

**Saturday 5th September 2015**

**Royal Society, Edinburgh**

1. **Present**

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| Jill Sloan | Dumfries and Galloway |
| Douglas Chappelle | East Dunbartonshire |
| Joe McLachlan | East Renfrewshire |
| Margaret Leitch | Falkirk |
| Caroline Gourlay (Deputy) | Falkirk |
| Joanna Murphy (Co-Vice Chair) | Glasgow |
| Richard Porter (Deputy) | Glasgow |
| Fergus Weir | Highland |
| Roslyn Oliver | Inverclyde |
| Eleanor Symmon | Moray |
| Ann MacDonald | Na h-Eileanan Siar |
| Billy Gibson | North Ayrshire |
| Charlotte Harrison | Orkney |
| Jason O’Flynn | Perth and Kinross |
| Debbie Newlands | Renfrewshire |
| Fiona Nicholson (Co-Vice Chair) | Shetland |
| Cheryl Burnett | South Lanarkshire |
| John Rice (co-opted) | South Lanarkshire |
| Julie Wild | Stirling |
| Iain Ellis (Chair) | West Dunbartonshire |
| Eric Lumsden | West Lothian |

**Apologies**

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| Tony Rafferty | Aberdeen City |
| Bob Jones | Aberdeenshire |
| Kirsty Stevens | Angus |
| John Lamont | Clackmannanshire |
| Mary O’Connor | Dundee |
| Alison Bowyer | Edinburgh City |
| Carol Snow | East Lothian |
| Barrie Sheppard | North Lanarkshire |
| Martyn Parsons | Scottish Borders |
| Morag Leslie Smith | South Ayrshire |
| Maria Galli (Deputy) | South Ayrshire |

**Vacancies**

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|  | Argyll and Bute |
|  | Fife |
|  | Midlothian |

**Also in attendance**

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| Barbara Schuler (Minutes) | NPFS Policy Manager |
| Ken Edwards | Skills Development Scotland (SDS) |
| Charlie Love |  |

2. **Chair’s Welcome**

2.1 Iain thanked everyone for coming and welcomed the new representatives: Ann MacDonald (Na h-Eileanan Siar) and Caroline Gourlay (Falkirk deputy). Iain then introduced Ken Edwards from Skills Development Scotland.

1. **Developing the Young Workforce presentation**

3.1 Ken Edwards delivered a presentation on the new Career Education Standards. NPFS is working with SDS to develop a Nutshell for parents on this topic. The Nutshell will be launched at the Scottish Learning Festival. Ken explained the key aims of the Career Standards – getting across the message that there are multiple pathways to a ‘good’ outcome; the need for parity of esteem between ‘vocational’ and ‘academic’ routes; and ensuring that there is a better experience of the world of work for all young people.

3.2 Ken invited feedback from the Forum on the challenges and opportunities for parents as key partners in Developing the Young Workforce. Forum members asked: whether there were sufficient careers advisers to meet demand; how the quality of careers advice would be assured; how parents will be made aware of the expectations regarding their role; how to overcome entrenched positions and expectations about the value of academic routes over ‘vocational’ options.

1. **Minutes and matters arising**

4.1 Previous minutes proposed by Fiona Nicholson and seconded by Billy Gibson.

4.2 No matters arising.

**5. IT training**

5.1 Charlie Love delivered a training session on the use of Google drive and shared documents; the shared NPFS calendar; and how to use the local area pages on the NPFS website.

**Action**: Charlie to provide YouTube videos on: how to login to the NPFS site, how to add the NPFS Google Account to an iPad and how to add Shared Calendars. Additional videos will be available in due course.

**6.** **Policy discussions**

6.1 **Exam diet 2014/15**. Discussion about the NPFS position on issues raised by parents concerning the new and ‘old’ Higher Maths exams, in particular.

**Action:** NPFS will write to the SQA raising these concerns

6.2 **National Improvement Framework**. The Scottish Government recently released a draft of the Framework. NPFS has been invited to sit on the design board; a strategic board is also being established. Discussion points: parents have a prominent role in the Framework but there is no detail on how they will be informed and supported to fulfil the expectations that are being made of them; standardised tests should replace all other forms of testing currently being used; how will the test be administered (paper, online etc.) and who will it be marked by; what stage should pupils be tested at – is S3 the right stage; should testing be undertaken in the early years, and how will this be done; data should be used to inform individual pupil improvement; how will LAs communicate with parents about the standardised testing?

**Action**: NPFS to host a roundtable discussion with other organisations involved in working with/representing parents, children and families, including those working in the field of ASN, to look at common issues arising from the Framework.

**Action**: a press release on NPFS response to the Framework will be circulated to media contacts.

**7. Subgroups meetings**

7.1 The primary, secondary, early years and ASN groups met to discuss on going work and priorities.

**Action:** Group leads to provide written feedback on their discussions.

**9. Roundtable Updates on local activity and National Groups**

9.1 Roslynn Oliver, Inverclyde – advised on the situation with the new Head of Education.

9.9 Joanna Murphy, Glasgow and co-Vice Chair – spoke about two surveys from SDS on subject choices and transitions for S1 and S2.

**8. AOB**

8.1 Scottish Learning Festival: reminder that volunteers are needed for helping out with the stall.

8.2 Conference: a draft programme for the day was outlined, and a reminder was given about the satellite events taking place in Falkirk and Dundee, which reps from the surrounding areas are encouraged to attend. Schools will be invited to have stalls showcasing their enterprise work; all reps to raise this with local schools and seek their involvement.

**Action:** All reps to contact schools in their area regarding the possibility of having an enterprise stall at the conference.

**The next meeting will be 23rd January in Glasgow.**