach in partnership with the voluntary sector and there have been several engagement events. The feedback will be shared with the organisations and will help to formulate a report to Children and Families Committee in May 2015.

Sports Hubs and Active Schools

At the Committee in March a report on the success of the school-based community sports hubs was shared. We currently have sports hubs in Forrester's/St Augustine's, Broughton and The Royal High School. They are supported financially by SportsScotland who acknowledge Edinburgh's good practice and want to invest further a further £90,000 over the next four years in a bid to expand the successful approach to other high schools and neighbourhoods in the city. Currently these are hoped to include Liberton High School and Leith Academy. There is also a proposal to develop an area-based sports hub in Kirkliston and South Queensferry, through a joint partnership approach with Edinburgh Leisure, which may involve Queensferry High School and the local feeder primaries. I will keep you updated on the progress of these.

Our active schools programme is also hugely successful. Over 13,000 young people are accessing 57 different sports involving 1071 volunteers associated with 211 local community sports clubs.

Placing in Schools

All letters of acceptance or refusal for outwith catchment requests were sent out to Parents/Carers on Friday 13 March 2015 which is almost a month ahead of what we usually do and 7 weeks ahead of our statutory deadline. Appeals are now under way a few weeks earlier than previous years.

Work starts on new primary school buildings

Construction work has started on the next wave of additional classrooms as the City of Edinburgh Council continues to tackle the issue of rising rolls in primary schools. The Council will provide 24 new class spaces, being delivered in conjunction with partners Hub South East Scotland Ltd and Morrison Construction, for the start of the 2015/16 school session.

The primary schools where the new class spaces will be provided are: Clermiston (4 classes), Flora Stevenson (3), Gilmerton (4), James Gillespie's (4), Pentland (3), Ratho (4) and Wardie (2).

In addition South Morningside Primary School will have a temporary annexe created for P1 and P2 pupils at the former Deanbank Resource Centre and extra internal space will be provided at both Brunstfield and Liberton Primary Schools.

Eight primary schools have already been identified by the City of Edinburgh Council as potentially having accommodation issues for August 2016 due to rising rolls - Balgreen, East Craigs, Ferryhill, Fox Covert, Granton, Roseburn, St Mary's RC (Leith) and Towerbank Primary Schools. Discussions have already started with the school communities to consider the best options if additional accommodation is needed.

Towerbank Catchment Review

Committee were asked to approve that a statutory consultation be undertaken regarding proposals to alter catchment boundaries between Towerbank Primary School and the neighbouring primary schools. Officers have just completed an informal consultation with the affected schools to establish if there are any other feasible and more preferable alternative options for alterations to catchment boundaries which would still achieve the required outcome

There will be no impact on children currently at Towerbank however we want to reassure all their parents and those at neighbouring schools that we will listen to their views and take them on board when it comes to making a decision on the final proposals for the public consultation.

The dates for the Public meetings have been arranged as follows:

Towerbank Primary - Thursday 21 May 6.30-8.30

Bruntstane Primary - Monday 25 May 6-8.00

Duddingston Primary - Monday 1 June 6.30-8.30

The Royal High Primary - Wednesday 3 June 6.30-8.30

A further report on the outcomes of the statutory consultation will be submitted to a future Council meeting for consideration.

Defibrillators in all Secondary schools

We are pleased to say that, in consultation with the Scottish Ambulance Service and as part of a Council wide approach, we have made a commitment to install defibrillators in all of our secondary schools. Some of these have already been provided through the

generosity and fundraising efforts of parents and the wider public. The rest will be provided by the Council. I will keep you updated on this initiative.

Safer Internet Day

Our third successful Safer Internet Day was held on the 10th February 2015. This event was organised by the Council and Edinburgh's Child Protection Committee partnership. Safer Internet Day 2015 is celebrated globally and this year's slogan was '*Let's create a better internet together*'. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Our event was well attended by a wide range of professionals, as always the [winners from our schools](#) were the highlight of the day.

Early Years

These are exciting and challenging times for early years as we strive to meet the needs of children and families. The introduction of additional hours of early learning and childcare for children has been welcomed by families across Edinburgh. Further engagement with parents will take place next session to ensure more flexible approaches can be considered as we move forward. Plans for new nursery provision across the city are well under way and will provide further opportunities for us to support our eligible 2 year olds and provide more flexible arrangements for parents.

Teacher Numbers

You may have seen recent media coverage relating to the number of teachers employed in Scotland's school and the Scottish Government asking local authorities to commit to maintaining teacher numbers for 2015 at the same level as last year. We have confirmed that our overall teacher numbers will not reduce, particularly as we are currently facing

increased rolls in the primary sector. By maintaining teacher numbers we will access some additional funding from the Scottish Government.

Study Guides for the New National Qualifications

Tina Woolnough the Edinburgh representative on the National Parent Forum of Scotland and co-creator of the Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell guides for parents has asked me to distribute the new Nutshell guides. These were well received two years ago when the new nationals were first being introduced. I hope you find these equally helpful.

Please find below the links to the National Parent Forum's Revision in a Nutshell guides for the new Highers (20 subjects) and updated Revision guides for National 5s (20 subjects).

These revision guides contain direct links to SQA specimen question papers, exemplar question papers plus past question papers, where appropriate. They are designed as digital resources and work well with ipads or other tablets.

The guides advise learners to check with their teachers to make sure that material is relevant. The guides are primarily intended to provide the SQA direct links by subject in one place, and to give some additional revision opportunities (if relevant) which are web-links to school pages or to the websites of subject-relevant organisations.

- [20 Revision Guides for the new Higher qualifications](#)
- [20 Updated Revision Guides for the National 5 Qualifications](#)

The following may also be of interest to you.

- Assessment in the Senior Phase in a Nutshell, this is a [summary](#) of the types of assessment in the new National Qualifications
- [Learning Pathways in a Nutshell](#) for the Senior Phase and beyond

- The National Parent Forum of Scotland's [publications guide](#)

Any feedback or comments would be much appreciated please contact

kristina.woolnough@gmail.com

I want to thank Tina for all her hard work and commitment in developing these. I know they will be appreciated.

Schools which have been recognised nationally

It is always good to see the work of Edinburgh's schools recognised nationally.

In the Times Educational Supplement Scotland on the 6 March 2015 we had two significant features. The first relates to the partnership work between with the Scottish Parent Teacher Council and **Sciennes Primary school**. The aim of this [pilot project](#) is to strengthen the involvement of parents in the curriculum aspects of the school.

The second feature is the sector-leading work on our **Modern Languages 1+2** strategy. There was a particular focus on our success in German teaching in Edinburgh. You can read more about this [here](#).

Castlebrae Community High School

I was really pleased to hear about the work between the Edinburgh International Festival and Castlebrae Community High School to create a three year arts residency. From *Castlebrae with Love* is a film and music project which will be shown in the Hub on 15 August 2015

Craigroyston Community High School

The Times Educational Supplement Scotland on 6 April 2015 ran a three page article on Craigroyston Community High School which highlighted as demonstrating national best practice for the way it has improved its senior phase and its

vocational courses to encourage as many pupils as possible to stay on and learn at school. This exemplifies the Wood Commission report which was trying to ensure that all pupils get opportunities to develop skills to be ready for work. You can read the article [here](#).

A warm farewell to Rosie Wilson

Rosie Wilson, Service Manager for Special Schools and Specialist Provision will be leaving the Council in May. Rosie has been an excellent senior manager and a wonderful colleague. Her work over the past 5 years has made a real difference to our services not only our special schools and specialist provision in particular but to our wider objectives to give all children the best start in life.

Paralympics Experience Event at Forrester and St Augustine's High Schools

Children and young people from our schools were invited to attend a Paralympic Experience Event on 13 March. The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games had the largest Parasport element in Commonwealth Games history. This event aims to build on this legacy and raise the awareness of disability sport across the East of Scotland.

The Paralympics Experience Event is designed to allow young people to experience a range of Parasports delivered by some of the best clubs and coaches available in Scotland. The Paralympics Experience is about providing a range of opportunities for young people with a physical, visual or hearing impairment to try new and exciting sports and learn more about the pathways that are available in the region. Furthermore, the event will highlight the opportunities for young people with disabilities to achieve at the highest level and hopefully inspire them to become our stars of the future.

Kaimes Unsung Stories – an animated ceilidh

Unsung stories is an expressive arts project which has been ongoing for the last two years and involved many past and present learners from Kaimes School. It tracks the history of migration to Scotland through personal real life stories and investigation into the past.

The Filmhouse held the premier of their nine short animated films about a wide range of people who have chosen to come from outside Edinburgh to settle here.

Pupils have also created 12 murals which tell the story of migration to Scotland over the centuries to the present day. Some of these panels have been on display in Holyrood at the Scottish Parliament.

To read more about the project and view the short stories visit Kaimes School website here. <http://kaimesschool.com/art/unsung-stories-an-animated-ceilidh/>

Rowanfield Special School unveil revamped library

Pupils and teachers from Rowanfield Special School unveiled a revamped library by hosting a mini book festival, headlined by acclaimed children's author John Fardell.

The school was selected as one of two winners of Library Energiser, an initiative launched by the ScottishPower Foundation, in its role as sponsor of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, offering schools in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Glasgow the chance to win a £2000 library makeover.

Council unveils Self Directed Support

You can now view a short video explaining the new way of delivering social support in Edinburgh on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/EdinburghCouncil/videos>

The lively two-minute animation spells out key information on [Self-Directed Support \(SDS\)](#) – the new way for Scotland’s councils to help people of all ages to live independently at home and become more involved in the community.

The new measures came into effect in April 2014 and have been described as the biggest change in local authority provision of social care since 1990s. SDS gives people much more choice and control about the way they are supported than ever before

For more information call 0131 200 2327 or email cf.socialcaredirect@edinburgh.gov.uk

Dates of Future CCwP meetings – Session 2015

14 May 2015, European Room, City Chambers, 6.30-8.30pm

1 October 2015, European Room, City Chambers, 6.30-8.30pm

3 December 2015, European Room, City Chamber, 6.30-8.30pm

Gillian Tee
Director of Children and Families
May 2015