



# the National Parent Forum of Scotland

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Meeting held in Education Scotland; The Optima Building, Glasgow on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## 1. Present/Apologies

Angus	James Ewens
Aberdeen	Tony Rafferty
Aberdeenshire	VACANT
Clackmannanshire	Vacancy
Dumfries & Galloway	Jill Sloan
East Ayrshire	David Fraser
East Dunbartonshire	Douglas Chappelle
East Dunbartonshire	Neil Semple
Edinburgh	Tina Woolnough
Glasgow	Joanna Murphy (Vice Chair)
Highland	Alistair Todd
Inverclyde	Roslynn Oliver
North Ayrshire	Billy Gibson
Renfrewshire	Debbie Newlands
South Ayrshire	VACANT
South Lanarkshire	John Rice
Stirling	Julie Wild (covers Clackmannanshire)
West Dunbartonshire	Iain Ellis (Chair)
West Dunbartonshire	George Hill
West Lothian	Eric Lumsden
Orkney	Charlotte Harrison (Vice Chair)

## Apologies

Argyll and Bute	Dee Hancock (resigned, seeking replacement)
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Anne Bird
Dumfries & Galloway	George Jamieson
Dundee	Kiran Oza
East Lothian	Carol Snow
East Renfrewshire	Joseph McLachlan
Falkirk	Margaret Leitch
Fife	Amanda Ferguson
Midlothian	Louise Gough
Moray	Colin Noon
Moray	Nigel Tiddy (resigned, seeking replacement)
North Lanarkshire	Barrie Sheppard
Perth & Kinross	Jason O'Flynn
Scottish Borders	Steven Whalley (resigned, seeking replacement)
Shetland	Bob Cree-Hay (resigned, seeking replacement)

## In Attendance

Education Scotland	Irene Russell
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## **2. Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes proposed by Debbie Newlands and Seconded by Douglas Chappelle.

## **3. Matters Arising**

**3.1** Tina asked the group if they would complete a questionnaire regarding parent's nights.

Tina will email the questionnaire to those reps that were not at the meeting.

**3.2** Let the Children Play campaign highlighted in 9.1 has now been published in the Scotland on Sunday.

**3.3** John Rice to send a briefing report on the STEM report regarding how it contributes to science teaching in schools.

**3.4** Eric Lumsden has been offered a place on the SQA Advisory Board and has now accepted.

**3.5** The next meeting of the Champions Group for early effective intervention has to be confirmed but will take place in November/December, a further update to follow at the next NPFS meeting.

**3.6** All reps to respond to Jason's email regarding the draft report on rural schools and the situation regarding school transport. The report which was due to come out in December will now come out in the New Year. Each local authority will have guidelines on transport being provided, reps to look at these guidelines for their own authority.

**3.7** Billy requested information from reps regarding any perceived barriers to fathers being involved in their children's education, particularly in relation to ASN. Billy will be involved in the review of the ASN code of practice. CALL information day is on 24 November. Doran Review has been published and sent to reps by Lindsay Jane.

**3.8** Previous Minutes have been passed, reps to send to contacts and Irene will send to SPION members.

**3.9** An Action Log will now be kept separate from the minutes for reps information only and will be sent out two days after each meeting and the minutes will follow.

The newsletter is now set-up as an e-card. Tina commented that she did not receive the last issue via her school and has requested that reps distribute the newsletter through their local authority Parent Councils and SPION networks. Problems regarding communication will be highlighted through ADES.

**Above from previous minutes**

## **4. Chairs Report**

**4.1** Iain highlighted that the online conference which ran the week prior to the Annual Conference was not as successful this year due to problems with logging in. This will be revised for next year with the possibility of NPFS hosting this themselves. The meeting also discussed having a question a month on the NPFS website for parent/carers



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consideration. The Annual Conference was received positively by those that attended but the parent numbers were disappointing.

- 4.2** There will be a meeting in early January to review the conference including how it can be better advertised, covering costs for those who want to travel from further afield and possible satellite conferences hosted in local authorities. There will also be a review of the programme including the programme of events for children and young people. Reps with any ideas for the children's programme or parents seminars to highlight good practice can email these to Irene Russell.
- 4.3** Regarding good practice examples for seminar inputs, reps to contact schools direct rather than go through QIO's but request school involvement through the Director of Education.
- 4.4** Iain will be meeting Michael Russell in West Dunbartonshire on 29 November at 7.45pm. Reps to email Iain if they would like to attend and to meet at 7pm at Our Lady St Patricks High School.
- 4.5** Focus group on 4 December will be held in Hamilton, Almada Street at 7pm. This will be facilitated by Rocket Science. A paper for the group has been drafted to include attainment, transition, qualifications, senior phase and broad general education and how these issues are communicated to parents. The Forum hopes to have 20-30 parents taking part. Reps to contact Iain for places with contact details of the parents who wish to attend. There will be further focus groups around the country and reps are requested to source a venue in their local authority and help with input as appropriate. NPFS are in the process of producing reports from the three previous focus groups which took place in Dunoon, Callander and Highlands. Iain will discuss with Rocket Science the use of survey monkey to gather information from further afield.
- 4.6** Iain and the vice chairs will be reviewing individual reps roles and the groups they sit on. To assist them with this they will contact reps regarding their commitments in their local authorities.
- 4.7** Iain sent out paper on the senior phase prior to the meeting which will be discussed later in the meeting.
- 4.8** Reps to send group emails via Lindsay Jane. An updated contact list will be sent to reps.
- 4.9** Iain highlighted the possibility of having an International Conference jointly with SPTC on 16 March 2013 followed by the forum meeting on 17 March. Iain will be working on this and further updates will be emailed to reps.
- 4.10** Iain and Tina will be meeting with SPTC on Thursday 22 November.
- 4.11** It was suggested and agreed that posters to raise awareness of NPFS be designed for each local authority to be put on notice boards in all schools. This will be taken forward by Tina and Education Scotland.
- 4.12** There was a discussion around issues that appear in the media regarding child protection. It was agreed reps would pass information and raise awareness on topics such as internet safety.
- 4.13** Charlotte will be reviewing the induction pack to inform reps of their responsibilities, useful links, attending meetings etc. She will also look at minutes and the main



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fundamentals of the forum. The strategic planning process continues and the draft plan will be communicated to reps when completed.

**4.14** If you would like to attend the Literacy event on 27 November in Stirling please email Iain.

## **5. Feedback from HMI Lay People Events**

**5.1** Joanna and Eric informed the meeting that their input at the lay members training had went well. Eric requested feedback from HMI regarding the delegate's evaluation of the presentation.

## **6. CfE Discussion**

**6.1** There was a discussion within the group of reps personal experience regarding CfE and how information was being communicated to parents by their school and local authority. The main points of discussion will be collated by Charlotte and sent to Joanna. Any reps who are not at the meeting can email Joanna their feedback. This will be fed back into the CfE management Board in January 2013.

## **7. Focus Group Discussion**

**7.1** Iain will be attending an event Education Scotland is hosting on the senior phase. Iain shared a paper on the purpose of the day with the group. There followed a discussion around parent's/carers participation in achievement of their child, positive destinations and higher education. The group were in agreement that the biggest obstacle is communication and addressing this obstacle will prove difficult. Reps are requested to send their views to Iain on the paper prior to the event on 28 November.

## **8. Head Teacher situation across the country**

**8.1** There was a discussion around the problem of how head teachers are appointed in Primary Schools and around supply teachers in local authorities in denominational and non-denominational schools. It was agreed that reps would speak to SPION and ask their local authorities to then feed their findings to Iain and Eric will then be fed into local authorities and ADES.

## **9. AOB**

**9.1** Tony fed back from GTCS. ICT in Education Excellence Group is due to report in December, there have been a few meetings which have included Mike Russell. The initial remit was to think about the use of ICT in learning and to decide on the future of Glow.

**9.2** Tina has requested that reps ask their Local Authorities how they are spending the Early Years/Early intervention Change Fund which helps authorities deliver 600 hours pre-school education a year. This information should be sent to Tina and will be shared with Julie Wild.

**9.3** Irene attended the UCAS event and provided input into two workshops on how schools were involving parents at this key transition stage.



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- 9.4** Billy will be presenting at the Children in Scotland Conference, A Fathers Place. He requested information regarding any perceived barriers fathers face to being involved in their children’s education, specifically in relation to ASN.
- 9.5** Alistair is involved in the Physical Activity and Physical Education Committee, a health and wellbeing questionnaire was sent out in January to all local authorities and the results were published in June/July. Many of the authorities said 100% of their schools offered all their children two hours/sessions per week of PE. Alistair will send the results to reps and has asked reps to let him know of any children who do not get this so he can query these results as appropriate.
- 9.6** Alistair highlighted two areas of concern that have been in the media recently one of which is tartanisation of English text, possible or alleged political interference with examination schedules and texts. Equitable access to Scottish University for Scottish children where they need two or three grades above that needed by an English child, this issue is to be raised with Mike Russell.
- 9.7** Alistair raised the issue regarding the UCAS statement which needs to be completed when applying to University. Alistair raised the question of this being completed under exam conditions because at the moment the applicant can get help from teachers, parents etc. to complete this. Some pupils can access intensive coaching and some pay adults to complete the statement. A letter will be drafted by Tina and Alistair regarding the UCAS Statement.
- 9.8** Information from Julie regarding Early Years will be sent to reps for all reps to feed into. Julie has highlighted the key areas to look at in relation to the recommendations of the Children and Young Peoples’ Bill regarding Improved access to high quality, flexible and integrated early learning and childcare.  
This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Irene will send reps link to Children and Young Peoples’ Bill Consultation and Analysis of responses documents for reference.

**10. Date of next meeting of the Forum Meeting will be on 17 March following a potential National Conference on 16 March**

**Date: 16 and 17 March**

**Time:** 10.00-15.30 approx.

**Venue:** Edinburgh

**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
CLD	Community Learning Development
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
GTC	General Teaching Council
GIRFEC	Getting It Right for Every Child



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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
TESS	Times Educational Supplement Scotland
QIO	Quality Improvement Officer