

Note of meeting

Consultative Committee with Parents 6:00pm Monday 6 March 2017 City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Day (Convener)

Education, Children and Families Committee Added Members

Alex Ramage, Parent Representative and South East Locality

Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives

Ailsa Macintosh, South East Locality

Alison Bowyer, North West Locality

Billy Samuel, North West Locality

Melissa Wilson, North West Locality

Gareth Oakley, South West Locality

Ian Willis, South East Locality

Liz Power. Special School Group

External Representatives

Jeanna Brady, Scottish Parent Teacher Council

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

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 Fullerton and Crawford McGhie.

1. Note of Previous Meeting

Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 8 December 2017 was approved as a correct record.

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.

Pupil Equity Fund

The Pupils Equity Fund would be distributed to schools from the 2017/18 financial year. This was a new £120m scheme to allow extra funding targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap to be allocated directly to schools.

Governance Review of Scottish Education

Those who had contributed to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Governance Review of Scottish Education which had closed on 6 January were thanked. A new Education Bill was anticipated before summer 2017 and more updates would be provided once available.

Decision

To note the Acting Executive Director's report.

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

3. Update on PPP1 Schools

It was advised that an independent report had been published by John Cole and considered by the Full Council on 9 February 2017. Joe Cole had attended the meeting and highlighted a number of the findings from his report. These included:

- The Council had acted correctly in utilising a 'safety first' approach.
- The staff, parents and children were to be praised for their resilience through the upheaval. The logistic exercise was described as a "remarkable feat".
- There had been issues with communication, especially in the immediate aftermath of school closures.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) That PPP1 Schools be considered as an item at the next round of Neighbourhood groups before being considered at the June 2017 meeting of the CCwP.
- 3) That the Acting Executive Director would produce a report for the Locality Meetings on the PPP1 Schools Independent Report.

- 4) That appropriate Council engineering personnel be invited to the June 2017 meeting of the CCwP to answer any questions that parents may have.

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 Scottish Attainment Challenge

The report provided an update on progress and impact in the eight primary schools (Canal View, Castlevie, Clovenstone, Craigroyston, Niddrie Mill, Sighthill, St Catherine's RC and St Francis' RC) and four secondary schools (Castlebrae, Craigroyston, Wester Hailes Education Centre and Holy Rood RC) in Edinburgh that had been funded by the Scottish Government through the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

4.2 Additional Support Needs and Special Schools Update 2016-17

As previously requested by the Education, Children and Families Committee, the report provided an update on progress on performance and planning over the previous 12 months in relation to the provision of services for children and young people with disabilities.

Decision

To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 7 March 2017.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee – 7 March 2017](#))

5. Neighbourhood Issues

Maria Plant provided responses to general issues that had been raised in the locality group meetings. This included:

- There had been an 83% uptake of free school meal provision for P1-P3 in Edinburgh, this was above the national average.
- An ICT refresh innovation centre would be based at Wester Hailes Education Centre. This would provide schools the opportunity to inspect equipment before making orders.
- An online payments system would be implemented at Morningside Primary School the following day. Timelines for remaining schools would be communicated in due course.
- Health and Safety work was ongoing regarding playground upgrades (risk-based play). 13 schools would undergo an extensive inspection.
- A questionnaire for parents on school holiday dates was in development and a draft would be made available to CCwP members before final circulation.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised in the verbal updates by the parent council locality group meetings.
- 2) To note that Janice MacInnes (Senior Education Manager – Early Years) would attend the next meeting of the CCwP to give a presentation on the guidance that would be sent to schools regarding playground upgrades.
- 3) To circulate Scottish Government guidance on risk-based play to members of the CCwP.
- 4) To circulate any available information on the upgrade of school WiFi to members of the CCwP.

6. Update from National Parent Forum Scotland

An update from the National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS) was circulated by Alison Bowyer.

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 Meeting

As this was the last meeting of the Committee during the current administration, Councillor Day paid tribute to parents and officers who had supported the work and achievements of the Committee over the last five years.

Decision

To note that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Thursday 15 June 2017 (6.30-8.30pm) in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.