

Note of meeting

Consultative Committee with Parents

6:30pm Thursday 8 December 2016, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Day (Convener) and Fullerton.

Education, Children and Families Committee Added Members

Alex Ramage, Parent Representative

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Alison Bowyer, North West Locality and National Parent Forum Scotland

Stephen Harrold, South East Locality

Eileen Prior, Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Billy Samuel, North West Locality

David Sterratt, North East Locality

Andrew Lamont, North West Locality

Gareth Oakley, South West Locality

Officers in Attendance

Alistair Gaw, Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

Andy Gray, Head of Schools & Lifelong Learning, 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, Allan Crosbie, Councillor Lunn, Lynne Murray, Councillor Redpath, Councillor Rust and Jacqueline Whymark.

1. Councillor Cammy Day

Prior to the start of business, Alistair Gaw informed those present that Councillor Cammy Day had replaced Councillor Paul Godzik as Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee and welcomed him to his first meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents.

2. Note of Previous Meeting

Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 6 October 2016 was approved as a correct record.

3. Acting Executive Director's Update

An update covering the period since the previous meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents was submitted. Additional detail was provided on playground improvement projects and rising school rolls.

Decision

To note the Acting Executive Director's report.

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

4. Locality Update regarding Scottish Government Governance Review

Maria Plant, Schools and Lifelong Learning Service Manager advised that discussions had been ongoing at locality group meetings regarding the 17 point response required as part of the Scottish Government Governance Review. It was advised that a significant number of parent councils had yet to provide feedback

Decision

- 1) To note that Alison Bowyer would collate responses through the National Parent Forum Scotland if required.
- 2) That the review of the council's parental engagement strategy would be an agenda item for the next round of locality group meetings.
- 3) To invite local Councillors to attend the next round of locality meetings.

5. Update on Council Structure and Schools

Alistair Gaw advised that a decision had been made to appoint a permanent Director for the Communities and Families Directorate. The recruitment process would be concluded in March 2017. There were no further significant changes to structures currently being proposed.

Decision

That the matter of the PPP1 School Investigation be added to the agenda for a future Consultative Committee with Parents. A specialist would be invited to present.

6. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee – 13 December 2016

The agenda for the Education, Children and Families Committee had been tabled. A link to reports had been circulated to CCwP members.

Decision

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 13 December 2016.
- 2) To note that Alexander Ramage (parentrep.edin@gmail.com) would relay any contributions from CCwP members to the Committee if required.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee – 13 December 2016](#))

7. Neighbourhood Issues

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

North West Locality

The issue of out of school hours access to all-weather pitches had been raised at locality meetings, specifically who was responsible for maintenance and if there was guidance available for schools. The issues of term dates, the local development plan and school meals had also been discussed.

It was advised that guidance was available and this would be circulated to schools with all-weather pitches.

South East Locality

The group had raised a number of concerns regarding the matter of school librarians and the impact that the reduction in resource would have.

It was advised information on this would be made public the following day and that all 23 schools would have access to a librarian.

Citywide Special Schools Group

It was advised that the group had discussed play schemes, the British Sign Language (Scotland) Bill, the lack of space and staff at St Crispins and the safeguarding of children who had been assaulted by other pupils.

Martin Vallely had attended the meeting and provided answers to a number of the questions at the time, however, a project board had been established regarding the safeguarding of pupils who had been assaulted and this would begin work in early 2017.

Decision

To note the issues raised in the verbal updates by the parent council locality group meetings.

8. Update from National Parent Forum Scotland

An update from the National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS) was submitted.

Decision

To note the update.

9. Update from Scottish Parent Teacher Council

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

Decision

To note the update.

10. Any Other Business

Parent Councils – Councillor Involvement

Concern was expressed that Councillor attendance at parent council meetings was not sufficient. It was asked how this could be improved.

Decision

- 1) Councillor Day to write to all Councillors requesting they attend parent council meetings where available.
- 2) Maria Plant to provide Councillor email addresses when writing out to Parent Council Chair's regarding localities in January 2017.

11. Date of Next Meetings

Decision

To note that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Thursday 2 March 2017 at 6.00pm in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.