

## Update

### Annual Conference

The day was a great success, many thanks to those Edinburgh parents who made it along. A full report of the day including links to workshop presentations and the video of the keynotes can be found here:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2018/03/annual-conference-2018-3/>

### Recent Consultations

*Empowering Schools: A consultation on the provisions of the education (Scotland) bill*

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Empowering-schools-final.pdf>

We held two large focus groups (total of 43 parents) and conducted an independent online survey of almost 300 parents to inform this response. As acknowledged in the response we could never represent all viewpoints but have attempted to represent as many of them as possible. Overall, many parents can see the value of empowering Headteachers but many still have concerns about accountability and resources (both time and financial)

Parents are unsure how a Regional Improvement Collaborative can reflect their experiences.

The parental involvement duties are welcomed by many but there are concerns about it becoming overly bureaucratic or too onerous on parent councils. We would assure parents that there is no desire to return to a 'school board' scenario and that our recommendations that Scottish Government are attempting to represent in these changes are that schools appropriately follow the existing legislation, and that it is strengthened to ensure there is not a 'tick box' culture.

Scottish Government are currently finalising their Parental Engagement Action plan which takes forward many of the non-legislative recommendations from our Review. This is much broader than the fairly tight angles mentioned in the Bill proposals and is much more about involving and engaging all parents in their child's education in appropriate ways. It is to be published by the end of June. Our survey for the response found that in many schools there needs to very much be a back to basics approach as parents do not feel welcome or that teachers are approachable.

*Early Learning and Childcare Service Model*

Scottish Government have provided a condensed version of this consultation for parents

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/A21041334.pdf>

Thoughts can be sent to [ELCexpansionconsultation@gov.scot](mailto:ELCexpansionconsultation@gov.scot)

### Other news

This week is Learning Disability week and we are taking the opportunity to promote these two letter templates provided by People First. These have previously been sent out to all Edinburgh schools by People First with sadly no uptake. A large number of Glasgow schools have agreed to implement them as from last week and we hope Edinburgh will follow suit. They are useful for a wide range of parents including those with EAL or those who are simply just very busy!

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2018/05/learning-disability-week/>