

National Parent Forum of Scotland

Meeting held in Jury's Inn, Edinburgh on 29th September 2012

1. Present/Apologies

Aberdeen	Tony Rafferty
Aberdeenshire	VACANT
Angus	James Ewens
Clackmannanshire	Vacancy
Dumfries & Galloway	George Jamieson
Dumfries & Galloway	Jill Sloan
East Ayrshire	David Fraser
East Dunbartonshire	Douglas Chappelle
East Renfrewshire	Joseph McLachlan
Falkirk	Margaret Leitch
Glasgow	Joanna Murphy
Midlothian	Louise Gough
North Ayrshire	Billy Gibson
North Lanarkshire	Barrie Sheppard
Perth & Kinross	Jason O'Flynn (arrived at 10.40am)
Renfrewshire	Debbie Newlands
South Ayrshire	VACANT
South Lanarkshire	John Rice (arrived at 11.10am)
Stirling	Julie Wild (covers Clackmannanshire)
West Dunbartonshire	Iain Ellis (Chair)
West Lothian	Eric Lumsden

Apologies

Argyll and Bute	Dee Hancock (resigned, seeking replacement)
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Anne Bird
Dundee	Kiran Oza
East Lothian	Carol Snow
Edinburgh	Tina Woolnough
Fife	Amanda Ferguson
Highland	Alistair Todd
Inverclyde	Roslynn Oliver
Moray	Colin Noon
Moray	Nigel Tiddy (resigned, seeking replacement)
Orkney	Charlotte Harrison
Scottish Borders	Steven Whalley (resigned, seeking replacement)
Shetland	Bob Cree-Hay (resigned, seeking replacement)

In Attendance

Education Scotland	Irene Russell
Education Scotland	Lindsay Jane Murray (minutes)

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes proposed by Eric Lumsden and Seconded by Barrie Sheppard.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 The request for a sub-group to consider parental involvement in parent evenings etc. will be covered by the school handbook guidance.

3.2 All reps to use their generic emails.

3.3 Iain requested that all of the sub-groups communicate with each other regarding their priorities, activities etc. The membership of the sub-groups will be revised and reps will be included where appropriate.

Above from previous minutes

4. Early Years

4.1 Julie highlighted the work she is doing and how it would fit with the National Parent Forum of Scotland strategic plan. This also raised the issue of which groups NPFS sit on, how this is decided, and ensuring an effective voice at that table. The work which is currently being undertaken will address these issues through the strategic plan.

4.2 Iain requested that reps raise topics of discussion that they would like to seek parents' views on by way of focus groups. George emphasised the importance of prioritising work and doing the work well, identifying priorities and resources.

4.3 There was a discussion on how to support and involve those parents who are not significantly involved in their children's learning. Specifically those parents who do not have the same networks as the majority of parents.

5. Chair report, Handbook, support, communications and reps

5.1 Iain expressed his thanks to Margaret and Joanna for their work and delivery of the seminar at the Scottish Learning Festival, the presentation was well received.

5.2 Iain updated the group that due to Steven Whalley standing down as rep and vice chair it has been agreed by the Forum that Joanna Murphy will take the position of vice chair until the next AGM. Charlotte will continue as vice chair.

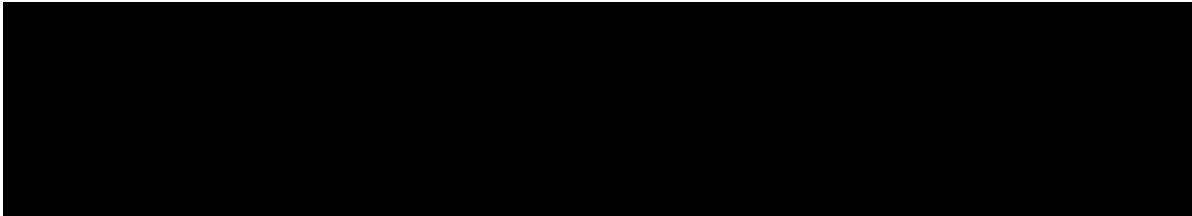
5.3 Iain will be meeting with Charlotte and Joanna in the near future to discuss the strategic plan, and the composition of the sub-groups.

5.4 Iain highlighted that he will be looking at filling NPFS vacancies in those local authorities where reps have resigned.

5.5 Iain thanked Tina for all her work regarding communications on behalf of the Forum, Further updates on how the communication task will be fulfilled in the future will be given in due course.

5.6 Education Scotland has approached NPFS to support their lay member training events in Glasgow, Livingston and Dundee. Discussion followed regarding presentation.

5.7 The Glasgow meeting is on the 29 October, Livingston is on the 30 October and Dundee is on 31 October. Joanna will support the Glasgow event; Eric will support the Livingston event and Kiran the event in Dundee. Reps are asked to contact Joanna if they are able



to attend and support any of the sessions. Reps also highlighted the importance of the questionnaires and the forum has requested to see these questionnaires.

- 5.8 Iain will be meeting Mike Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.
 - 5.9 Reps to look at the information on the inspection framework and the advice note for Parent Council Chairs and speak to their council chairs regarding this
 - 5.10 The Forum is considering 2-3 focus groups, feedback from these focus groups will be fed back to the parents. Iain will discuss the arrangements for these with Joan Mackay and the Communications Manager in Education Scotland.
 - 5.11 The strategy group will look at reps positions and the succession of the reps and office bearers. Individuals reps also need to look at this and speak to their authorities about their seat on the Forum.
 - 5.12 Iain will raise the issue of having a Parent Forum in each Local Authority with ADES to have a higher level of interested parents in each LA.
 - 5.13 Iain made reps aware of the SPTC Conference in Glasgow on 29 Nov.
 - 5.14
- School Handbook Guidance given out to reps at the meeting, for reps not at the meeting can email Lindsay Jane for a copy. Reps asked to make aware of Guidance.**

6. Conference

- 6.1 There are currently 83 delegates signed up.
- 6.2 Irene updated the group on the various input for the children's activity programme such as the Science Centre, Scottish Book Trust, craft activities and sports activities which will be confirmed and sent to all parents who have children registered.
- 6.3 Iain will send out the link for the online conference and the list of questions. These questions will be answered by Ministers, SPION, ADES, Education Scotland, SQA, NPFS members etc.
- 6.4 Lindsay Jane will email all presenters for their presentations in advance; these will be uploaded to the NPFS website once the appropriate permissions have been obtained.
- 6.5 Reps to sign up themselves and their children if they wish to attend via Lindsay Jane. Some reps may be asked to do specific jobs such as taking presenters to their rooms. Debbie and John have offered their support with the children's activities.
- 6.6 The donation to the school for hosting this event will be arranged by Lindsay Jane.

7. Strategic Plan

- 7.1 Lorraine Spalding met with Billy, Joanna and Julie to look at the next phase of the report. Iain has a further meeting with Lorraine to look at the draft report; this will be shared in due course for comment. Iain will then meet with Sarah Smith from Scottish Government and Joan Mackay, Assistant Director in Education Scotland for Parental Involvement to look at how the forum moves forward.

CfE Briefing on broad general education secondary schools for parents was given out to reps at the meeting. All schools have been sent the parent campaign, 'Be at the heart of

your child's learning', poster and Irene will bring along postcards for parents to the conference. Reps who were not at the meeting can email Lindsay Jane for copies.

8. Parent rep for Private Schools

8.1 There was a discussion around having a parent rep for private schools and the group agreed that from the constitution it is clear that this is for Local Authorities. If there are enquiries from private schools the forum will respond, the forum would meet with these organisations or they could come attend a forum meeting as an observer.

9. Let the Children Play

9.1 This is a campaign that Scotland on Sunday has launched looking at instrumental tuition in schools. **Discussion followed regarding the position in local authorities** The National Parent Forum of Scotland supports free musical tuition where budget constraints allow and having a range of instruments offered to children. Douglas will send a letter regarding this issue to Scotland on Sunday with reference to GIRFEC.

10. CfE

10.1 There will be a series of questions at the NPFS Conference which has been organised by Lorraine Sanda, Scottish Government. There will also be another set of questions on Engage for Education which will run alongside NPFS questions which are more in depth. Once the statistics have been gathered these will go forward in the way that the focus groups do.

10.2 There was a discussion with regards to the problems with correspondence not being received by parents in S1, S2 and S3. All reps to talk to parents in their Local Authority currently in S3 regarding communications they have received.

10.3 There was a discussion around the Broad General Education and curricular models.

10.4 Information on S3 pupil profiles are available on Parentzone with links to examples of S3 profiles also available.

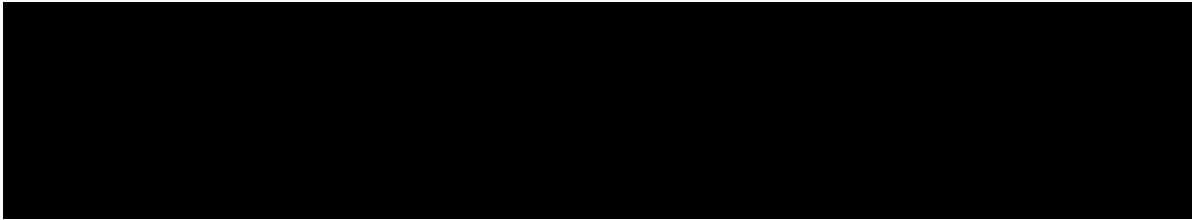
11. AOB

11.1 STEM report has been produced on how it contributes to Science Teaching in schools. John will do a briefing of this report and send to all reps.

11.2 Tony to send information on Beano publications and campaign for keeping commercialism out of schools.

11.3 Eric has an interview to become a member of the SQA Advisory Board on 9 October. Iain has requested Eric to head up a parental involvement strategy on behalf of NPFS where NPFS invite partner organisations to join short groups.

11.4 Barrie is on the champions group for the early effective intervention group and has attended two meetings at Edinburgh University. Further updates on this group will be given in due course.



- 11.5 Louise was successful in securing a place on the carer’s parliament and the first meeting is on Monday 1 October which will be live on the internet and parliament TV from 10-5pm. Also the ASN Forum in Midlothian has their second meeting with the Head of Services and Parents on Tuesday 2 October. Further updates on progress will be given in due course.
- 11.6 Rural schools draft report is due out in December which Jenna Story is working on.
- 11.7 In Stirling the issue of a joint headships and school use of social networking sites and policies with regard to their use are of concern to parents.
- 11.8 Billy is presenting a seminar the Children in Scotland Conference on the 20 November, 'A Man's Place: including and engaging fathers and male carers '. Billy has the long term plan from Scottish Government on ASN where NPFS will support on the parental involvement aspect.
- 11.9 Donaldson report has been complete but no feedback has been given to Debbie who has as yet not received a draft. The draft has been sent to the Cabinet Secretary and Debbie has requested a copy of this report.
- 11.10 Irene updated the group that she has been gathering examples of parental involvement good practice from Local Authorities. These examples will form the basis of a presentation.
- 11.11 Iain has requested that all reps to send in their reports prior to meetings. Iain brought to the attention of the group the potential cuts in Local Authorities and to discuss major issues with local Councillors.
- 11.12 Iain has asked that minutes that have been passed to be sent to SPION and reps send to their contacts.
- 11.13 Iain has asked that reps email on how head teachers are replaced in Primary schools and situation re supply teachers.

12. Date of next meeting of the Forum Meeting’s and next AGM will be sent by Doodle pole and close.

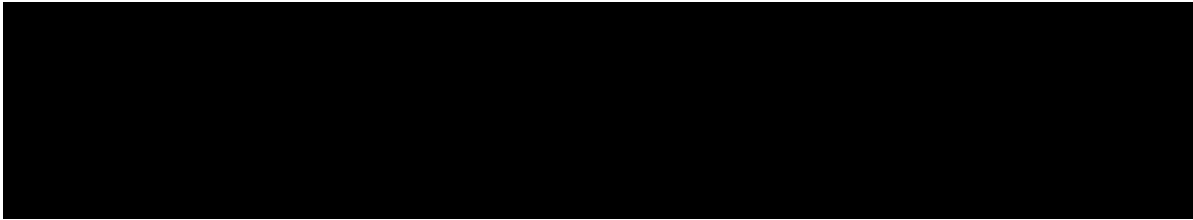
Date: Doodle poll will be sent to reps

Time: 10.00-15.30 approx.

Venue: TBC

Glossary

ASLIG	Additional SUPPORT FOR Learning Implementation Group
ASN	Additional Support Needs
CALL	Communication access Literacy and Learning
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
EIS	Education Institute Scotland
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
GTC	General Teaching Council
GIRFEC	Getting It Right for Every Child



NAR	National Assessment Resource
RIF	??
SEQIA (New LTS/HMIE Organisation)	Scottish Education Quality and Improvement Agency
SLF	Scottish Learning Festival
SPTC	Scottish Parent Teacher Council
SPION	Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths
QIO	Quality Improvement Officer