**Dumfries and Galloway Parent Council Forum**

**Castle Douglas Community Centre, 8 Dec 2014**

**Attending**

Jill Sloan, George Jamieson, Mel Dolan, Gary Coupland, Tom Riddet, Mel McGill, Bruce Gallacher, Fiona Latimer

**Apologies**

Stuart Murray, Jo Cochrane

1. **Welcome**

Jill opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Forum meeting

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Notes of last meeting were read

1. **Education Committee**

George confirmed that it has been agreed that two parental reps will be on the Education Committee. George has spoken to Councilor Jeff Leaver, Chair of the Education Committee and Colin Grant who advised that the next stage is for a terms of reference to be drawn up.

**Action**: Jill to use the Aberdeen City terms of reference as a template and draft a document to be circulated to all forum members for approval before forwarding to Education Authority.

**4 Dumfries Learning Town**

Jill and George reported that they had been invited to attend a meeting regarding the new learning hub planned for Dumfries. This meeting was cancelled but the group will be informed and updated after the meeting takes place.

5 **Parental Involvement Meetings**

The group did not know when the next parental involvement meetings are to take place. The feedback about the last round of meetings was that it was felt that the poor attendance in some areas was the result of no agenda being circulated prior to the meetings

**Action:** Jill to find out when next meetings are scheduled for

The group felt it would be beneficial to offer items for an agenda that would be relevant and of interest to parents:

* Budget implications both short and long term
* Vocational Studies - advice and options for parents whose children are perhaps not sitting exams – link into Skills Development Scotland
* PC chair training – areas of involvement

**Action**: George to circulate to group the initiative with SRUC currently available in D&G regarding pupils getting three months work experience on farms.

6. **Website**

The group agreed to use the NPFS website as a point of reference as opposed to setting up a separate parental website for D&G. There is a D&G section on the website which the group will start to use to communicate with parents.

**7. Assessment**

The leaflets recently produced by NPFS, on Sharing Learning, sharing Assessment, were circulated to the group who will get them out to parents. Gary and Jill now sit on the D&G sub committee on assessment and reporting in primary schools and will continue to report back to the group.

**AOB**

1. It was agreed that the forum should contact Colin Grant and request that the D&G parental forum be used as a point of contact when parents are required as stakeholders in impact assessment carried out by the council.
2. Gary and George reported to the group that they have both been involved with training in order to sit on the appeals panel for school placements. George has since participated in the appeals process and felt that the training received was inadequate.
3. The group is very keen to engage with the Education Authority on long term budget cuts and would envisage one way of this happening would be involvement in impact assessment.

**Date of next meeting** Monday 2 March 2015 6.30pm Castle Douglas Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8.30 and Jill thanked everyone for attending.