

PRESS RELEASE**Embargo - 0900hrs, Tuesday 13 May****The National Parent Forum of Scotland and Children in Scotland announce new partnership**

The National Parent Forum of Scotland is delighted to announce a new working partnership with Children in Scotland.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland is the only national body led by and for parents. Since its inception in 2009, it has undergone rapid development and is now an influential national and independent body, working on behalf of parents across Scotland to help every pre-school and school pupil maximise their potential.

This partnership represents a new and exciting phase of its development - an opportunity to share resources and expertise with Children in Scotland, an organisation that has similar values and vision, and whose reach spans the entire children's sector.

Iain Ellis, Chair of the National Parent Forum of Scotland said:

“This new arrangement with Children in Scotland marks the beginning of an exciting and important era for the National Parent Forum of Scotland. From the outset, the NPFS has been an independent voice for parents, striving to get the best education for all children across Scotland, no matter what their circumstances. Our new partnership with Children in Scotland will open doors and enable us to strengthen our ability to work with organisations, children and their families at grass roots across the country. This builds on the partnerships we have already developed with Scottish Government, Education Scotland and Local Authorities. We firmly believe that with greater understanding and working together we can get the best for all children. “

Jackie Brock, Chief Executive of Children in Scotland, said:

“We are delighted to be able to announce a new working partnership with the National Parent Forum Scotland. As a child and family-focussed agency, our membership spans the entire children's sector. Like the National Parent Forum Scotland, we are deeply committed to strengthening the capacity and capability of every child and recognise the vital role that parents play in this.

“I am confident that our new partnership will be complementary and fruitful, and contribute to an even stronger voice for parents across Scotland.”

From May 2014, Children in Scotland will host the National parent Forum of Scotland, and the NPFS management team will share Children in Scotland's offices in Shandwick Place,

Edinburgh. A full-time policy officer and dedicated administrator will be appointed to support the Forum's volunteer leadership team and representatives from across Scotland's 32 local authority areas to strengthen parental involvement and engagement with their children's education.

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EDITORS NOTES

- **The new working partnership between the National Parent Forum for Scotland and Children in Scotland** will begin from May 2014
- **Children in Scotland** is the national agency for the Children's workforce in Scotland. Our membership is wide and varied and includes representation from across health, education, social work, government, policy, and the third sector. Our membership of more than 400 organisations includes statutory agencies, local government, voluntary sector organisations, professional associations and community groups, all of whom contribute and inform our stance on issues affecting children, young people, families and those who work for them, making Children in Scotland the leading and authoritative voice for the children's sector in Scotland.
www.childreninscotland.org.uk
- The National Parent Forum of Scotland is comprised of one volunteer parent/carer representative from each of Scotland's 32 local authority areas. The National Parent Forum was created to provide representation for parents/carers at national level and to ensure that the parent voice is heard in education, on local and strategic issues. Representatives of the National Parent Forum sit on a number of national bodies and committees – please visit www.parentforumscotland.org for more details.
- Since its inception, the National Parent Forum Scotland has received the support of a host body in order to deliver its remit. The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) delivered a support function for the first six months and Learning Teaching Scotland/Education Scotland for the past three years.
www.parentforumscotland.org
- The move comes after a recognition that demand on the parent volunteers' time and contribution has risen sharply, particularly as a result of their work to represent parents' views during implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. This has resulted in a greater need for dedicated administrative support and a need for the National Parent Forum Scotland to create a stronger and more visible national presence as an independent body in support of parental and family involvement.