



NE & SE Locality

Meeting Details			
Date of Meeting:	23 November 2021	Location:	Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Attendees Present	
Name:	Position Held:
Jack Simpson	Senior Education Officer Schools & Lifelong Learning
Lorna French	Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning
Marie Lyon	Quality Improvement Education Officer Schools & Lifelong Learning
Alex Ramage	Parent Rep Education Committee parentrep.edin@gmail.com Liberton High School
Rosie O'Halloran	St John's RC Primary School PC
Sarah Scott	James Gillespie's High School PC
Rhona Maurage	Castlebrae High School PC
Naomi Barton	Currie High School PC Co-Chair
Tim Wallace	Firhill High School PC Chair
Hilary Brown	Leith Academy PC
Deirdre Henderson	Drummond Community High School
Sandra Dargie	Clermiston Primary School PC
Kate Morris	Boroughmuir High School
Heather Shearer	
Rachael Blythe	Broughton Primary School PC

Apologies Received	
Mathew Clarke	Senior Solicitor

1.Introductions
Jack Simpson (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Education Reform: OECD/Stobart

Lorna French delivered a presentation discussing the Stobart Report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

This report was commissioned by the Scottish Government following the First Minister's intention to replace SQA and to remove scrutiny (inspection and review) from, and to further reform, Education Scotland along with the consideration of the establishment of a new Curriculum and Assessment Agency.

Professor Ken Muir launched a survey in September which closes on 26 November 2021. This was sent to all schools with the expectation that this was cascaded to Parent Councils. Lorna noted that City of Edinburgh Council will respond as an organisation. The content will be subject to Committee Approval.

Delegates discussed how difficult it was to respond to the survey noting that it was too complicated and not aimed at parents.

Delegates also discussed how young people would be assessed when they leave school, the report encourages consideration of broadening the range of assessment opportunities including continuous assessment, teacher professional judgement, etc, plus the use of more digital assessment.

Lorna noted that we are also looking at the way other countries assess, eg. a Baccalaureate or Diploma system.

It was also noted that Professor Muir looked only at the structure of the Agencies, the structure of exams will be consulted on at a later date.

Jack thanked Lorna for her presentation and noted a copy will be circulated with the minutes.

3. P1 Play Project

Marie Lyon presented Edinburgh's Vision for Play noting that this project has been endorsed by Education Scotland.

Marie noted that play is at the core of learning, allowing children to lead and develop their own learning. This will be enhanced by skilled Practitioners.

At present this strategy is used in Early Years settings to P1, the plan is to extend this to P3.

Marie also discussed the publication "Realising the ambition" which offers practice guidance to support staff to enhance early education.

Delegates noted that some parents have felt that this strategy was not advanced enough for some children. Marie advised there will also be direct teaching and groups will be challenged through appropriate resources and those who can will move on to the next place in learning.

[realisingtheambition.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

Sandra Dargie noted that perhaps we need a new word to describe 'learning by play' to differentiate between playtime (break) and learning. This needs explained to parents across the city - a new term might help

Alex Ramage suggested a document be prepared which further explains this strategy to be cascaded to Parent Councils and onward to Parent Forums.

Marie Lyon will action this.

Jack thanked Marie for her presentation.

4. Communication Strategy Update

Lorna noted the following actions in relation to communications:

Update the e-mail list to ensure information reaches the right people.

Look at sharing info with PC Chairs first so they know what is coming on big issues. Discussed Comms in different languages - Dalry PC are working on a website which can translate so parents can access it.

Lorna also noted there will be a meeting on Tuesday 30 November in relation to communications.

Alex advised he had not received an invitation to this meeting.

Lorna advised that a Short Life Working Group will be set up to look at this issue and noted that volunteers would be most welcome. If anyone is interested, please contact Jack Simpson.

Alex requested that the invitation be issued via the parental engagement e-mail address.

5. Alex Ramage

Mathew Clarke, Senior Solicitor, was unable to attend tonight's meeting to discuss Out of Catchment Placement Requests.

Alex provided an overview.

Parents/carers of children transitioning from Early Years to P1 and P7 to S1 are required to have completed an Out of Placement Request by 24 December 2021 if they do not want their child to take up a place in their designated catchment school.

In February 2022 a meeting of the Exceptionality Committee will take place and a decision made. The decision made will be communicated to the parent/carer. If their request is turned down the reasons must be given along with a notification of their right to appeal and how to do so.

The case will then go to the Appeals Panel which consists of a Chair who will be experienced in education, a local councillor and a parent rep who will have a child of school age attending a CEC school (although not the one against which the appeal is being made).

The result of the appeal will be advised by letter.

The aim is to have all appeals completed by May thus allowing for a smooth transition to the child's next place of learning.

Alex also noted that the last course of appeal is to the Court of Session.

(Added from NW/SW Locality meeting on 24 November 2021) see link below:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/school-places/school-placing-requests?documentId=11955&categoryId=20256>

School placing requests – The City of Edinburgh Council
Apply for a place at a school that is not in your catchment area.

6. AOCB

Primary Times Magazine: This publication is given to primary school children with the costs met by advertising –mainly for private schools. Delegates discussed the relevance of the content with some noting that it does give some good information relating to “Things to do”. There were no strong objections to the issue of this publication, the adverts for private schools notwithstanding. Delegates did however note that if they have more than one child in primary school they were each given one which is a waste of resources. Jack noted that only the oldest or only child should receive this publication, ie one per family.

Current Covid Rules: Sarah Scott noted that there is no opportunity for pupils to take part in concerts or to give live performances. Whilst acknowledging that it is excellent that music tuition is continuing, performance is an important part of the learning process.

Lorna advised that subject to space and the appropriate risk assessments in place, children can perform outside with a socially distanced audience. Lorna also noted pupils can perform indoors without an audience (though not if there's an outbreak - particularly wind instruments).

Marie noted that despite the high rates of staff absence it is known that children are missing out, but schools are trying to replicate as much as possible in the current situation. Delegates agreed it is a difficult situation for all involved.

Delegates also discussed the engagement processes for new parents noting that these parents have not been inside their child's school. Jack noted that schools have on-line meetings with new parents but acknowledged that this method does not offer the same level of engagement.

Lorna explained that the Health Board decisions influence City of Edinburgh Council's approach to risk which is dependent on number of cases, also noting that some decisions are in the hands of the Head Teacher.

Delegates expressed the view that parents are becoming disconnected and no longer seeing the school as a community.

School WiFi Sarah Scott raised the issue of WiFi at James Gillespie's and noted that the school has raised this issue formally. This is a cause for concern given the ongoing roll out of iPads.

Lorna advised that a recent upgrade had caused problems for some school but agreed this should not be an issue, noting that the success of the iPad roll out is dependent on WiFi being available to all and that work is ongoing across the estate to address this.

Lorna advised that parent communications will be issued in the near future.

Deirdre Henderson raised the issue of support for children who are identifying as Transgender and how this will impact on single, for example, sex spaces.

Jack read the City of Edinburgh Council's response:

At CEC, we work within the national framework of Getting it Right for Every Child and UNCR, as well as the Equality Act 2010.

Studies show that trans young people's health and wellbeing is a concern and we take this into account.

We're committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of all children and young people, with a clear focus on wellbeing entitlements and protected characteristics.

When supporting an individual transgender young person, we seek to ensure that the rights of all children and young people with a protected characteristic(s) continue to be upheld.

This is our approach and it hasn't changed since publication of the new national guidance. We are aware of the Scottish Government's Equality Impact Assessment for this guidance and are looking at how this will impact at a local level.

The Equalities Parent Reference Group has the new supporting transgender young people guidance on the agenda for its next meeting.

Naomi Barton discussed the issue of on-line appointments for parents' evenings noting that one parent had complained they had only been able to get 4 out of a possible 15 appointments. Delegates agreed that parents who are familiar with the system will book all appointments leaving some parents with very few or none.

Rosie noted that St John's RC Primary School hold back some appointments for this reason whilst Sarah advised the James Gillespie's limit the number to 6 appointments which, although not ideal, does help this situation.

Lorna advised parents to discuss this issue with their Head Teacher if they find themselves without appointments.

Alex Ramage raised the issue of the continuation of staggered starts and finishes in some primary schools which can mean parents/carers waiting around for some time. Alex noted that this has been put in place with little or no consultation with the Parent Councils.

Lorna advised that no schools should be having staggered starts unless they have to.

This issue will be raised at the next Head Teachers' meeting.

6. CCwP

Jack advised that the next CCwP will be held via Microsoft Teams on 2 December from 6pm-8pm.

Delegates agreed the items they wished raised are: Live performances – what if any flexibility and the Active Schools issue.

Lorna noted that in regard to the latter work is ongoing with Sports Scotland.

Jack requested volunteers to attend noting six parent representatives from each of the Locality Groups may attend (three from each locality).

Sarah Scott will attend. Mark Smith (Castlebrae) TBC. (Sandra Dargie and Naomi Barton indicated that they will attend as reps for the NW/SW Locality groups.

There being no other business Jack closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.

Next Meeting		
Date	Venue	Time
1 February 2022	Microsoft Teams	6.30-8.30pm