

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 21 May 2013

Parental Engagement

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| Item number | 7.9 |
| Report number | |
| Wards | All |

Links

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|--------------------------|---|
| Coalition pledges | P5 |
| Council outcomes | CO1 , CO2 , CO3 |
| Single Outcome Agreement | SO3 |

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Executive summary

Parental Engagement

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress being made towards the completion of the Parental Engagement Strategy and Action/Implementation Plan. It covers

- New arrangements for CCwP and Neighbourhood Groups
- Key areas of development in parental engagement
- Consultation with parents and school staff.

Recommendations

1. The Committee note the content of the report
2. The Committee request a final report in October 2013 including
 - Parental Engagement strategy document
 - Action /implementation plan.

Measures of success

Overall progress will be measured using a suite of indicators as follows.

- How good is our school 3?
- How good is our community learning and development 2
- How Good is Our School' (HGIOS) evaluation series guides: Partnerships with Parents' (2006),
- *Quality Management in Education 2* - a systematic approach to the self-evaluation for local authorities in relation to their education functions (QMIE), HMIe 2006
- % parents expressing satisfaction with school
- % parents saying they are involved in child's education

Financial impact

All work identified in this area is delivered within existing budgets.

Equalities impact

All work within this area seeks to address inequalities both in terms of provision of resources and impact on outcomes for children and young people. There are no negative impacts arising from this work.

Sustainability impact

There are no adverse economic, social or environmental impacts resulting from these areas of activity.

Consultation and engagement

All areas of work highlighted in the report include significant elements of consultation and engagement with parents and with wider groups of stakeholders, appropriate to the content of the work. Parents are consulted through Neighbourhood Groups, Consultative Committee with Parents and working groups. A parent representative has also been elected to the Education Children and Families Committee.

Background reading / external references

[Parental Involvement Act 2006](#) Scottish Government

[National Parenting Strategy 2012](#) Scottish Government

[Parent Council Resource: A guide to gathering views and ensuring parents voices are heard in your school 2013](#) Scottish Government

Name of report

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2012 a report and outline strategy for parental engagement was reviewed by the Education Children and Families Committee. It was agreed
- 1 To note the content of the report.
 - 2 To set up a new system for the Consultative Committee with Parents [CCwP] and introduce 5 Neighbourhood Groups and a city wide Special Schools Group to facilitate consultation and communication with parents.
 - 3 To create a parental engagement action and implementation plan with appropriate quality indicators and success criteria to sit alongside the Parental Engagement Strategy.

2. Main report

- 2.1 A new system of 5 Neighbourhood Groups and one City Wide Special Schools Group has been set up comprising parent council chairs or their representatives and the Senior Education Manager: Inclusion, Pupil and Parent Support.
- 2.2 Each group has a similar agenda format comprising a) directors briefing, b) key priorities for education in Edinburgh and c) items raised by parents in the neighbourhood.
- 2.3 Two representatives [one primary and one secondary] for the CCwP were elected from the Neighbourhood Groups and City Wide Special Schools Group.
- 2.4 An agenda planning group is held prior to the CCwP with a parent representative from each neighbourhood group and city wide special schools group, the Director of Children and Families and Senior Education Manager: Inclusion, Pupil/Parent Support. This planning group has been successful in identifying the key priority areas for parental discussion.
- 2.5 The newly formatted CCwP has met on 3 occasions. In the first meeting one parent member was elected as the first parent representative to the Education Children and Families Committee and sub groups. To date discussions have centred round the following: Communication, Strategic Management of School

Places, Parental Engagement, and Community Access to Schools, new arrangements for Service Support Officers and Property issues. There are also standing items for neighbourhood issues, and reports from the National Parent Forum and Scottish Parent Teacher Council. Reports to Education Children and Families Committee are also discussed at CCwP.

2.6 The Neighbourhood Groups and City Wide Special Schools Group have now met on three occasions and have had wide ranging discussions including Vision for Schools, Parental Engagement, Strategic Management of Placements, Additional Support Needs, Parking at schools, school meals and use of social media.

2.7 A key aim of CCwP and Neighbourhood Groups is to respond to parent questions and suggestions in a 'You said, We did approach'. One suggestion was a request for information on schools where there are likely to be some non-catchment places available by August and those where all placing requests are likely to be refused. We published this for parents.

Each Director's briefing note also answers queries brought up by parents at previous meetings.

2.8 Representation of parents at Neighbourhood Groups and CCwP from November to March 2013 was 133. This compares to 38 at CCwP during session 2011 - 2012. From this it is evident that more parents are involved in discussions with Children and Families in this new system than in the previous years. Increased involvement in strategic decision making is therefore enhanced with more parents involved.

2.9 The inclusion of parents has continued in the six working groups set up to take forward the action/implementation plan for the parental engagement strategy. Each working group has representation and input from a lead officer, parents and school staff.

2.10 The key areas being developed are

- the strengthening of parent/ carer engagement in their child's learning
- the development of effective communication and consultation
- the development of effective partnership working and opportunities for and removal of barriers to engagement
- the linkage of parent and pupil voice
- the strengthening of parent councils involvement with school, community and department
- parenting support when required

- 2.11 Within some of the groups there are sub groups working on specific areas e.g. three parents are involved with officers in creating new parental engagement web pages which are user friendly and display the information which parents want to see.

The action/ implementation plan is in draft form at the moment with outcomes, tasks, success criteria, people involved and timescale. Performance indicators from the key performance documents related to this area will also be included in the final document.

- 2.12 Self evaluation is a key part of the work of parental engagement. Some schools have already used the draft action/ implementation plan as a self evaluation tool with respect to parental engagement and have sent this in as feedback to us.
- 2.13 Part of our action / implementation plan is the development of a self evaluation pack to be used by Parent Councils to support their work with the school. At least one other local authority has devised a similar pack and used it successfully with their parent councils.
- 2.14 Extensive consultation has been undertaken with a range of stakeholders including parents within individual parent councils, school staff and through neighbourhood groups. When the consultation exercise is completed after the CCwP on 14 May the feedback will be input into the draft action / implementation plans.
- 2.15 It is important to note that the work around parental engagement recognises, individual needs, an inclusive approach, specific interests, cultural background and gender.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee note the content of the report.
- 3.2 The Committee request a final report in October 2013 including
- Parental Engagement strategy document
 - Action /implementation plan.

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Director of Children and Families

Links

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| Coalition pledges | P5. Seek to ensure the smooth introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence and that management structures within our schools support the new curriculum |
| Council outcomes | CO1. Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships within our schools support and the new curriculum CO2. Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities. CO3. Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances |
| Single Outcome Agreement | SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfill their potential. |
| Appendices | 1. Neighbourhood Group Remit 2. CCwP Remit |

City of Edinburgh Council

Role, Remit Neighbourhood Groups, City Wide Special Schools Group

Neighbourhood Groups and City Wide Special Schools Group aim to:

1. Strengthen engagement of parents in education in neighbourhoods and city wide special schools linking to parent councils
2. Increase parental satisfaction with education in Edinburgh.
3. Strengthen effective communication with parents. from neighbourhood groups, city wide special schools group which have a two way link to parent councils and CCwP

The Neighbourhood groups and City Wide Special Schools Group will do this by:

- Promoting the development and implementation of parental engagement in education.
- Supporting two way communication between parents, parent councils, neighbourhood groups, city wide special schools group , citywide CCwP and the parent representative on Education Children and Families Committee.
- Helping to identify and disseminate good practice in the neighbourhood or in city wide special schools
- Identifying areas of concern from parents for discussion and resolution.
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The Neighbourhood Groups and City Wide Special Schools Group are forums which will

- Provide discussion and consultation with parents on neighbourhood and citywide issues.
- Provide a parent perspective at local level.
- Identify common areas of discussion.
- Communicate with parent councils in their area.

Membership

Neighbourhood Groups

- 1 parent representative from each parent council in the neighbourhood
- Senior Education Manager: Inclusion, Pupil and Parent Support.

- Head Teacher representative nursery, primary and secondary schools.
- Minute taker

City Wide Special Schools Group

- 1 parent representative from each parent council
- Head of Support for Children and Young People
- Service Manager Special Schools
- Senior Education Manager: Inclusion, Pupil and Parent Support.
- Head Teacher representative special schools
- Minute taker

Meetings

Meetings will take place on a quarterly basis. Agendas and papers will be circulated one week in advance of the meeting.

CCwP

Each of the 5 Neighbourhood Groups will appoint 2 representatives, one primary/nursery and one secondary to CCwP.

The city wide special schools group will appoint 2 representatives to the CCwP.

Item no 7.1

City of Edinburgh Council

Role, Remit Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP)

CCwP aims to:

1. Strengthen engagement of parents in education in Edinburgh at individual class level, school and city wide level.
2. Increase parental satisfaction with education in Edinburgh.
3. Strengthen effective two way communication with parents.

The CCwP will do this by:

- Overseeing the development and implementation of a parental engagement in education.
- Supporting two way communication between parents, parent councils, neighbourhood parent groups, citywide CCwP and the parent representative on Education Children and Families Committee.
- Helping to identify and disseminate good practice in parental engagement.
- Identifying areas of concern from parents for discussion and resolution.
- Providing a parent perspective on education in Edinburgh.

The CCwP is a forum which will

- Provide discussion and consultation with parents on citywide and national issues.
- Provide a parent perspective at local and national level.
- Identify common areas of discussion.
- Provide a parent representative for Education Children and Families Committee.
- Ensure parent groups e.g. National Parent Forum and Scottish Parent Teacher Council are represented.
- Communicate with neighbourhood groups and the wider parent councils.

Membership

- 2 parent representatives from each neighbourhood group (1 primary and 1 secondary representative).
- 2 parent representatives from city wide special schools group.
- One elected member from each political group.
- Parent member ASL Forum.
- Convenor of Education, Children and Families.
- Vice Convenor of Education, Children and Families.
- Director of Children and Families.
- Head of Service – Support for Children and Families.
- Senior Education Manager: Inclusion, Pupil and Parent Support.
- Service Manager Special Schools.
- Head Teacher representative special, nursery, primary and secondary schools.
- National Parent Forum representative.
- Scottish Parent Teacher Council representative.
- 1 representative from Education Union.

Parent members should nominate a deputy to stand in if they cannot attend.

SPTC and National Parent representatives have only observer rights.

A member will serve on the CCwP for a maximum of four years.

Election for parent representatives will take place at the neighbourhood groups or city wide special schools group.

Meetings

Meetings will take place on a quarterly basis. Agendas and papers will be circulated one week in advance of the meeting.

Agenda Planning

4 parents from CCwP will be part of an agenda planning group prior to each CCwP.