

## Note of Workshop

### **Workshop - Consultative Committee with Parents**

**6pm, Wednesday 11 September 2024**

**Virtual Meeting held by Microsoft Teams**

#### **Present**

Councillors Griffiths (Convener), Burgess, Graham, Hyslop, Macinnes, Davidson, Cowdy.

#### **In Attendance**

##### **Parent/Carer Representatives**

Alex Ramage  
Louise Collingwood  
Naomi Barton

##### **Council Officers**

Lorna French – Service Director, Education  
Donna Murray – Head of Education – Early Years, Parents and Operations  
Paula Greenhill – Early Years and Childcare Manager  
Daniel Baigrie – Committee Officer

	Subject	Decision/Action	Action Owner
1.	<p><b>Workshop – Consultative Committee with Parents</b></p>	<p>Lorna French outlined that the purpose of the workshop was to discuss the current arrangements for parental engagement and involvement and to consider what actions officers may take over the forthcoming period. The current structure of locality meetings, ASN and ASN in mainstream, sitting alongside CCWP, Parent Councils and Connect were noted. Some anecdotal evidence of a drop-off in parental engagement were noted across all forums. It was noted that this represents a number of evening meetings for parents.</p> <p>A general change in volunteering broadly was noted; social and financial pressures on families were cited as potential contributing factors.</p> <p>It was noted that as part of a review of parental engagement and involvement a focus could be placed on engaging harder to reach groups.</p> <p>It was noted that parental engagement and involvement should be meaningful and useful.</p> <p>It was noted that meeting structures for parental engagement should have a clear flow of communication. E.g. Education, Children and Families Committee, CCWP, Locality Groups and Parent Councils all communicating with each other.</p> <p>It was proposed that officers would devise a schedule of meetings for 2024-25 to merge ASN in mainstream meetings and separate locality meetings to create city wide parent/carer meetings. Special school parent/carer meetings will remain separate. The quarterly</p>	<p>Donna Murray – Head of Education  <a href="mailto:donna.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk">donna.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk</a></p>

	<p>CCWP meeting was already scheduled for this academic year. It was noted that special school parents meet with Lynne Binnie or a representative from her team.</p> <p>A working group was proposed by officers to consider methods for parental engagement and involvement beyond the 2024-25 academic year. This would consider diversity of approach, the most appropriate meeting venues and times and seek feedback from the broader parent body.</p>	<p>Donna Murray – Head of Education <a href="mailto:donna.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk">donna.murray@edinburgh.gov.uk</a></p>
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