

## Note of meeting

### **Consultative Committee with Parents**

**6:30pm Thursday 19 May 2016, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh**

#### **Present:**

##### **Elected Members**

Councillors Godzik (Convener), Lunn and Redpath.

##### **Education, Children and Families Committee Added Members**

Alex Ramage, Parent Representative

##### **Neighbourhood Groups - Parent Representatives**

Stephen Harrold, Gracemount High School Parent Council

Sharon Mortimer, Craigroyston High School Parent Council

David Sterratt, North East Locality

Billy Samuel, North West Locality

Gareth Oakley, South West Locality

Bryan Heaney, South East locality

##### **Officers in Attendance**

Alistair Gaw, Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

Suzanne Glancy, Business Manager, Children's Services

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

Liz Gray, Quality Improvement Officer, Schools and Community Services

Andy Jeffries, Acting Head of Children's Services

Billy MacIntyre, Head of Operational Support, Communities and Families

Alasdair Oliphant, DA to Convener of Education, Children and Families Committee

Moyra Wilson, Senior Education Manager, Communities and Families

Ross Murray, Acting Committee Clerk, Strategy and Insight

##### **Apologies**

Councillor Corbett, Councillor Fullerton, Eileen Prior (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) and James Nicol (South West Locality).

## 1. Minute

### Decision

The Note of Meeting of the Consultative Committee with Parents of 25 February 2016 was approved as a correct record.

## 2. Acting Executive Director's Update and Closed Schools/Contingency Arrangements Update

### 2.1 Closed Schools/Contingency Arrangements Update

An update was provided on the decision to close 17 schools on 8 April 2016 on safety grounds and the contingency arrangements flowing out of this.

Following the decision to close the schools priority had been given to re-housing vulnerable students and those in S4, S5 and S6 scheduled to sit exams. All pupils had been relocated to a contingency school within approximately five days of the decision to close and the exam period was ongoing as planned. The initial solutions had since been rationalised and schools were now working across less sites.

Work to resolve identified building defects was ongoing and in many instances solutions would first require to be designed before being implemented. Communications would be sent to parents regarding various schools which would re-open on 24 May 2016 and the remainder of the schools would proceed to open as per the schedule published on the Council website.

Andy Gray apologised for any frustration caused by lack of communication and vowed to learn any appropriate lessons from the process going forward. A full independent inquiry would be undertaken and announcements regarding the remit and timescales for this were expected by the end of June 2016.

### Decision

To note the Acting Executive Director's report including the update on closed schools and contingency arrangements.

## 3. Attainment - Presentation

Liz Gray, Quality Improvement Officer, Schools and Community Services, gave a presentation on attainment in City of Edinburgh secondary schools for the 2014-15 period. Data had been analysed using the Insight measurement tool developed by the Scottish Government and focused on four new measures, namely:

- Improving Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Increasing Participation.
- Improving Attainment for All (including lowest, middle and highest performing).
- Attainment Versus Deprivation.

In contrast to the previous model which had utilised comparator schools, attainment figures had been compared against virtual comparators based on a broad range of social and economic factors.

## **Decision**

To note the information presented and to thank Liz Gray for her presentation.

## **4. Corporate Parenting – Presentation**

Suzanne Glancy, Business Manager, Children's Services, gave a presentation on Looked After Children, The Looked After population in Edinburgh and Corporate Parenting. The following areas were covered:

- Definition of Looked After Children
  - Including Looked After at home and away from home.
- Reasons why children become Looked After.
- Age profile and number of Looked After children in Edinburgh.
- Aftercare services
- Definition of Corporate Parenting
- Who are corporate parents and what are their responsibilities?
- The Corporate Parenting Action Plan.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the information presented and to thank Suzanne Glancy for her presentation.
- 2) To circulate the presentation to Consultative Committee with Parents members for information.

## **5. Committee Reports – Education, Children and Families Committee – 24 May 2016**

The Acting Executive Director highlighted the following reports which would be presented to the Education Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016.

### **5.1 Strategic Management of School Places P1/S1**

The report presented details of the accommodation and placement issues for the anticipated P1 and S1 intakes for the 2016/17 school year.

Primary 1 intake in August 2015 remained at a high level and continued to cause the overall P1-P7 school rolls to increase. Due to the delivery of additional accommodation through the rising rolls programme there were few accommodation pressures for the August 2016 P1 intake, however, priority would be given to baptised Roman Catholic pupils in 13 Roman Catholic Primary

Schools. In the secondary sector, the number of registrations for S1 in August 2016 was comparable with the equivalent time in August 2015.

## **5.2 Gaelic Medium Education and Capacity at James Gillespie's and Boroughmuir High Schools**

A potential capacity issue at James Gillespie's High School (JGHS) had been identified in the 'Strategic Management of School Places: P1 and S1 Intakes for August 2016' report which was submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 1 March, but subsequently withdrawn.

Whilst a solution was subsequently identified to address the capacity issue at JGHS for August 2016, given the continuing pressure on the school due to rising school rolls and other factors the position was not deemed sustainable without there being a change required to the current arrangements. A Short Term Working Group was created to allow the Council to engage with key stakeholders to consider options to address the projected capacity issue at JGHS and allow a sustainable position to be reached. The report included an update on the matters considered by the Working Group, the conclusions reached and a proposed way forward.

## **5.3 Educational Attainment 2015**

The report provided a summary of key outcomes in relation to attainment/improvements in performance in City of Edinburgh Council Schools for the year 2014-15.

## **5.4 Parental Engagement**

The report provided progress with the implementation of the final year of the Parental Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.

An overview was also provided on the work of the Locality and City Wide Special Schools parent groups, the Consultative Committee with Parents and the new Partnership Schools project with the Scottish Parent Teacher Council.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the information provided on the reports being presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016.
- 2) To note that Alex Ramage (parentrep.edin@gmail.com) would be willing to convey any comments on the reports on behalf of Consultative Committee with Parents members to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016.

(Reference – [Education, Children and Families Committee – 24 May 2016](#) )

## **6. Neighbourhood Issues**

The Convener invited parents to raise any issues discussed at the most recent meetings of the Parent Neighbourhood Groups.

The issues of portion sizes, the imbalance in the quality of food provision at different schools and impacts of the Local Development Plan had been raised as issues in all localities.

The North East Locality specifically had raised the issue of Positive Action funding and the impact this would have on school budgets.

The Citywide Special Schools Group update advised that the remit of the group covered a range of narrow groups that had specialised interests and that the engagement process would benefit from a redesign. There was a desire for additional meetings to be scheduled.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the issues raised in the verbal updates by the school neighbourhood group meetings.
- 2) To note that a report on a revision of portion sizes would be presented to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee. This would first be discussed at the Consultative Committee with Parents.

## **7. Date of Next Meetings**

### **Decision**

To note that the next meeting of the Consultative Committee would take place on Thursday 6 October 2016 (6.30-8.30pm) in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.