

North Neighbourhood Group Meeting

Item No. 7.2

Monday 7 September 2015

Leith Academy 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Chair: Maria Plant, Senior Inclusion Officer

Minutes: Liz Leslie, Boroughmuir High School

Present:

Alex Ramage, Education, Children and Families Committee Rep

Nancy Henderson, Partnership Development Manager

Brian Jennings, Partnership Development Manager

Sally Barker, Head Teacher, Abbeyhill Primary School

Colin Spivey, PC Rep, Broughton High School

Sharon Mortimer, PC Rep, Craigroyston High School

Anna Bowman, PC Rep, Leith Academy

Morag Reid, PC Rep, Wardie Primary School

David Sterratt, PC Rep, Drummond High School

1/2	<p>Welcome/Apologies: Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting which she was chairing on behalf of Moyra Wilson. Apologies from Lindsay Law, PC Rep Flora Stevens PS and HT rep. Alex Ramage introduced himself as the new parent rep on the Education, Children and Families Committee. He can be contacted at parentrep.edin@gmail.com</p>	Action
3.	<p><u>GIRFEC Working Group</u> Nancy Henderson and Brian Jennings were introduced. They will be coming to all the neighbourhood group meetings to ask for parent volunteers for a working group. By way of background, GIRFEC (getting it right for every child) was implemented in Edinburgh in 2008. At that time there were leaflets and information sessions made available to parents but lately they have been concentrating on providing information to staff groups and partner agencies. They now want to update and share information with parents and are asking parent councils to let them know of parents who might be interested in joining the working group. There will be three sessions, 2 before Christmas and one after, lasting a couple of hours each at a time to be agreed. They would like to start in October in order to have information ready for the introduction of the named person legislation being implemented next year. It would be good to have a mix of parents from primary and secondary school. PC chairs to circulate to parents and send names to Moyra Wilson to pass on.</p>	PC chairs to ask for volunteers and pass names to MW asap
4.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</u> Page 1 – Agreed Page 2 – Agreed Page 3 – Agreed Page 4 – Amend re wave 4 information. Information was sought in general and not specifically for Wardie PS</p> <p>Matters arising: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Better Relationships Policy and Procedure • Leith Academy had a visit from active schools rep at AGM. Still not running properly as club information states they are running but no one there when pupils arrive. Inconsistency in communication. MP will feed this back to MW and ask if a contact list could be provided for individual coaches and to ask them to stay in touch with schools if classes are to be cancelled. • Number of subjects offered in secondary schools 	<p>LL/MW to update</p> <p>MW to contact Active Schools</p> <p>PC chairs to speak directly with HTs re subjects</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping of wave 4 – more information to be forthcoming 	
5.	<p><u>Directors Report – Maria Highlighted Key Points from the Report</u></p> <p><u>Exam Results</u>– to note that there is now no appeals process but schools can ask for a review of marking and that not all results were complete due to release of Nat 4 qualifications for Nat 5 fails. Complete results not available until February.</p> <p><u>Literacy and Numeracy</u> – levels are high in Edinburgh and good press reviews.</p> <p><u>Positive Destinations</u> – all leavers are followed up by Skills Development Scotland. Youngsters are encouraged to take part in training. Query re how long they are tracked for and when figures are reviewed.</p> <p><u>Budget</u> – Balanced for this year but still need to make savings. Next CCwP will be about budget proposals. School budgets are ring-fenced but there will be a review of funding for volunteers and 3rd party companies which may have an impact on services for schools. Frontline teaching will not be affected but all support services are being looked at. There is likely to be the same consultation process as last year.</p> <p><u>ICT Contract</u> – this will be moving from BT to CGI next year and is expected to make a large saving.</p> <p>Following discussion on this the following queries were raised: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the savings be put back into education? • What effect will it have on procurement • PPP schools don't get a breakdown of IT costs • Can the costs of basic maintenance be made available? 	<p>MW to feedback information on tracking</p> <p>MW to follow up</p>

6.	<p><u>Online Payments</u> Nothing concrete to report as yet. The project is tied up with the IT contract and the national framework. Was meant to be rolled out after Easter. To be raised at CCwP.</p>	AR to raise at CCwP.
7.	<p><u>Parent Representatives in Appeals Committee</u> Moyra asked the parent council representatives to ask their parents to consider joining the appeals panels for placement and exclusion appeals. Meetings can last for a couple of hours and are held during the day There are now very few parents volunteering but with more reps there would be less appeals for each to go to. Training is given. Any interested parties to email Moyra Wilson. Names go to the CCwP. Won't be asked to sit on appeals for own school. Appeals are heard in the city chambers. More information on website</p>	Names to MW
8.	<p><u>Localities</u> Information was given out about the change from neighbourhoods to localities. Education, health, social work and police are to be in aligned in 4 localities to share services. To change parental groups from neighbourhoods to localities will have to be taken to CCwP. High schools and their cluster primaries will still be linked and in the same locality. Representation may change for bigger localities. More information to come.</p>	MW/ to take to CCwP and feedback
9.	<p><u>Foster Care Recruitment</u> Edinburgh is very short of foster carers and is very keen to recruit more. There are fees and allowances for every child which equates to a full time salary. Foster carers can request to be full-time, part-time or flexible and can request age ranges. It takes about 9 months to become a carer with preparation groups and training taking place at night and at weekends. MW will email more information and would ask parent council chairs to put out to parents. Interested parents can also check information online.</p>	MW to send out information for PC chairs to circulate
10.	<p><u>Parking at Hermitage Park</u> No rep from Hermitage Park to discuss this agenda item. There will be street closures starting at Abbeyhill from 22/9</p>	
11.	<p><u>Sharing Good Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbeyhill – P1's all in and settled well. Lots of lovely improvements over the summer – new lights, updated security. Part of the school streets pilot. • Wardie – lovely new nursery, parents and pupils been to visit, good to have builders away. Pavement has been widened. Transition – Trinity held a bring a parent to school day which was well received. P5 –P7 Masterclasses – parents were asked to come in to talk about what they do and included charities, rugby coach, architect. Other schools have invited HTs from high school to come and talk to pupils • Drummond – pupils made a promotional video of school on their new iPads. Sent out a survey monkey to try and get more parents involved. A lot of work has been done to help a transgender child transition and to get LGBT chartermark fundraising. • Leith Academy – parent council money has gone towards Princes Trust to train another person • Broughton HS – very pleased with exam results. Got access to an education fund from Education Scotland to target S4 pupils who have potential but at risk of non-engaging – pupils were encouraged to stay on at school. 	

12.	<p><u>Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broughton HS – SQA materials for maths being revised and causing difficulties for teachers. MP advised HT to speak to Sheila Paton or Liz Gray • Drummond HS – Have an acting HT and didn't know until June whether she would be staying or not. Now there until December. Can there be more clarity about length of appointments. Again refer to Sheila Paton or Liz Gray for clarification. • Drummond HS – charges for FCT. Is there a means of subsidising those who can't pay? A letter has been sent to local councillors. Advised to send a copy to Gillian Tee and Alex Ramage. The education Scotland act states that schools have a legal duty to provide all materials required to run courses. Colin will send some information from Broughton on this to David. 	<p>Refer to SP/LG</p> <p>Refer to SP/LG</p> <p>AR/CS to contact DS</p>
13.	<p><u>AOB</u> Wardie pupil council wrote to Gillian Tee about their toilets. A lot of work went into this and they were disappointed to get a standard reply.</p>	
	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> To Be Confirmed</p>	