

# Agenda

## Consultative Committee with Parents

**6.30–8.30pm Thursday 6 October 2016**

European Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

## Contacts

Clerk: Ross Murray, Committee Services

Email: [ross.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:ross.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 3870

Directorate Lead Officer: Maria Plant, Inclusion Coordinator

Email: [moyra.wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:moyra.wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 6107

## **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 of 19 May 2016 (circulated)

## **4 Interim Executive Director's Update**

- 4.1 Circulated

## **5 Presentations/Reports**

- 5.1 The Delivery Plan; Scottish Government Governance Review – Presentation by the Acting Director of Communities and Families
- 5.2 Update on PPP 1 Schools – Acting Director of Communities and Families

## **6 Education, Children and Families Committee Reports**

- 6.1 The agenda, minutes and reports for the Education, Children and Families Committee of 11 October 2016 will be available by the afternoon of Wednesday 5 October 2016. The papers for this Committee and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings)

## **7 Locality Representatives – Key Issues**

The Convener will invite parents to raise any issues in relation to the Neighbourhood Groups.

- 7.1 South West Locality Group
- 7.2 North West Locality Group
- 7.3 South East Locality Group
- 7.4 North East Locality Group
- 7.5 Citywide Special Schools Group

## **8 Report from National Parent Forum Representative**

- 8.1 Report by National Parent Forum Scotland (to follow)

## **9 Report from Scottish Parent Teacher Council Representative**

9.1 Report by Eileen Prior, Scottish Parent Teacher Council (circulated)

## **10 Date of Next Meeting**

### **Kirsty-Louise Campbell**

Interim Head of Strategy and Insight

## **Membership**

### **Members appointed by the Education, Children and Families Committee**

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Aldridge, Corbett, Fullerton, Lunn, 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**

Alistair Gaw, Interim Executive Director of Communities and Families  
Andy Gray, Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, Communities and Families  
Billy MacIntyre, Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families  
Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager, Communities 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 Ross Murray, Committee Services, Strategy and Insight, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2:1, Waverley Court, East Market Street, Edinburgh, Tel 0131 469 3870, email [ross.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:ross.murray@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/meetings](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings) .

## Item 3.1 - Note of meeting

### **Consultative Committee with Parents**

**6:30pm Thursday 19 May 2016, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh**

#### **Present:**

##### **Elected Members**

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Lunn and Redpath.

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

Alex Ramage, Parent Representative

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

Stephen Harrold, Gracemount High School Parent Council

Sharon Mortimer, Craigroyston High School Parent Council

David Sterratt, North East Locality

Billy Samuel, North West Locality

Gareth Oakley, South West Locality

Bryan Heaney, South East locality

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

Alistair Gaw, Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

Suzanne Glancy, Business Manager, Children's Services

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

Liz Gray, Quality Improvement Officer, Schools and Community Services

Andy Jeffries, Acting Head of Children's Services

Billy MacIntyre, Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families

Alasdair Oliphant, DA to Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee

Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager, Communities and Families

Ross Murray, Acting Committee Clerk, Strategy and Insight

##### **Apologies**

Councillor Corbett, Councillor Fullerton, Eileen Prior (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) and James Nicol (South West Locality).

## 1. Minute

### Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 25 February 2016 was approved as a correct record.

## 2. Acting Executive Director's Update and Closed Schools/Contingency Arrangements Update

### 2.1 Closed Schools/Contingency Arrangements Update

An update was provided on the decision to close 17 schools on 8 April 2016 on safety grounds and the contingency arrangements flowing out of this.

Following the decision to close the schools priority had been given to re-housing vulnerable students and those in S4, S5 and S6 scheduled to sit exams. All pupils had been relocated to a contingency school within approximately five days of the decision to close and the exam period was ongoing as planned. The initial solutions had since been rationalised and schools were now working across less sites.

Work to resolve identified building defects was ongoing and in many instances solutions would first require to be designed before being implemented. Communications would be sent to parents regarding various schools which would re-open on 24 May 2016 and the remainder of the schools would proceed to open as per the schedule published on the Council website.

Andy Gray apologised for any frustration caused by lack of communication and vowed to learn any appropriate lessons from the process going forward. A full independent inquiry would be undertaken and announcements regarding the remit and timescales for this were expected by the end of June 2016.

### Decision

To note the Acting Executive Director's report including the update on closed schools and contingency arrangements.

## 3. Attainment - Presentation

Liz Gray, Quality Improvement Officer, Schools and Community Services, gave a presentation on attainment in City of Edinburgh secondary schools for the 2014-15 period. Data had been analysed using the Insight measurement tool developed by the Scottish Government and focused on four new measures, namely:

- Improving Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Increasing Participation.
- Improving Attainment for All (including lowest, middle and highest performing).
- Attainment Versus Deprivation.

In contrast to the previous model which had utilised comparator schools, attainment figures had been compared against virtual comparators based on a broad range of social and economic factors.

## **Decision**

To note the information presented and to thank Liz Gray for her presentation.

## **4. Corporate Parenting – Presentation**

Suzanne Glancy, Business Manager, Children's Services, gave a presentation on Looked After Children, The Looked After population in Edinburgh and Corporate Parenting. The following areas were covered:

- Definition of Looked After Children
  - Including Looked After at home and away from home.
- Reasons why children become Looked After.
- Age profile and number of Looked After children in Edinburgh.
- Aftercare services
- Definition of Corporate Parenting
- Who are corporate parents and what are their responsibilities?
- The Corporate Parenting Action Plan.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the information presented and to thank Suzanne Glancy for her presentation.
- 2) To circulate the presentation to Consultative Committee with Parents members for information.

## **5. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee – 24 May 2016**

The Acting Executive Director highlighted the following reports which would be presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016.

### **5.1 Strategic Management of School Places P1/S1**

The report presented details of the accommodation and placement issues for the anticipated P1 and S1 intakes for the 2016/17 school year.

Primary 1 intake in August 2015 remained at a high level and continued to cause the overall P1-P7 school rolls to increase. Due to the delivery of additional accommodation through the rising rolls programme there were few accommodation pressures for the August 2016 P1 intake, however, priority would be given to baptised Roman Catholic pupils in 13 Roman Catholic Primary

Schools. In the secondary sector, the number of registrations for S1 in August 2016 was comparable with the equivalent time in August 2015.

## **5.2 Gaelic Medium Education and Capacity at James Gillespie's and Boroughmuir High Schools**

A potential capacity issue at James Gillespie's High School (JGHS) had been identified in the 'Strategic Management of School Places: P1 and S1 Intakes for August 2016' report which was submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 1 March, but subsequently withdrawn.

Whilst a solution was subsequently identified to address the capacity issue at JGHS for August 2016, given the continuing pressure on the school due to rising school rolls and other factors the position was not deemed sustainable without there being a change required to the current arrangements. A Short Term Working Group was created to allow the Council to engage with key stakeholders to consider options to address the projected capacity issue at JGHS and allow a sustainable position to be reached. The report included an update on the matters considered by the Working Group, the conclusions reached and a proposed way forward.

## **5.3 Educational Attainment 2015**

The report provided a summary of key outcomes in relation to attainment/improvements in performance in City of Edinburgh Council Schools for the year 2014-15.

## **5.4 Parental Engagement**

The report provided progress with the implementation of the final year of the Parental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.

An overview was also provided on the work of the Locality and City Wide Special Schools parent groups, the Consultative Committee with Parents and the new Partnership Schools project with the Scottish Parent Teacher Council.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 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 24 May 2016.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee – 24 May 2016](#) )

## **6. Neighbourhood Issues**



The Convener invited parents to raise any issues discussed at the most recent meetings of the Parent Neighbourhood Groups.

The issues of portion sizes, the imbalance in the quality of food provision at different schools and impacts of the Local Development Plan had been raised as issues in all localities.

The North East Locality specifically had raised the issue of Positive Action funding and the impact this would have on school budgets.

The Citywide Special Schools Group update advised that the remit of the group covered a range of narrow groups that had specialised interests and that the engagement process would benefit from a redesign. There was a desire for additional meetings to be scheduled.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the issues raised in the verbal updates by the school neighbourhood group meetings.
- 2) To note that a report on a revision of portion sizes would be presented to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee. This would first be discussed at the Consultative Committee with Parents.

## **7. Date of Next Meetings**

### **Decision**

To note that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Thursday 6 October 2016 (6.30-8.30pm) in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.

## **Item 4.1**

### **Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families Update**

#### **Update for Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups – August 2016**

##### **Introduction**

Welcome back - I hope you all enjoyed a pleasant summer and a well deserved break. The summer holidays are always a good opportunity for staff to recharge their batteries and gear up for the new session, with all the changes and fresh challenges that this brings.

We now have all of our PPP1 schools open again which is fantastic news. All 17 closed schools have reopened ahead of schedule, with the final two handed back to the Council on 11 August. 7,600 pupils were affected by the school closures as the Council put in place a huge logistical plan to provide alternative arrangements. More than 5,000 children were educated at over 70 different schools and education facilities during the three months up to the start of the summer holidays.

Once again, I must thank all the parents, pupils and staff involved - whether at a directly affected or receiving school, or one of our centres at Howdenhall and Goodtrees - for their patience, dedication and resilience over what was a long period of disruption. It was right and proper, but still inspiring, that at every turn, children came first. I know that many staff and children commented on the warm welcome they received from their host school and I hope this proves a basis for new and lasting partnerships and friendships.

The respected construction and procurement industry expert, John Cole CBE has been appointed to lead the independent inquiry into Edinburgh's school closures and this work has now started. It is anticipated the inquiry should be completed by the end of the year. The clear and thorough terms of reference set out exactly what the Council is aiming to achieve through this inquiry - we want to find out what went wrong with these schools and determine what lessons can be learned, not just here in Edinburgh, but across Scotland and the rest of the UK. I hope parents are reassured by the extensive knowledge and experience Mr Cole brings to this role.

Whilst working through this difficult period, our staff have also been involved in implementing the significant change of the Council's Transformation Programme. Children's Services and key areas of Schools and Lifelong Learning and Operational Support have completed significant transformation, and work is now underway in other major areas in Schools and Lifelong Learning and Libraries, which will see plans coming forward in the autumn.

I have highlighted some other impressive developments across our services in this update. I must say how impressed I have been with the level of performance that has been maintained across services, a real achievement given the turbulent time we have experienced. I believe we can now move forward positively and are well placed to meet the exciting tasks and challenges that lie ahead.

## **Exam Results Success**

The SQA exam results show that 2016 has been another really positive year for Edinburgh students, with performance rising yet again. I am delighted that once again our pupils have exceeded expectations from previous years, with notable improvements in several key measures. A total of 39,884 resulted awards were certificated for 8,007 candidates in more than 80 subjects, ranging from Accounting to Urdu.

Some selected cases include a S5 pupil from Holyrood who achieved 7 As at Higher and St Thomas of Acquin's sisters at S6 and S4 who achieved 3 As and a B at Advanced Higher plus 8 As at National 5. Liberton S5 twins also achieved 5 As each at Higher, another fantastic achievement.

A particular strength is the attainment of pupils by the end of S5 and S6, where strong levels of attainment have either been maintained or improved at all stages.

### Additional information:

#### **Results by end of S4**

5+ awards at level 5 or better – 43% (4 percentage points more than last year).

#### **Results by end of S5\***

1+ award at level 6 or better - 59% (1 percentage point more than the previous year; continues a five year improving trend and a 9 percentage point improvement since 2011).

3+ awards at level 6 or better - 37% (2 percentage points more than the previous year; continues a five year improving trend and an 8 percentage point improvement since 2011).

5+ awards at level 6 or better - 18% (1 percentage point more than the previous year, an improvement of 4 percentage points since 2011).

#### **Results by end of S6\***

1+ award at level 6 or better - 66% (3 percentage points more than the previous year and an 11 percentage point improvement since 2011).

3+ awards at level 6 or better - 46% (2 percentage points more than the previous year, a continuing improving trend and a 6 percentage point improvement since 2011).

5+ awards at level 6 or better - 32% (maintaining last year's good result and a 4 percentage point improvement since 2011).

1+ award at level 7 - 25% (3 percentage points more than last year and an improvement of 5 percentage points since 2011).

*\*based on the percentage of S4 pupil roll.*

It has been a real achievement to have not only sustained, but built on the successes from previous years, with year on year improvement since 2011. Congratulations go to all pupils who sat exams this year and praise also to parents and carers for their invaluable support. Thanks must also go to our dedicated staff who worked extremely hard to help students achieve these wonderful results.

Another key aim is to also make sure that all school leavers enter a positive destination of employment, training or further education. Initiatives such as the Edinburgh Guarantee are going a long way to making this a reality. With 92% of our young people achieving and sustaining a positive destination, this is a real success story and something we will be looking to build on in the future.

### **Leith Primary School**

On 8 June, a team of P5, P6 and P7 children launched a high altitude weather balloon from the foot of Ben Nevis. All children were invited to join this STEM project, but eventually 17 were chosen. The launch was highly successful, with the children launching three cameras and a GPS tracker, along with various items of no scientific importance!

The balloon reached 28.5km above the earth surface, by which time the balloon had expanded to the size of a double-decker bus. Two cars with parents and children then headed for the landing site near Aberfoyle and after significant perseverance and interesting driving on forestry roads, the camera and parachute were recovered at 7.00pm on the same day close to a stand of very high trees. The footage captured by the camera is extraordinary, showing all stages of the flight and some spectacular images of Scotland from the edge of space.

The edited film and story was featured on Radio Forth and then went national on the main STV news and BBC website. The whole school community have shared in the excitement and learning involved in this project. The University of Edinburgh have also offered to help any future launches with undergraduates and some more complex data gathering equipment.

Well done to all those involved in this exciting project!

### **Young Consumers of the Year Competition**

In my last update, I mentioned that a team of pupils from Boroughmuir High School had clinched the title of Scotland's Young Consumers of the Year 2016, and would be representing Scotland at the UK final in London. The national final took place over 9/10 June and the students from Boroughmuir competed against three other schools from across the UK. After a tough two-day final, I am delighted to advise that Boroughmuir prevailed against their rivals and have now been crowned UK champions!

For the first day of the competition, the students were invited on board a luxury charter on the River Thames and had to tackle three 30-minute challenges. There was then a final quiz on the Friday morning. The quiz comprised of eight rounds of

questions on a variety of topics - Boroughmuir won the quiz event by a margin of over 30 points to win the trophy, quite an achievement!.

Organised by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) and the Consumer Empowerment Alliance, the annual event is for schools and youth groups across the UK to test their consumer and financial knowledge.

In addition to claiming the coveted trophy, the Boroughmuir students won £1000 for their school and a £50 voucher each. Winning the competition is a prestigious achievement for the school and the end result of a lot of hard work from pupils and staff. Our congratulations go to Boroughmuir on their fabulous win.

### **Paolozzi Prize for Art**

I was delighted to attend the Paolozzi Prize for Art Award Ceremony on 1 June at the National Gallery of Scotland. This is the annual award for art and design students in all Edinburgh high schools, a celebratory event run by the Council's Arts & Creative Learning team. Young people are nominated by their teachers for this prestigious award, and entered into four categories: Talent and Creativity; New Directions; Overcoming Barriers; and Spirit of Paolozzi.

The process allows some of our less confident students and those who may not put themselves forward to be nominated and acknowledged for their quality art work. All are invited to the award ceremony along with teachers, parents, carers, and friends. Certificates are presented and there are also inspiring talks and wonderful live music performed by some of our musicians. This year included a string quartet from the Royal High, two guitarists from Edinburgh Schools Guitar Ensemble and a duet from Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble.

The judging panel included renowned artist Richard de Marco and Christopher Breward, Principal of Edinburgh College of Art. The overall winner was a pupil from Forrester High School who made an animated film 'Bionic Bunny' as part of her Higher Media qualification.

### **Improving the Experiences and Outcomes for Children and Young People with Disability**

We are making very encouraging progress towards the implementation of our strategic priority to strengthen our approach to disability equalities in schools. This includes a focus on learners with an ASD in particular.

A three year cycle of leadership development, whole school and targeted professional learning programmes on Autism has received a very positive response. Training programmes provided through a collaborative programme let through the ASL Service, Psychological Service and NHS partners have already commenced in a number of settings and the leadership programme will take place early in the new session.

Our commitment to improving the experiences and outcomes for learners with Autism reflects our existing priorities, our continuing self evaluation and learning from the outcomes of Tribunal Hearings where decisions by schools/ authorities have been successfully challenged in Disability Discrimination cases.

A particular area of concern arises around the exclusion of learners with a disability, where Tribunals are finding that schools/ authorities have not fulfilled their duties to anticipate, assess and plan support or reasonable adjustments for learner's disabilities.

We are currently reviewing our policy and procedures relating to exclusion and the support available to ensure that the likely implications of a learner's disability are anticipated and all reasonable adjustments are in place to prevent exclusions in such cases.

### **Moving to Learn**

The peripatetic teachers have devised a programme to support gross and fine motor skill development of children 18 months to 6 years outlining the importance of these skills for future success in learning. This is an early intervention approach aiming to identify children requiring additional support. The guidance provides a range of strategies for staff to implement to ensure progression. This training is currently being rolled out with positive action schools across the city and will subsequently be available to other staff through Continuing Professional Development opportunities.

### **School Catchment Fraud**

You may have seen the recent positive media coverage of the work undertaken which led to 24 families losing their school places for the 2016/17 session after being caught giving false statements to get their children into 'popular' city schools. The Council's Fraud Team carried out 1500 investigations, which included every potential S1 pupil at three of the most popular high schools – St James Gillespie's, Boroughmuir and St Thomas of Aquin's. The findings uncovered 13 catchment frauds at high schools and 11 at primaries. The school with the highest number of fraudulent cases was James Gillespie's High School with seven. The overall number of cases quadrupled from last year, when only six families were caught.

I realise this is an issue that concerns many parents and I hope this publicity helps to offer reassurance that the Council takes the matter very seriously and is working hard to manage the problem. We advise parents every year that we are actively looking into catchment fraud and if we believe there is a possibility that fraud is being committed, we will investigate and withdraw the school place if this is discovered to be the case.

### **Portobello High School**

I am very pleased that the long-awaited new Portobello High School will open in the autumn, three months earlier than expected. The school was originally expected to open this summer, but water drainage issues had meant a delay until January 2017. However, close liaison over the last few months between the Council's project team,

contractors Balfour Beatty and Scottish Water means the problems can be fixed quicker than expected.

The new school will now open its doors to pupils on 26 October, after the mid-term break and will become the Council's largest secondary school with space for 1,400 pupils. It will provide state of the art teaching facilities and have both indoor and outdoor sports facilities, including a swimming pool and two all weather pitches. This will enable all curricular PE to be provided on site rather than having to transport pupils to other locations.

Edinburgh is a vibrant and rapidly expanding city and expected population pressures mean we are looking ahead, actively considering where we will need new capacity for 2020 and beyond. There is no doubt we have an exciting and challenging future ahead.

**Alistair Gaw**

**Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families  
August 2016**

## Item 9.1



Mansfield Traquair Centre,  
15 Mansfield Place,  
Edinburgh, EH3 6BB  
Telephone: 0131 474 6199  
Email: [sptc@sptc.info](mailto:sptc@sptc.info)  
Online: [www.sptc.info](http://www.sptc.info)

## REPORT TO CCWP

### August / September 2016 Board Report

#### 1. Membership:

This year, SPTC changed its membership model, to offer four different levels of benefit. All Edinburgh PCs have their 3\* membership paid by the local authority, and information has gone out detailing what the membership includes, and how to upgrade to 4\* if they wish. SPTC's information sessions and other benefits continue. All parents at member schools can now create their own website login so that they can access resources.

#### 2. Partnership Schools:

We are devoting a lot of time currently to training for existing and new teams. This year we have added schools in Falkirk and West Lothian to those in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Angus. We have 30+ schools in the project for 2016-17.

Work is also underway on the Year 1 report, for publication late October. The report gives an overview of the project, work undertaken by the teams and impact.

#### 3. Staff: We continue to look for more RAs and are using our network to try to identify potential candidates.

#### 4. CPD service: SPTC has developed a CPD module for teaching professionals, endorsed by the Scottish College for Educational Leadership. We are delivering our first CPD course for Shetland Council in late October.

#### 5. Parents Voice: the last survey on the way dads are welcomed into school was very successful and picked up by the Herald. We are currently surveying on Upstart.

#### 6. Scottish Government: We have been involved in events led by Scottish Government on the communications for the NIF and Delivery Plan. We are also being asked for our input to a bill being put to parliament around seatbelts on school transport, and to join a group looking at digital education.

#### 7. Consultations: There are a number of consultations going on at the moment – details on our website – to which SPTC will be making a response. For parents, the review of the Parental Involvement Act by NPFS and the Governance Review by Scottish Government are of particular interest.

#### 8. Parliament Education Committee: Lindsay Law recently gave evidence at the Parliamentary Committee on the subject of attainment and closing the attainment gap.



9. Education Scotland: EC and SH attended the ES strategic conference on parental and family engagement in September, ran a workshop and took part in discussions. It was well attended by local authorities and partners, and identified as a good opportunity.
- In addition, we took part in the Learning Festival again this year. Although it is a less well attended event year on year, it costs us staff time only and is a good place for SPTC to be seen.

Eileen Prior

4 October 2016