

Note of meeting

Item 3.1

Consultative Committee with Parents

6.30pm, Thursday, 14 May 2015, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Godzik (Convener) and Redpath.

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Alison Bowyer, West Neighbourhood Group
Sally Cavers, South West Neighbourhood Group
Stephen Harrold, South Neighbourhood Group
Lindsay Law, North Neighbourhood Group
Sharon Mortimer, North Neighbourhood Group
Alison Nicolson, Citywide Special Schools Group
Gareth Oakley, West Neighbourhood Group
Liz Power, Citywide Special Schools Group
Alexander Ramage, South Neighbourhood Group

Head Teacher Representative(s)

Jack Simpson, Leith Academy

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, Children and Families
Ruth Hendery, Special Schools Service Manager, Children and Families
Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager, Children and Families
Crawford McGhie, Asset Planning Manager, Children and Families
David McKee, Quality Improvement Officer - Technologies, Children and Families
Susan Weir, Assistant Committee Clerk, Corporate Governance

Apologies

Councillors Corbett, Dixon and Fullerton; Colin Burrow, Allan Crosbie, James Nicol, Maria Lloyd, Billy MacIntyre and Barbara Schuler.

1. Welcome and Introduction

1.1 Rosie Wilson and Ellen Muir – note of thanks

Councillor Godzik noted thanks to Rosie Wilson and Ellen Muir for their valued contribution to the work of the Consultative Committee following their departure from the Council. Ruth Hendery was welcomed to her first meeting of the CCWP as the new Special Schools Service Manager.

2. Minutes

Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 26 February 2015 was approved as a correct record.

3. Director's Update

3.1 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 Budget

With the start of another financial year, the Director reported that a balanced budget had been delivered for Children and Families in 2014-15. For 2015-16, another £14m savings would need to be found, however the Director was pleased to report that school budgets had been protected from any further reductions.

3.3 Defibrillators in Schools

In consultation with the Scottish Ambulance Service, a commitment had been made to install defibrillators in all of the Council's secondary schools. Some had already been provided through the generosity and fundraising efforts of parents and the wider public. The remainder would be provided by the Council.

Decision

- 1) To note the update report by the Director of Children and Families.
- 2) To note that the Director would report back to the Consultative Committee on the provision of defibrillators in special schools.

(Reference – report dated May 2015 by the Director of Children and Families, submitted)

4. Rising Rolls/ Local Development Plan/ Wave 4 Programme

The Director introduced Crawford McGhie who had been invited to present an update on the Children and Families estate including information on rising school rolls; education needs assessment which would inform actions in the Local Development Plan (LDP) Action Programme; and the fourth wave ('Wave 4') of investment in the school investment programme.

Decision

- 1) To note the information presented.
- 2) To note that a report providing further information on the Wave 4 programme would be presented to a future meeting of the Council.
- 3) To note that rising rolls in secondary and special schools would be addressed in future reports.
- 4) To thank Crawford McGhie for his presentation.

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

5. Working Towards 1:1 Digital Learning

David McKee, Quality Improvement Officer (Technologies), had been invited to present information on 1:1 Digital Learning.

1:1 Digital Learning could transform learning through access to a personal mobile device for every learner that could be used where appropriate in any lesson, and potentially at home through:

- Providing access to up-to-date, authentic information from a huge variety of primary resources.
- Personalising and transforming learning and teaching using a wide range of digital tools.
- Extending learning, collaborating and publishing beyond the classroom.
- Improving home school links by increasing parental involvement in learning.
- Helping develop learning, thinking and digital literacy skills vital for success in today's technology rich society.

Decision

- 1) To note the information presented.
- 2) To note that in terms of sustainability, options for recycling/refreshing would be looked at.
- 3) To thank David McKee for his presentation.

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

6. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee 19 May 2015

The Director highlighted reports being presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 19 May 2015 as follows:

6.1 Term Dates

Following consultation on the criteria for setting school session dates, approval would be sought for proposed school session dates for 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. Proposals on a wider consultation on dates for 2018/2019 and beyond were also outlined.

6.2 P1-3 Free School Meals

Progress was outlined on the impact of the delivery of the free school meals policy on primary schools across the Council estate.

6.3 Early Years

Details were provided of national priorities in early years and progress towards the implementation of requirements in line with legislation, including the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Key achievements and future priorities for the early years service were also outlined.

6.4 Preventing and Responding to Bullying

An update was provided on a range of local and national measures to reduce bullying, prejudice and discrimination between pupils in schools. Good practice and progress within City of Edinburgh Schools was highlighted.

Decision

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 19 May 2015.
- 2) To note that representatives from the CCWP would be asked to be involved in the preparation of questions for future consultation surveys on the school term dates for 2018-19 and beyond.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee 19 May 2015](#))

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

The Committee had previously been advised that 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 and had noted the timetable for the nomination/election process for the position.

Parent members of the Consultative Committee with Parents had been invited to nominate for the position of parent representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee.

Decision

- 1) To note that one nomination had been received for Alexander Ramage for the position of parent representative on the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To recommend to the Council the appointment of Alexander Ramage as parent representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee commencing session 2015-16 (term of office to run from July 2015 to May 2017).

- 3) To note that the appointment would be conditional upon confirmation that the appointee would comply with the Councillors' Code of Conduct and membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

(References – Consultative Committee with Parents 26 February 2015 (minute item 6); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

8. Neighbourhood Issues

Minutes of the most recent meetings of the Parent Neighbourhood Groups had been circulated. The Convener invited parents to raise any issues or additional information not already included in the minutes.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised in the minutes of the school neighbourhood group meetings.
- 2) In regard to a concern raised on sanitation in primary school toilets, to note that discussion would take place with the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee on funding for adequate cleaning in schools.
- 3) In regard to concern raised about the amount of assessment carried out in schools for children in S4-S6, it was noted that measures were included within the Curriculum for Excellence to reduce bureaucracy.
- 4) To note that the matter of maintenance and repair of play equipment provided in school playgrounds by parents and other groups was currently under consideration by the Director.
- 5) In terms of the introduction of Self Directed Support, to note the request from the City Wide Special Schools Group for information on action being taken to ensure that services would remain available to buy for children with complex needs.
- 6) To note that the Director would take back to the Scottish Government the good practice of Pupil Voice.
- 7) To note that the Director would look into a concern raised about the impact on pupil exams of instrumental teachers retiring at Craigmount High School.
- 8) To thank Martin Vallely for discussions held with the City Wide Special Schools Group on the speech and language therapy service.
- 9) To note the Committee's thanks to Moyra Wilson in appreciation of her involvement and work with the Neighbourhood Groups.

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

9. Report from National Parent Forum Scotland

Barbara Schuler had submitted apologies for this meeting.

Decision

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

10. Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC)

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 the SPTC's request for involvement in the CCWP's Parent Neighbourhood Group meetings.
- 3) To note the offer from the SPTC to give a future presentation on the Partnership Schools programme.
- 4) 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 May 2015, submitted)

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Decision

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

- 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)