

## Note of meeting

### **Consultative Committee with Parents**

**6:30pm Thursday 25 February 2016, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh**

#### **Present:**

##### **Elected Members**

Councillors Godzik (Convener) Corbett, Fullerton and Redpath.

##### **Education, Children and Families Committee Added Members**

Allan Crosbie, Teacher Representative

Alex Ramage, Parent Representative

##### **Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives**

Alison Bowyer, North West Neighbourhood Group

Brenda-Anne Cochrane, St Thomas of Aquin's High School

Neil Craik-Collins, Dean Park Primary

James Nicol, South West Neighbourhood Group

Gareth Oakley, Craiglockhart Primary School

Liz Power, Citywide Special Schools Group

##### **Scottish Parent Teacher Council**

Eileen Prior

##### **Officers in Attendance**

Alistair Gaw, Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

Andy Gray, Head of Schools & Lifelong Learning, Communities and Families

Janice MacInnes, Quality Improvement Manager, Communities and Families

Billy MacIntyre, Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families

Alasdair Oliphant, Observer, Communities and Families

Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager, Communities and Families

Maria Lloyd, DA to Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee

Ross Murray, Acting Committee Clerk, Strategy and Insight

##### **Apologies**

Billy Samuel (Corstorphine Primary School Parent Council) and Barbara Schuler (National Parent Forum Scotland).

## **1. Minute**

### **Decision**

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 1 October 2015 was approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment to read that Alison Bowyer was the official National Parent Forum representative.

## **2. Acting Executive Director's Update**

### **2.1 Gillian Tee**

The Committee was advised that Gillian Tee had retired from the Council in the period since the last meeting of the Committee. The Acting Executive Director, on behalf of the Committee, thanked her for all her work in her previous role as Director of Children and Families and wished her good luck for the future.

### **2.2 Admissions and Appeals Policy**

An update to the admissions and appeals policy, designed to improve accessibility for users, would be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee for approval on 1 March 2016.

### **2.3 Asset Management Plan and Local Development Plan**

The Communities and Families Asset Management Plan and the Council's Local Development Plan would be considered in more detail later at the meeting (see item 3 below).

### **2.4 Performance**

The Acting Executive Director advised that recent Communities and Families performance had been satisfactory and that a detailed report had been previously circulated to Committee members regarding this.

## **3. Communities and Families Capital Investment Programme - presentation**

Billy MacIntyre, Head of Operational Support, gave a presentation providing an update on the Communities and Families Estate. This encompassed the approach to dealing with rising school rolls across the city, the extended entitlement to a free school meal for all Primary 1 to 3 children and the extended entitlement to support in early years.

Planned works included a range of extensions, refurbishments and new builds across the estate. A number of schools had been approved by Council for consideration for refurbishment or replacement as part of the wave four investment programme for which

feasibility studies would be conducted to establish if refurbishment or new build would be most appropriate option.

The Local Development Plan and other expected or already planned developments, expected to lead to the construction of up to 15,000 new homes in the city, would create pressure on the existing education infrastructure which would have to be addressed. Revised developer contribution guidance had recently been approved by the Planning Committee and the education infrastructure requirements would be finalised based on a reassessment of need within defined contribution zones before being reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the information presented and to thank Billy MacIntyre for his presentation.
- 2) To circulate the presentation to CCwP members for information.

## **4. National Improvement Framework - presentation**

Janice MacInnes, Quality Improvement Manager: Primary, gave a presentation on the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education. This set out a vision and priorities for children's progress in learning and would be a key driver in continually improving Scottish education and closing the attainment gap. A balanced range of measures and support to help deliver this were outlined.

The Framework had been informed by discussions with key stakeholders, the Improving Schools in Scotland: An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Perspective 2015 report and the 2020 Association of Directors of Education in Scotland Vision.

The key drivers of improvement were school leadership, teacher professionalism, parental engagement, assessment of children's progress, school improvement and performance information. This aligned with the recommendations of the OECD Perspective report.

The full implementation of the Framework would be phased in by 2018 and an annual review process would be implemented to ensure the correct priorities were reflected and continuing improvement was secured. Internal and external stakeholder input would be sought throughout the implementation process.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the information presented and to thank Janice MacInnes for her presentation.
- 2) To circulate the presentation to CCwP members for information.

## **5. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee – 1 March 2016**

The Acting Executive Director highlighted the following reports which would be presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 1 March 2016.

### **5.1 Review of Positive Action Funding in Primary Schools**

Further work had been undertaken to review the options for allocating positive action funding, using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, and approval was being sought for proposed changes to the way in which this was allocated across Primary Schools to ensure effective targeting of funding to those children most in need.

### **5.2 Strategic Management of School Places: P1 and S1 Intakes for August 2016**

Accommodation and placement issues for the anticipated P1 and S1 intakes for the forthcoming school year (August 2016) were outlined.

P1 intake remained at a high level and continued to cause the overall P1-P7 school rolls to rise. S1 registrations were consistent with the previous year, however a high number of catchment registrations was noted.

### **5.3 Primary School Estate Rising Rolls**

The report identified seven primary schools which would potentially face accommodation pressures in August 2017 and beyond, together with options to address the issue at each school.

Where necessary, working groups would be established by the School Estate Planning Team and progressed with the aim of identifying a preferred option for each school. This would be reported back to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016.

### **5.4 Scottish Attainment Challenge**

The report outlined the aims of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and the planned projects for the eight Attainment Challenge schools in Edinburgh. The schools had been selected because over 70% of their pupils lived in the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland. The overall aim of the challenge was to raise attainment and to reduce educational inequality.

### **5.5 Vision for Schools**

The report outlined progress made towards implementing the vision for schools in the specific areas identified as development priorities in the previous March 2015 Committee report.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 1 March 2016.
- 2) To note that Alex Ramage (parentrep.edin@gmail.com) would be willing to convey any comments on the reports on behalf of Consultative Committee with Parents members to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 1 March 2016.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee – 1 March 2016](#) )

## **6 Electronic Payments Update**

Moyra Wilson (Senior Education Manager) provided an update on the implementation of Electronic Payments. The Council's new IT provider (CGI) were committed to implementing an electronic payments system for schools from August 2016 onwards. This would be rolled out on a phased basis and further information would be provided once available.

## **Decision**

To note the update.

## **7. 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.

Liz Power (Parent Representative) provided a verbal update on the issues raised at the most recent Citywide Special Schools Group. Concerns were expressed regarding the conduct of staff working on play scheme provision for special schools. The Acting Executive Director confirmed that comments had been noted and would be discussed with the provider.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the issues raised in the minutes of the school neighbourhood group meetings including concerns regarding cuts to music provision.
- 2) To note the issues raised in the verbal update on the Citywide Special Schools Group.
- 3) In response to a question about the after school play scheme provision for special schools, ask the Acting Director to explore alternative delivery options within the resources available.

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

## 8. Report from National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS)

Alison Bowyer (Edinburgh Representative, National Parent Forum Scotland) provided an update on the work of the NPFS. A review of the parental involvement act was ongoing and a research project, conducted in partnership with a local university, would be commissioned; this would include a high level of consultation.

Committee members were thanked for their survey responses to date and asked to continue to circulate any future surveys to parent representatives. A survey on reporting would be circulated to parent representatives shortly.

### Decision

To note the update from the NPFS.

## 9. Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC)

Eileen Prior (Representative, Scottish Parent Teacher Council) provided an update on the latest discussions from the SPTC. An invitation was extended to Committee members to attend the SPTC annual lecture on 8 March 2016; this would be delivered by Liz Cameron OBE and would explore the role of parents in developing the young workforce.

### Decision

- 1) To note the update from the SPTC.
- 2) That an update on partnership schools be presented to the next meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents.

## 10. Dates of Future Meetings

### Decision

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

- Thursday 19 May 2016 (6.30-8.30pm), City Chambers, Edinburgh.
- Thursday 6 October 2016 (6.30-8.30pm), City Chambers, Edinburgh.