



Here at National Parent Forum of Scotland we aim to ensure the parental voice is heard in all discussions around education in Scotland. We gather parents' views through focus groups, web surveys and through our local representatives and their networks. If you'd like to get in touch with your local representative you can find their details here:

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/npfs-area-representatives/>

Here's a selection of where we provided an authentic parental perspective at a National level in May and June – all meetings were attended by our volunteer parent representatives. Please email [office@npfs.org.uk](mailto:office@npfs.org.uk) if you would like more information about any of these meetings, or indeed any other information about NPFS.

#### **Calls for Evidence:**

- **Education and Culture Committee**

The Committee scrutinises the policies and performance of the Scottish Government and its agencies by considering relevant legislation; conducting inquiries; scrutinising spending proposals; and carrying out any other work that it considers appropriate.

Our written submission on the Education (Scotland) Bill can be viewed here:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_EducationandCultureCommittee/Education%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/NationalParentForum\\_of\\_Scotland.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/Education%20(Scotland)%20Bill/NationalParentForum_of_Scotland.pdf)

- **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act**

In May we also responded to a consultation from Scottish Government on the Draft Statutory Guidance of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act.

Our response can be found here:

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CYP-Act-Draft-Stat-Guidance-Consultation-NPFS-response-Apr-15-FINAL.pdf>

#### **National Policy Meetings:**

- **AGASL**

The Advisory Group for Additional Support for Learning formally advise the Scottish Government and Scottish Ministers of issues relating to the implementation of the Additional Support for Learning legislation. This may relate to policy and practice development and may include issues that impact on the successful implementation of Additional Support for Learning.

- **Doran Strategic Commissioning Project Board**

The strategic review of learning provision for children and young people with complex additional support needs was commissioned by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. The final Doran Review report provides a set of recommendations aimed at providing better outcomes and experiences for children and young people with complex additional support needs. A Project Board was set up in June 2013 to oversee the delivery of the Strategic Commissioning Project.

- **Early Years Forum Meeting at Care Inspectorate**

Attended by our Early Years representative Julie Wild this forum brings together representatives from organisations working in the Early Years field.

- **Food for Life Education Advisory Group**

Food for Life works in partnership with a range of local and national organisations across the public, private, and voluntary sectors to transform food culture and food systems across the country, so that we can all eat food that is good for us, our communities, and the planet. Nearly one-half of Scottish primary schools now serve school meals that have been awarded the Food for Life Catering Mark. Their Education Framework is now being used by schools across the country to connect the four key areas of 'Culture, Catering, Curriculum, and Community', and empower schools to use food as a learning tool. We are delighted to now provide a parental perspective to the educational advisory team through our Perth and Kinross representative Jason O'Flynn.

- **GIRFEC National Implementation Support Group**

Reporting to the GIRFEC Programme Board, the main purpose of the National Implementation Support Group (NISG) is to support the development and implementation of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) across Scotland. Our representative is currently involved in making sure that there are clear coherent publications explaining the implementation of GIRFEC to parents. In June we were involved in the GetLIVE! Event with partner organisations that aimed to help create a GIRFEC communications strategy for Scottish Government.

- **National Digital Learning Forum**

The National Digital Learning Forum (NDLF) aims to get practitioners involved in evaluating and recommending approaches to digital learning and teaching. The forum has recently redefined its purpose as:  
"The National Digital Learning Forum has a national strategic remit and is charged with making recommendations to the national CLTAS forums on matters relating to the use of digital technology for learning and teaching."

- **OECD**

The Scottish Government has commissioned the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to undertake an independent review of the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and the quality of the associated learning and teaching being provided in Scotland's schools. Our chair, vice chair, secondary lead and early years leads were delighted to be invited to speak to the team as part of the review.

- **Royal Society of Edinburgh**

Our South Ayrshire representative is working with the society on discussions round their 'Vision for Science and Maths Education'. The latest meeting was on the sub section of the vision: 'teachers have high professional status and there is a strong supply of science and mathematics specialists.

- **Skills Development Scotland Parents Panel**

Our vice chair Joanna Murphy and secondary lead John Lamont attended this meeting of the parents panel where there was a discussion of new materials to be available to learners and parents, as well as the new Draft Standard for Career Guidance.

### **Conferences:**

- **Choices for Life Launch Event**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Police Scotland in partnership with Young Scot launched a new interactive tool "Choices" at an event at Hampden Park as part of the Choices for Life campaign. The campaign targets a range of issues such as alcohol, tobacco and drug use. It aims to provide young people with credible information to enable them to make positive choices and informed personal decisions about the risks and dangers surrounding such issues.

<http://www.youngscot.org/11001>

- **EIS – Instrumental Music Tuition , A Shared Vision**

Our East Dunbartonshire representative Douglas Chappelle attended this event ( Douglas sits on the Music Education Strategy Group too) with some excellent speakers, some great ideas about how to develop music education in schools and the wider community.

- **EYC Key Change event on child development, attachment and learning.**

The EYC Key Change Event took place on Wednesday 17th June in Glasgow. The event was an opportunity to develop a 'driver diagram' for one aspect of the EYC work on attachment, child development and learning. It was attended by about 40 people from a whole range of organisations including our Early Years lead Julie Wild.

- **Improving Social Equity through Education**

Organised by EFFE and hosted in conjunction with Education Scotland, British Council and Human Scale Education, this event was attended by approximately 100 people from all over the EU, including our Early Years lead

Julie Wild. The programme for the day was fairly mixed but generally looking at: what the stats are telling us in relation to this agenda (PISA results) and Innovative practice in this area from a variety of countries.

- **Learning Through Technology Conference**

Our Secondary lead John Lamont attended this conference (organised by Holyrood) as panel member in Glow Debate, stating his concerns that parental engagement is not at the forefront of the digital learning agenda.

- **Literacy Matters Conference**

Conference themes included:

- The Big Picture: Equipping young people with the necessary skills for the future movement towards not only improved reading, but also writing, presenting and digital literacy.
- Whole school approach to Literacy - involving parents and the community
- Inspiring 21st century learners: A look at practical approaches to increasing attainment with innovative approaches.

- **SLF extra Events**

Part of the Scottish Learning Festival Extra programme, the events were run in partnership between Education Scotland and Children in Scotland.

Open to headteachers, deputy headteachers, teaching staff and others involved in education, SLF Extra aims to bring some of the benefits of the Scottish Learning Festival to local areas throughout Scotland. An NPFS representative spoke as part of the parental involvement session at each of the six events.

### **Lecture by Angela Constance**

Lecture at the Robert Owen Centre at Glasgow University. Joanna Murphy our vice chair asked a question around funding and resourcing the parental part of the Attainment Challenge and hopes to follow this up further with the Cabinet Secretary.

- **Focus Group**

NPFS held a well attended focus group in May, to explore parents' experiences of the first year of the CfE Highers, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the N4 and N5s. The report can be read here:

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Note-of-Focus-Group-26-May-2015-Glasgow-FINAL.pdf>

and was presented by our chair Iain Ellis to the CfE Management Board, as well as being sent to all relevant Ministers and policy officials at Scottish Government.

### **Meetings with:**

- Craig Flunkert, Scottish Government Skills, Numeracy, Literacy and Parents Team Leader
- Education Scotland Comms Team

- Graeme Logan, Education Scotland, Strategic Director
- The Education Bill Team
- Alan Johnston, Deputy Director, Curriculum, Assessment and Gaelic, Learning Directorate
- Clare Hicks, Deputy Director, People and Infrastructure, Learning Directorate
- Delegation from the Welsh Education Department who were in Scotland for 2 days meeting with key members of the CfE journey and visiting schools.
- Scottish Parental Involvement Network
- Developing Scotland's Young Workforce Comms team
- National Improvement Framework