



# the National Parent Forum of Scotland

## Radisson Hotel, Glasgow 24 November 2013

### 1. Present/Apologies

Dumfries & Galloway	Jill Sloan
Dundee	Mary O'Connor
East Ayrshire	David Fraser
East Dunbartonshire	Douglas Chappelle
East Renfrewshire	Joseph McLachlan
East Lothian	Carol Snow
Falkirk	Margaret Leitch
Glasgow	Joanna Murphy (Vice Chair)
Glasgow (deputy)	Richard Porter
North Ayrshire	Billy Gibson
North Ayrshire (deputy)	Brent Norris
North Lanarkshire	Barrie Sheppard
Renfrewshire	Debbie Newlands
Shetland	Fiona Nicholson
South Lanarkshire	John Rice
Stirling	Julie Wild
West Dunbartonshire	Iain Ellis (Chair)
West Lothian	Eric Lumsden

### Apologies

Aberdeen	Tony Rafferty
Aberdeenshire	Cara Ericksson
Clackmannanshire	John Lamont
Dumfries & Galloway (deputy)	George Jamieson
Edinburgh	Tina Woolnough
Fife	Amanda Ferguson
Highland	Bill Hall
Inverclyde	Roslynn Oliver
Midlothian	Louise Gough
Orkney	Charlotte Harrison
Perth & Kinross	Jason O'Flynn
Scottish Borders	Martyn Parsons

## **Vacancies**

Angus	Vacant
Argyll and Bute	Vacant
Comhairle nan Eilean Sar	Vacant
Fife	Vacant
Moray	Vacant
South Ayrshire	Vacant

## **In Attendance:**

Irene Russell, Education Scotland

Lorraine Spalding, Ossian Communications

2. Iain welcomed the group to the November Forum meeting. He informed the meeting that the vacancies in Highland and Clackmannanshire had been filled by Bill Hall and John Lamont respectively. Iain expressed his thanks to James Ewens and Alistair Todd, who have recently stepped down from the Forum, for all their work and support in representing the views of parents. He also welcomed Brent Norris as the Depute rep for North Ayrshire.
3. Minutes from previous meeting- Minutes proposed by John Rice and Seconded by Billy Gibson.

## **4. Matters Arising**

**4.1** A NPFS representative has been invited to join the Scottish Government's Programme Board for 'Getting it Right for Every Child', following a presentation to the Board by three of our representatives. Fiona Nicholson will represent the NPFs and will liaise with group leads on issues as appropriate.

4.2 The first meeting of the Scottish Advisory Group on Behaviour in Schools (SAGBiS) was held on 2 October. Mary O'Connor was unable to attend but will be attending the next meeting on behalf of the NPFS

4.3 Iain has met with Bruce Robertson, ADES, to discuss the coordination of proposed meetings with individual reps and their Director of Education.

4.4 Iain informed the meeting that the provisional date for the International Conference, in partnership with SPTC, is Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014. This will take place instead of the NPFS National Conference.

4.5 Tony Rafferty has collated the responses to the consultation in relation to the professional development programmes for those aspiring to become Headteachers.

### **Above from previous minutes**

## **5. Strategic planning**

1. Lorraine Spalding fed back to the meeting on the progress re the Forum's strategic planning including the agreed strategic aim and approach of the Forum, and the agreed delivery model. Discussion followed regarding the recommendations and next steps.

## **6. Group Discussions**

2. The meeting broke into working groups.

3. The group leads reported back to the meeting the main focus for their work for the coming year.

- Early Years Group:
  - o Early Years Task Force
  - o Workforce Development
  - o Implication of provisions of Children and Young People Bill - Early Learning and Childcare. Group proposed a parent focus group in relation to this issue for Sep/Oct and communication strategy to inform parents.
- Primary Group
  - o GIRFEC
  - o 1 plus 2 Languages policy – Reps were requested to feedback to Carol about any developments in their local authority.
  - o I CT – need to ascertain level of ICT in Primary Schools e.g. through NPFS ICT survey.
  - o Establishing effective communication strategy for members of the group.
- Secondary Group

- o Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy (SSLN)
- o Senior benching Marking Tool - Barrie distributed information leaflet to meeting
- o S3 profiles
- o GIRFEC
- o Post Results Service and Reasonable Adjustment – how is information being communicated to parents?
- o Use of Social media
- o 16 +
- o Better relationships, better learning, better behaviour
- ASN Group
  - o Exclusion of children with additional support needs
  - o Transitions
  - o Looked after children and young people
  - o Doran Review

Reps were asked to nominate parents from their local authority to be co-opted onto the ASN group. Nominations should be forwarded to Billy and Iain.

## **7. Focus Group Discussion**

7.1 A focus group of parents, hosted by NPFS, took place on 14 November 2013 in North Lanarkshire. The group discussed 'Great Learning' across the primary and secondary sector. Joanna has received a draft report from this event and will circulate to reps

7.2 A further focus group has been agreed for the 27 February 2014 in Dumfries and Galloway. The focus of this event will be Assessment in Primary Schools. The meeting discussed setting up a survey monkey with key questions in relation to the focus group issue and to include these responses in the subsequent report.

7.3 The meeting was asked to suggest ideas, issues for the final focus group to be held in March 2014 and to pass these to Joanna or Iain.

## **8. NPFS Consultative Group - Primary Assessment**

A new Consultative Group on assessment, tracking and reporting, made up of parents, teachers, local authorities, Education Scotland and Scottish Government, has been established by the National Parent Forum. The group aims to explore current assessment and 'reporting to parents' arrangements in schools, how these arrangements are

communicated to parents and whether parents are receiving the right type of information to help them understand how their child is progressing. This in turn allows parents to support the work of teachers in helping young people to achieve their best. The group will run from now until June. Views of parents, teachers and children will be sought and considered as the group progresses.

## **9. ICT Survey**

9.1 As part of the NPFS campaign to look at the roll out of Wi Fi in schools a [Survey Monkey questionnaire](#) on ICT provision in schools now live.

## **10. Actions**

**10.1 Action Iain:** would like to meet with the Minister to put forward issues regarding legislation in relation to number of hours pupils spend in school.

**10.2 Action Joanna:** to circulate report from 'Great learning 'focus group to reps.

**10.3 Action all: to forward suggestions for final focus group to Joanna or Iain.**

**10.4 Action Irene:** check with Tina distribution of E – Newsletter to reps.

**10.5 Action All:** reps to research in their LA on early presentation in S3. Reps to ask in Secondary schools.

**10.6 Action all:** Feedback to Carol any developments, in relation to 1 plus 2 languages policy, in their local authority.

**10.7 Action Joanna:** distribute rep reports to Forum members for information.

10.8 Action all: Reps were asked to nominate parents from their local authority to be co-opted onto the ASN group. Nominations should be forwarded to Billy and Iain.

## **11. AOCB**

4. The meeting raised the issue of the need for a dedicated Parental Involvement officer in each local authority.

5. Richard feedback to the meeting the City of Glasgow Forum's use of communication through partner organisation correspondence e.g. Housing Association newsletters, to reach parents.


## Glossary

AGASL	Advisory Group for Additional Support Learning
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
NAR	National Assessment Resource
RIF	Record Inspection Findings
EQIA (New LTS/HMIE Organisation)	Scottish Education Quality and Improvement Agency
SAGBiS	Scottish Advisory Group on Behaviour in School
SSLN	Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy
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

**Date of next meeting** March .... 2014, Venue in Edinburgh TBC



[www.parentforumscotland.org](http://www.parentforumscotland.org)  
[enquiries@parentforumscotland.org](mailto:enquiries@parentforumscotland.org)

 [parentforumscotland](https://www.facebook.com/parentforumscotland)  
 [parentforumscot](https://twitter.com/parentforumscot)