

Note of meeting

Item 3.1

Consultative Committee with Parents

6:30pm Thursday 1 October 2015, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Godzik (Convener) and Fullerton.

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Alison Bowyer, West Neighbourhood Group
Stephen Harrold, South Neighbourhood Group
Alison Nicolson, Citywide Special Schools Group
Gareth Oakley, West Neighbourhood Group
Liz Power, Citywide Special Schools Group
Alexander Ramage, South Neighbourhood Group
Lynne Watson, South West Neighbourhood Group

Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Eileen Prior

Officers in Attendance

Gillian Tee, Executive Director of Communities and Families
Alistair Gaw, Head of Support to Children & Young People, Communities and Families
Andy Gray, Head of Schools & Lifelong Learning, Communities and Families
Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager, Children and Families
Linda Lees, Arts and Learning Manager, Communities and Families
Ruth Hendery, Service Manager, Special Schools & Specialist Provision
Maria Lloyd, DA to Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee
Lesley Birrell, Team Leader, Corporate Governance
Ross Murray, Assistant Committee Clerk, Corporate Governance

Apologies

Councillors Corbett, Dixon and Redpath; Allan Crosbie and Willie French.

1. Welcome and Introduction

1.1 Barbara Schuler – National Parent Forum

Councillor Godzik welcomed everyone to the meeting. He paid tribute to Lindsay Law for her valuable input as parent representative on both the CCWP and the Education, Children and Families Committee for the past three years. Alex Ramage was welcomed as the new parent representative. Barbara Schuler was also welcomed to her first meeting of the CCWP as the new National Parent Forum representative.

2. Minute

Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 14 May 2015 was approved as a correct record.

3. Executive 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 Executive Director of Communities and Families highlighted the following key areas.

3.2 Exam Update

The Executive Director commented on the positive exam results across the school estate. A particular strength was the percentage increase in attainment across all measures and in particular S5 and S6 pupils where strong levels of attainment had either been maintained or improved.

3.3 Positive Destinations for School Leavers

This year's sustained positive destinations had increased again. Figures published by the Scottish Government showed that the success rate of school leavers in Edinburgh achieving and sustaining a positive destination were at the highest rate ever.

3.4 Children and Families Awards

The Executive Director advised there were over 50 entries for the Children and Families achievement awards. The ceremony would be held at the Assembly Rooms on 28 September 2015.

Decision

To note the update report by the Executive Director of Communities and Families.

(Reference – report dated September 2015 by the Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

4. Budget Engagement

Councillor Godzik proposed that the meeting of the CCWP scheduled for 3 December 2015 be changed to 24 November 2015 to enable discussions to take place with parent councils on the Council's budget proposals. The Convener and Vice-Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee would be invited to attend.

Decision

To agree that the meeting of the CCWP previously arranged for 3 December 2015 be re-scheduled to be held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 6.30pm in the City Chambers.

5. Music, Arts and Learning - Presentation

Linda Lees, Arts and Learning Manager gave a presentation on the music, arts and learning service provided by her team. Key outcomes aligned to Scotland's Creative Learning Plan included developing the young workforce, raising attainment and achievement and closing the gap.

Linda highlighted the early years resource developed with Youth Music Initiative funding which used music, song and rhythm to support teaching literacy, maths and numeracy, health and wellbeing and creativity.

Information was also given about the [Instrumental Music Service](#) which provided pupils with instrumental lessons in school, use of instruments, access to school and local authority bands, orchestras and ensembles.

Decision

- 1) To note the information presented.
- 2) To thank Linda Lees for her presentation.

(Reference – presentation, submitted)

6. Placing in Schools Update

Moyra Wilson advised that a proposal to set up a Short Life Working Group to review both the school admissions and appeals processes would be considered at the meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 October 2015.

Decision

To note the update.

7. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee – 6 October 2015

The Executive Director highlighted the following reports being presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 6 October 2015.

7.1 Numeracy Strategy

The report set out progress with priorities in numeracy and mathematics in 2014/15 with the aim of raising attainment in both areas going forward.

7.2 Modern Foreign Languages

This report provided an overview of the first two years of the implementation of the 1 + 2 Languages Programme in Council primary and secondary schools. The approaches taken in developing the Council's 1 + 2 Languages Strategy, the progress made in implementing the recommendations and areas of key strengths and challenges were highlighted.

7.3 Breakfast Club Review

An update was provided on the current provision of Breakfast Clubs delivered in schools across the city. Children from 55 of the Council's 88 primary schools currently had access to a Breakfast Club and the aim was to have a breakfast club in every school.

7.4 Child Poverty

Just over 21% of children in Edinburgh lived in poverty and this was forecast to increase significantly by 2020. A series of actions implemented by Children and Families, in partnership with a range of service areas and providers, to mitigate the impact of poverty on outcomes for children was detailed.

7.5 School Energy

An overview of the 2014/15 energy use across the Council's school estate was provided, including an update on energy/carbon reduction projects.

Consumption levels across the school estate was largely stable, however, ongoing projects had the potential to deliver significant energy and carbon reductions.

Decision

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 October 2015.
- 2) To invite Peter Watton, the Council's Interim Head of Property to attend a future meeting of the CCWP to give an update on energy/carbon reduction projects.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee – 6 October 2015](#))

8. New Localities Provision for Parent Groups - Proposal

The Council was now moving towards a locality based structure as part of its Transformation Programme. Schools had been aligned to the new locality structure since the start of session 2015/16.

Moyra Wilson advised that the five Neighbourhood Groups had discussed the proposal to realign each group into four locality groups with effect from January 2016.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the five neighbourhood groups would align with school communities into the four locality groups from January 2016.
- 2) To agree that the City Wide Special Schools Group would remain as at present.

- 3) To agree that the number of parent representatives at CCWP would remain as 12.
- 4) To agree that the two largest localities (North West and South East) would each gain one new parent representative.
- 5) To note the new structure for locality parent groups:

North West	3 parent representatives
South East	3 parent representatives
North East	2 parent representatives
South West	2 parent representatives
City Wide Special Schools	2 parent representatives
- 6) To agree that the new locality parent groups would be reviewed during session 2016/17 to determine how they had embedded and whether further changes were required.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

9. 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 response to a question about the process around school catchment boundary reviews it was noted that the point of contact would be Billy McIntyre as Head of Resources.

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

10. Report from National Parent Forum Scotland

Barbara Schuler advised that the National Parent Forum Scotland Annual Conference had been arranged to be held on 14 November 2015 in Glasgow. The keynote speaker was Angela Constance MSP.

Decision

To note the update.

11. Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC)

Eileen Prior provided an update on the latest issues from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council.

The following areas were highlighted:

- Member support – online surgeries were being trialled
- Partnership schools
- Recruitment of finance/admin officer

- Insurance
- AGM/Annual Lecture – March 2016
- Scottish Government National Improvement Framework

Decision

- 1) To note the update from the SPTC.
- 2) To agree that the SPTC be invited to give a presentation to a future meeting of the CCWP 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 September 2015, submitted)

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Decision

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

- Budget Engagement Meeting – Tuesday 24 November 2015
- Thursday 25 February 2016 (6.30-8.30pm)
- Thursday 19 May 2016 (6.30-8.30pm)