

Agenda

Consultative Committee with Parents

6:00pm, Thursday 17 May 2018

Dunedin Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Contacts

Clerks: Lesley Birrell, Committee Services

Email: lesley.birrell@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4240

Directorate Lead Officer: Andy Gray, Head of Schools & Lifelong Learning

Email: andy.gray@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 2217

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 7 December 2017 (circulated)

4 Reports

- 4.1 Update from Executive Director for Communities and Families (circulated)
- 4.2 Teacher Workforce – verbal update
- 4.3 Schools Estate – Strategic Review – verbal update
- 4.4 Transition from children to adult services – verbal update

5 Locality Representatives – Key Issues

The Convener will invite parents/carers to raise any issues arising from the Locality Groups.

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

6 Update from National Parent Forum Representative

7 Update from Scottish Parent Teacher Council Representative

8 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9 August 2018 in the Dunedin Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

Laurence Rockey

Head of Strategy and Insight

Membership

Members appointed by the Education, Children and Families Committee

Councillors Dickie (Convener), Bird, Mary Campbell, Laidlaw, Perry, Smith and Young.

Stakeholder Representatives

Three parent/carers representatives from each of the Locality Groups

Two parent/carers representatives from the Citywide Special Schools Group

One parent/carers representative from the Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Forum

One head teacher from each locality on a rota basis

One representative from the National Parent Forum

One representative from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council

Lead officers

Alistair Gaw, Executive Director for Communities and Families

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

Crawford McGhie, Acting Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families

Maria Plant, Senior Education Manager, Communities and Families

Information about the Consultative Committee with Parents

The Consultative Committee with Parents is a Forum for discussion and consultation with parents on citywide and national issues.

A parent representative from the Committee is appointed to the Council's Education, Children and Families Committee.

Further information on the Committee 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 Lesley Birrell, Committee Services, Strategy and Insight, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2:1, Waverley Court, East Market Street, Edinburgh, Tel 0131 529 4240 email lesley.birrell@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 .

Note of meeting

Consultative Committee with Parents

6:00pm Thursday 7 December 2017

City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Ian Perry (in the Chair), Eleanor Bird, Mary Campbell and Louise Young.

Locality Groups - Parent Representatives

Paul Millan, North West Locality (Roseburn Primary Parent Council)
David Sterrat, North West Locality (Drummond Community High Parent Council)
Billy Samuel, North West Locality (Corstorphine Primary Parent Council)
Becky Entwistle, South East Locality (Royal High Primary Parent Council)
Alex Ramage, South East Locality (Education, Children & Families Parent Rep)
Ian Willis, South East Locality (Royal Mile Primary Parent Council)
James Nicol, South West Locality
Gareth Oakley, South West Locality (Craiglockhart Primary Parent Council)
Kirsty Stoddart, South West Locality (Currie Community High Parent Council)
Julia Main, Citywide Special Schools

Officers in Attendance

Alistair Gaw, Executive Director for Communities and Families
Andy Gray, Head of Schools & Lifelong Learning
Crawford McGhie, Acting Head of Operational Support
Maria Plant, Schools and Lifelong Learning Service Manager
Laura Millar, Service and Policy Adviser to the Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee
Lesley Birrell, Committee Services

Apologies

Councillors Alison Dickie and Callum Laidlaw.

1. Note of Previous Meeting

Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 14 September 2017 was submitted and approved as a correct record subject to amending the note to reflect that Paul Millen represented North West Locality.

2. Update from the Executive Director for Communities and Families

The Executive Director for Communities and Families provided an update for the period since the previous meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents and highlighted the following issues.

Informal Consultation on Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate Strategic Review

The informal consultation process was currently ongoing as part of the overall strategic review of the schools and lifelong learning estate. A report on the proposals for the informal consultation to be carried out in West and South West Edinburgh, the future of Gaelic Medium education and an update on the Wave 4 Trinity Academy feasibility study would be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 12 December 2017.

Extending Early Years Provision

It was proposed to increase the number of local authority early years settings providing early learning and childcare over 50 weeks open between 8am and 6pm. The Early Years Admission Policy outlining the criteria for phasing in 1140 hours of early learning and childcare before 2020 would be recommended to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 12 December 2017 for approval.

Teacher Recruitment

Recruitment and retention of teachers continued to be a challenge across Scotland. Details of the number of teacher vacancies in Edinburgh Schools and an assessment of any impact on standards of learning would be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 12 December 2017.

Woodlands School – Sport Scotland Gold School Sport Award

Woodlands Special School had recently achieved the Sport Scotland Gold School Sport Award. The award was presented in recognition of the school's ongoing commitment to self-evaluation and continuous improvement and for putting young people at the forefront of the decision-making, planning and implementation processes around sport and physical activity in the school.

Decision

To note the updates.

3. Edinburgh Schools Review

The Council were undertaking a strategic review of the schools estate across the city. Proposals for West and South West Edinburgh had been communicated to parents/carers. Events were planned at all the affected schools between 9 January and 9 February 2018. These events would be organised via the parent councils and would allow an invited focus group to discuss the proposals with Council officers.

An update on the informal consultation would be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 6 March 2018 with recommendations about what should happen next.

The following issues were raised and discussed:

- since the Local Development Plan was approved last year there had been good engagement from officers with quite a lot of focus on Currie Primary – disappointed that closing high schools had never been mentioned before and concerns were expressed about the impact on the community
- would be helpful for parents/carers to see the building survey report on Currie High – the Wave 4 assessment Currie High had scored a B Rating
- the options presented would mean that three greenfield sites would be destroyed – would be helpful to know why these three particular sites were chosen against other sites in Currie together with setting out an option for rebuilding on the current site
- 80-90% of parents/carers were against the proposals in their current format
- The community understood the need for change and some of the reasons behind the proposals but the impact would be huge – families were planning 5 years ahead now and the community infrastructure and school was an integral part of that
- disappointment that Woodlands School was brought in late to the discussion and there was no mention in the letter sent out to parents/carers – Woodlands was situated adjacent to Currie High and if plans progressed as detailed their pupils would lose access to the swimming pool and sports hall
- major changes would have a detrimental effect on the pupils at Woodlands
- integration is done correctly would be welcomed
- impact of the location on the second school at Kirkliston in terms of safer routes to school
- catchment changing from Craigmount to Tynecastle
- concerned that perceptions of schools won't influence the outcome of the consultation – sometimes there is a great fear of some schools which isn't in reality justified
- concerned about disruption at Currie High – what would be done to make sure the children would continue to get the best education during repair works
- recognised that ultimately a decision would need to be made by the Council as to the level of investment to be made in Currie but that immediately required maintenance would continue to be carried out

- communication with parents/carers at all stages of the information consultation was vitally important
- recognised the pressures on parent council Chairs in ensuring that information was communicated to the wider parent body – parents were looking to parent councils for more information
- 0-18 GME strategy was included in the Gaelic Language Plan and the aspiration was for there to be a dedicated GME secondary provision at some point in the future – it was recognised, however, that this was at a very early stage of thinking
- pressures on James Gillespie's High School for the delivery of GME was acknowledged – Drummond High could be an option as it was currently operating under capacity

Decision

- 1) To record thanks to those present for their contributions to the discussion.
- 2) To note the ongoing informal consultation arrangements.
- 3) To receive an update at the next meeting of this Committee on 1 March 2018.

4. Empowering Schools – A Consultation on the Education (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Government had issued a consultation paper setting out proposed changes to the Education (Scotland) Bill to improve educational outcomes for young people, how they would work in practice, and what legislative changes were needed to enable them to happen. Views were sought on whether the changes would deliver the empowered school and teacher-led system which the Scottish Government were seeking to achieve. The deadline for responses was 30 January 2018.

A link to the document had been sent to all parents/carers asking for comments.

Alex Ramage had already drafted some answers and shared them via the Edinburgh Parent Council Network.

The National Parent Forum were putting together a summary document which would be sent on to all parents once it was available.

Decision

To note the update.

5. Locality Issues

The following issues were raised by the Locality Representatives:

South West

Provision for Children with Dyslexia

Information was currently being put together for parents/carers regarding provision for children with dyslexia.

North West

Health and Wellbeing

Colleagues from Waverley Court had attended the locality meeting to talk about health and wellbeing.

Voting Rights of parent Representative on Education, Children & Families Committee

Concerns had again been expressed about the non-voting status of the parent representative on the Education, Children and Families Committee.

20mph Speed Limits

Issues around 20mph speed limits on school streets were discussed including vehicle activated signs. It was agreed to ask for a presentation on this at the next meeting of the CCWP.

Provision of 1140 Hours – Early Years

Some initial thoughts from parents regarding the 1140 hours provision were that demand would increase. People valued the link between nursery and P1 and parents had felt that there might be the need to look at the non-catchment aspect of nursery places in the future.

South East

Health and Wellbeing

Colleagues from Waverley Court had attended the locality meeting to talk about health and wellbeing.

Voting Rights of parent Representative on Education, Children & Families Committee

Concerns had again been expressed about the non-voting status of the parent representative on the Education, Children and Families Committee.

Recruitment for Appeal Committee Parent Representatives

The Council were looking for additional parents to support the Appeal Committee process for school placings. The closing date for applications was 22 December 2017.

School Meals

Concerns had been raised about the quality of school meals – some schools had their own kitchens but some had to have school meals delivered in.

20mph Zones

Discussion had taken place around reducing urban speed limits. Problems in the Old Town included containment of pollutants especially on the Cowgate. There needed to be joined up thinking about traffic management within the overall context of the Transport Strategy.

North East

School Meals

Concerns had been raised about the standard and quality of school meals.

Citywide Special Schools

Financial Provision – Special Schools

Concerns had been expressed about any further planned financial savings which could affect special schools particularly in relation to provision of some services. The Executive Director for Communities and Families confirmed that savings required to be made across the whole budget over the next 4 years amounted to £140m. However, the Council had iterated very strong commitments to protecting schools and special schools and pupil support assistant posts. There had been a commitment from the coalition administration to increase pupil support assistants across the board.

Transport to Schools

Parents/carers expressed concerns that rolling this out at the beginning of the year seemed to happen too late and that advance contact with families was not happening. Concerns had been expressed about times of pick-ups changing and too many children with one escort in one taxi. Further concerns had been raised regarding sub-contracting and sub-sub-contracting particularly in relation to PVG checks.

It was noted that a review of transport was underway in the Council. A lot of practice issues had been raised and these would be addressed if highlighted to the department. Shared routes to schools and numbers of requests for individual journeys had increased. A meeting with parents had been offered to address these issues.

Holiday Activity Provision and Playscheme

Concerns were raised that the holiday activity provision and playscheme for October had been cut. This was a lifeline for some families and there was a lack of communication about the level of service which would be available.

It was noted that a holding response would be sent out in the next couple of days and a face to face meeting with parents offered to talk through the issues. The tender with the previous consortium had provided an extra summer but the new tender had not been up and running in time.

Occupational Therapies

An issue had been raised about occupational therapies and how they were managed and classification of special schools depending on the needs of the children.

Meeting Venues

Parents/carers had asked for meeting venues and timings to be alternated. This would be looked at going forward.

Decision

- 1) To note all the issues raised and proposed actions to address these.
- 2) To ask for a presentation on 20 mph zones and traffic management on wider school streets to the next meeting.

6. Update from National Parent Forum Scotland

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

The Forum was a national body funded by the Scottish Government. Each local authority area in Scotland had a representative on the Forum. Work undertaken included consultations and discussions, review of parental involvement act, parental voting rights and the Scottish Parent Involvement Officer network.

Publications were available on the website “In a Nutshell” which was an innovative information series for parents, carers and children developed in partnership with Skills Development Scotland – link <https://www.npfs.org.uk/>

Dr Beata Kohlbek from Currie Academy had been appointed as Deputy Forum Representative.

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 by Eileen Prior.

The following key areas were highlighted:

- Member Support
- Partnership Schools
- Data Protection
- SPTC AGM and Annual Lecture – 8 February 2018
- Scottish Government Governance Review
- Continuous Professional Development Service

Decision

To note the update.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Decision

To note that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Thursday 1 March 2018 (6.00-8.00pm) in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.

Executive Director for Communities and Families Update

Update for Parent Council Neighbourhood Groups – May 2018

Introduction

We know the financial challenges beyond remain considerable as the Council's programme of transformation continues and further savings are to be made. The budget for the 2018-19 has been agreed following consultation with Edinburgh's citizens. Key areas for investment were identified and for schools this means:

- Additional funding for investment in school buildings
- An extra £415k to support children with additional support needs including the Holiday Activity Programme for Disabled Children
- Funding to allow current library hours to be maintained
- An increase in the level of grant for school uniforms to bring Edinburgh to the Scottish average
- An extra £1.5m for looked after children and young people

I know our staff are well-equipped to deal with this challenge though I do not underestimate the demands being placed upon both them and our resources. I will continue to support everyone as best as I can as we strive to continue delivering high quality services to our children and young people.

Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families

We recently had the Sub-Committee on Standards for Children and Families, this gives elected members the opportunity to look at the quality of education and care experiences for young people in Edinburgh by scrutinising the reports and follow up actions of Education Scotland inspections in schools. The following schools were considered:

Tynecastle High School – The inspection report identified leadership of change at the school is good; learning, teaching and assessment satisfactory; ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion is good, and raising attainment and achievement satisfactory.

[Tynecastle High School - Inspection Report](#)

Victoria Primary – Key strengths identified include staff commitment to undertake aspects of leadership; involvement of the school within the community and well behaved and polite children. A 3-year action plan has been developed, and progress already made with the whole staff review of quality assurance calendar; a rolling log for improvement, and staff training on the new standardised assessments.

[Victoria Primary School - Inspection Report](#)

Hermitage Park Primary – Strengths at this school are the head-teacher's well-judged leadership of change; the supportive learning environment provided by

teachers, and the skilled team of practitioners in the nursery class. Good progress has been made with the subsequent action plan.

[Hermitage Park Primary School - Inspection Report](#)

Holiday Activity Programme for Disabled Children

The programme (usually known as the “playscheme”) works with disabled children with complex and diverse care needs providing care during the school holidays. The contract for this was awarded to the organisation FABB from October 2017 last year.

Following the change of provider, a number of issues were raised by parents including the amount of provision available per child, and quality of the provision during to the October week. A parental deputation to the Education, Children and Families Committee in October led to the formation of a member/officer group which met with parents to discuss the way forward. One outcome of this has been an increase in budget to assist the council to raise the level of provision.

Staff worked closely with FABB to support the running of the programme, but due to the ongoing management difficulties of the provider, the council took over managerial responsibility for the provision in February 2017, with staff recruitment still undertaken by FABB under the existing contract. The council has now ended the contract with FABB and is in negotiation with another provider to undertake recruitment in the short term for our summer holiday provision.

The October, February and Easter Holiday Programme have all been delivered but have run below capacity, partly due to the management difficulties, but mainly due to the difficulty experienced in recruiting the high numbers of staff required. Due to the seasonal nature of the work, staff are employed on short term contracts, they are mainly students, and current indications are that there is a shortage of labour supply in the market for this type of work. The council is investigating all options to increase recruitment, including direct approaches to colleges and universities. The aim is to extend provision for up to 6 weeks for children but under current conditions we have not been able to provide 4 weeks to all families who wanted it. We are holding a waiting list of 60-70 families who have not received a service since summer last year. We understand that this is a vital service for families and are aiming to increase capacity for the summer provision, dependent on recruitment of sufficient staff and the ratios required for children attending.

South West School Review

The informal consultation on the future of the school’s estate in the West and South West of Edinburgh has come to a close. This is just the first step in looking at the future for schools in the area in order to plan for rising rolls and provide modern facilities for young people. Officers and politicians asked communities for their opinions on the published proposal detailed below, the alternative options were identified as a result of community engagement:

Options:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Option 1 – Published Proposal</p> <p>2 New Schools</p> <p>Capital Cost - £110.5m</p> | <p>New South West Edinburgh HS - Merger of Currie and WHEC on a single site with Woodlands</p> <p>Balerno HS expand to accommodate Currie PS</p> <p>Sighthill realigned to Forrester</p> <p>New West Edinburgh HS – Ratho, Kirkliston, Hillwood and new Maybury PS</p> |
| <p>Alternative Option 1</p> <p>1 New School</p> <p>Capital Cost - £81m</p> | <p>Currie and Balerno expand</p> <p>No Change to WHEC</p> <p>New West Edinburgh HS - Kirkliston, Hillwood and new Maybury PS</p> |
| <p>Alternative Option 2</p> <p>3 New Schools</p> <p>Capital Cost - £127m</p> | <p>New South West Edinburgh HS – WHEC feeders and Juniper Green</p> <p>Currie reduces, Balerno expands</p> <p>New West Edinburgh HS – Kirkliston and Hillwood</p> <p>2nd New West Edinburgh HS – Maybury and any future PS which may emerge from housing developments</p> |
| <p>Alternative Option 3</p> <p>2 New Schools</p> <p>Capital Cost – £105.5m</p> | <p>WHEC to be used as community hub</p> <p>WHEC feeders divided between Currie and Forrester</p> <p>Currie expands to 1600, site to be identified.</p> <p>New West Edinburgh HS - Kirkliston, Hillwood and new Maybury PS</p> |

Next steps...

Elected members will consider all the views expressed during the informal consultation process and the deputations. A report on any final proposals will be presented to the EC&F on the 22 May 2018 in the form of a draft statutory consultation paper.

Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award

I am delighted that Firrhill has been accredited with the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Silver which is the second stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. They are the first school in the UK to have achieved Silver under the new UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools criteria. The award recognises good progress towards embedding children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos. Firrhill are continuing to make progress, learning about rights in natural ways across the curriculum, through training, assemblies and focused events.

Our young people are developing as rights respecting citizens, as well as modelling rights respecting attitudes. The visiting assessors praised the warm welcome they received from staff, parent council and, in particular, pupils. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the staff and pupil RRS working groups, who have committed a great deal of time each week to ensuring our school continues to develop positive relationships, encourage an ethos of respecting the rights of all within Firrhill, and promoting the principles of dignity, participation, fairness and equality for everyone.

Schools WiFi update

Since the upgrade of the Wi-Fi technologies there have been a number of service related issues and poor coverage. This has had a direct impact on Schools ability to connect multiple different devices to the network and therefore can impact on the student's education. A service improvement plan was implemented to deal with the poor coverage issues. This involved surveying 79 sites and if appropriate the Wi-Fi access point was repositioned or in some cases additional Wi-Fi access points were installed.

The Council's ICT partner, CGI, were expected to have completed all the WiFi remediation work by June 2018 and progress of this would be tracked carefully by the Council's ICT service. Given concerns that Council has previously expressed about CGI's delivery of ICT change projects, including the WiFi upgrade, these issues have been formally escalated and are reviewed by the Council and CGI during the weekly executive review meetings. A further progress report will be considered at the Education, Children and Families Committee in due course.

Para Sport Festival

The seventh annual Para Sport Festival took place at Forrester / St Augustine's School Campus, Edinburgh on Friday 23rd March, attracting 81 school aged pupils with a physical or sensory impairment from across the East of Scotland to register for the event. The festival, which is supported by the Celtic Foundation, aims to provide a platform for young people from the mainstream education environment an opportunity to access sports delivered by experienced coaches while also raising awareness in Para Sport.

Gaelic

The [Gaelic Language Plan](#) will be considered by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee on 15 May. The report contains detail on the Councils plans to develop Gaelic and Gaelic Medium Education in the city. It is a statutory duty on the Council to produce a plan every 5 years, this is the second plan of its kind and builds on the progress of the first which was produced in 2012.

The 2018-22 plan aims to support progress across the wider agenda, including the workplace, culture, arts and heritage and economy. It also seeks to address the challenges of increasing demand for GME and GLE across the city and teacher recruitment and retention.

Exams

As I'm sure you're all aware, it's that time of year again. Our best wishes are with all pupils currently sitting their exams. We want all our young people to have as many options as possible for future education paths and I know how important getting good results now is.

I would like to thank all pupils and staff for the enormous amount of time and energy invested in preparing for exams. We would also like to thank parents who will no doubt have been providing endless encouragement. Edinburgh has consistently achieved some great results and it would be fantastic to see this success continue in 2018.

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director for Communities and Families

May 2018

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

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/>