

## Note of meeting

### **Consultative Committee with Parents**

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

#### **Present:**

##### **Elected Members**

Councillors Fullerton (Convener).

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

Alex Ramage, Parent Representative

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

Stephen Harrold, South East Locality

Jacqueline Whymark, South East Locality

Alison Bowyer, North West Locality

Billy Samuel, North West Locality

Gareth Oakley, South West Locality

Miriam Khan, North East Locality

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

Alistair Gaw, Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

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

Andy Jeffries, Acting Head of Children's Services, Communities and Families

Crawford McGhie, Asset Planning Manager, Communities and Families

Ross Murray, Acting Committee Clerk, Strategy and Insight

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

Maria Plant, Schools and Lifelong Learning Service Manager, Communities and Families.

##### **Apologies**

Councillor Corbett, Councillor Godzik, Councillor Lunn, Councillor Redpath and Eileen Prior (Scottish Parent Teacher Council).

## 1. Note of Previous Meeting

### Decision

- 1) The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 19 May 2016 was approved as a correct record.
- 2) To note that previously raised matters regarding school meals had added to the agenda for a future meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents.

## 2. Acting Executive Director's Update

The Acting Executive Director provided an update for the period since the previous meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents.

### PPP 1 Schools

All 17 schools that had been closed had since re-opened in time for the start of the new school term in August 2016.

Parents of those children affected were thanked for their input, understanding and patience with resolving the matter.

Construction and procurement industry expert John Cole CBE had been appointed by the Council to undertake an independent inquiry into Edinburgh's school closures. It was expected that he would report on the matter by the end of 2017. The Council would be looking for lessons learned.

The preliminary data appeared to show that school closures had caused no detrimental effect on pupil's exam results.

### Transformational Change

The Council was currently undergoing a transformational change project, intended to make savings and realign budgets. This would lead to revised management and staffing structures.

A review of community centres and libraries would commence the week beginning 10 October 2016.

### Exam Results

There had been continued improvement for Edinburgh students in their Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) exam results. A full report using the Scottish Government's Insight tool would be available in March 2017.

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

Work was ongoing to improve and strengthen the Council's approach towards disability equalities in schools.

A three year cycle of leadership development and targeted professional learning programmes on Autism had been implemented. This was considered critical in achieving the Council's strategic priorities.

### Councillor Godzik

Councillor Godzik would be stepping down as Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee due a change in his personal circumstances. His final day in the role would be the 26 October 2016 which would be the same day as the new sports and performance blocks were scheduled to be opened at James Gillespie's High School.

### Moyra Wilson

Moyra Wilson had retired from the Council on 30 September 2016 and had since been replaced in her role by Maria Plant.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the Acting Executive Director's report.
- 2) To thank Moyra Wilson for her role in supporting the Consultative Committee with Parents and to welcome Maria Plant as her replacement.
- 3) That the remit and scope of the PPP1 Schools Inquiry would be circulated to Committee members.

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

### **3. Delivery Plan: Scottish Government Governance Review - Presentation**

Maria Plant, Schools and Lifelong Learning Service Manager, gave a presentation on the Scottish Government's delivery plan and governance review. The presentation covered the following areas.

- The National Improvement Framework and its priorities.
- The Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education Delivery Plan and timeline.
- Implications for parent councils/forums.
- The National Parent Forum of Scotland and the Review of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.
- Consultation questions regarding governance of Scottish Education for submission to Scottish Government.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- It was felt that question 6 (How can children, parents, communities, employers, colleges, universities and others play a stronger role in school life? What actions should be taken to support this) was too broad and this would be included in the feedback provided by the Council.
- It would be vital that those answering consultation questions read the accompanying guidance.
- This was one of the most important pieces of work that parents had been asked to be involved with in the last 15 years. All parents were urged to take part and encourage others to do so where possible.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the information presented and to thank Maria Plant for her presentation.
- 2) That the National Parent Forum survey on parent councils would be recirculated.
- 3) That consultation questions and guidance be submitted to the next round of parent council locality meetings.
- 4) That a one-off parent council chairs meeting be organised to discuss the consultation.

## **4. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee – 11 October 2016**

The Acting Executive Director highlighted the following reports which would be presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 11 October 2016:

### **4.1 Getting it Right for Special Schools – Planning for the future**

The report provided summary of actions being undertaken in regard to pupils with additional support needs and special schools was submitted. A strategic review of special schools was ongoing and this was intended to take into account any opportunities arising from the closure of St Crispin's School.

### **4.2 Improving Support for Children and Young People in Need in Edinburgh – Consultation on a Proposal to Close Panmure St Ann's Special School**

The report sought approval to commence with a statutory consultation on the closure of Panmure St Ann's Special School and to continue to strengthen inclusive practice and collaboration in localities and mainstream schools and enhance support for learners with social, emotional and behavioural support needs locally.

### **4.3 Further Developing Child Poverty Work in Edinburgh**

The report provided details of recent progress with, and resources required for, the 1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty in Edinburgh project, set up in

order to improve the understanding of the causes and impact of child poverty, and to begin to look at what changes schools could make to better support children from low-income families, especially in terms of reducing school-related costs.

#### **4.4 Arts and Creative Learning Update**

An update had been submitted on the work of the Arts and Creative Learning Team, including Creative Learning, the Paolozzi Prize for Art, employability work with young people, the Instrumental Music Service, the Youth Music Initiative, Dance Development, Screen Education Edinburgh and partnership projects with the arts and cultural sector.

#### **4.5 Communities and Families Revenue Monitoring 2016/17 – month three position**

The report presented the projected month three revenue budget monitoring position for the Communities and Families directorate. The directorate was continuing to manage significant levels of budget pressure in many areas of the service. Following mitigating management action a net residual unfunded budget pressure of £0.9m existed for which further mitigating action still required to be developed.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 11 October 2016.
- 2) That the 'Further Developing Child Poverty Work in Edinburgh' report be submitted to the North West Locality Group for consideration.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee – 11 October 2016](#) )

## **5. Neighbourhood Issues**

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

#### South West Locality

There had been enthusiastic endorsement of Parent Pay and enquiries regarding whether the new system would have email functionality.

It was advised that the contract for Parent Pay would be rolled out in four tranches from October 2016 onwards and all schools were expected to have adopted this by the end of the school session. It was not yet clear if there would be email functionality.

### North West Locality

The main issues raised had been business management support, the IT changeover (from BT to CGI) and specifically at Corstorphine Primary - playground improvement projects and the smell in the boy's toilets. There was concern that funding would be lost if improvement projects had not been completed by February 2017.

It was advised that the issue of playground works had been progressed and a contractor was about to be appointed to the project. An ongoing programme of works was also looking at issues in the boy's toilets.

There had been some problems with the initial roll out of CGI services across the council, however it was hoped that this would allow for greater capacity and functionality in the longer-term.

### South East Locality

Parents felt that the current local traffic plan for the area was outdated and this was putting the safety of children on school routes at risk. This had been added to the November 2016 agenda for further discussion.

It was advised that this comment had been noted and the matter would be explored.

### North East Locality

The locality group had queried whether there would be safe cycle routes available to and from the new Portobello High School.

It was advised that this comment had been noted and the matter would be explored.

### Citywide Special Schools Group

It was advised that the group were planning to schedule a session on self-directed support. Maria Lloyd (Communities and Families) would be tracking and monitoring self-directed support matters.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the issues raised in the verbal updates by the parent council locality group meetings.
- 2) That future iterations of the Acting Director's report which was submitted to locality groups provide a summary of future items of discussion for the Consultative Committee with Parents.
- 3) Andy Gray to attend the November 2016 meeting of the South East Locality Group.

- 4) Crawford McGhie to investigate if safe cycle routes would be available to and from the new Portobello High School.

## 6. Update from National Parent Forum Scotland

An update from the National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS) was circulated by Alison Bowyer. It was advised that Barbara Schuler no longer worked for the NPFS and Alison Bowyer would be the representative to the Committee.

### **Decision**

To note the update.

## 7. Update from Scottish Parent Teacher Council

An update on the work of the Scottish Parent Teacher Council was submitted.

### **Decision**

To note the update.

## 8. Date of Next Meetings

### **Decision**

To note that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Thursday 8 December 2016 (6.30-8.30pm) in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.