



## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Education & Children's Services Directorate  
Meeting with Parent Council Chairs  
The Gannochy Suite  
Dewar's Centre  
Perth

Wednesday 17 September 2008 at 7pm

### Note of Meeting

**Present:** John Fyffe (Executive Director), Chris Webb (Head of Education Services), Pat Fegen (Service Manager), Margaret Anderson (Service Manager), Sheena Devlin (Service Manager), Karen Robertson (Operations Manager), Avril Ker (Admin Officer), Andy Williams (Kinross High School), Paul Neilson (Auchtergaven), Alan Lundie (Invergowrie), Ian Jackson (Perth Academy), Willie Campbell (Fossoway), Stuart Clark (Alyth), Ray Faherty (Oakbank), Audrey Miller (Ruthvenfield), John Ritchie (Fairview), Hazel Douglas (Moncreiffe), Bridget Barker (Milnathort), Rona McCall (St John's), Dorothy Bancroft (Pitlochry), Jan Hay (Pitlochry), Tim Daniell (Hill), Steven McLellan (Craigie), Angella Finlayson (St Stephen's), Judith English (St Ninian's), Sandy Scrimgeour (Perth Academy), Rose Butcher (Perth Grammar), Chris Meek (Abernethy), Lorna Jennings (Luncarty), Anna Martin (Caledonian Road)

**Apologies:** Peter Lodge (Dunning), Julie Livingstone (Robert Douglas Memorial), Neil Hunter (Portmoak), Mary Cumming (Dunbarney), Fiona Watson (St Columba's), Julie Flynn (St Columba's), Susan Sinclair (Guildtown), Simon Hodge (Our Lady's)

### Welcome

John Fyffe, Executive Director welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the officers of the council that were attending.

John explained that the purpose of this meeting and future meetings was to build trust and communication.

The 3 priorities for the Service were highlighted:

- raising attainment and achievement
- protecting vulnerable children and families
- equality of access – sport, culture, activity

An assurance was given that Perth & Kinross Council would continue with the good work in these areas and strive to develop them further.

## **Director Dialogue**

John informed the group that in order to strengthen communication with young people video conferencing was in the process on being set up through the GLOW initiative. Young people will be able to book a slot to speak with John on-line.

## **Curriculum for Excellence**

The session started with the DVD – Curriculum for Excellence, Information for Parents & Carers (already circulated to all Parent Councils).

Chris Webb and Sheena Devlin then gave a presentation on Creating a Curriculum for Excellence (presentation enclosed). They explained that a strategy was in place to develop CfE across Perth & Kinross and that this was the biggest change in education in a generation. A copy of the strategy is enclosed.

Further information on Curriculum for Excellence can be found on [www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk)

There was a short discussion on the consultation on the Next Generation of National Qualifications in Scotland (summary enclosed).

## **E&CS Self Evaluation Questionnaire**

A summary of the results from the first questionnaire was included in the packs. Chris explained that the first questionnaire was intended to be used as a benchmark to map progress since Parent Councils were established. It was agreed that a second questionnaire would be issued to identify continuing gaps and these areas would be addressed at future meetings. Chris emphasised that E&CS was trying to engage with parents, to seek their views and consult with them on as wide a basis as possible. The questionnaire would be emailed out to all Parent Councils as soon as possible with a return date of 14 November to give Parent Councils plenty of time to respond.

## **Draft Parental Involvement Strategy Consultation**

The draft strategy had been put out to all Parent Councils for consideration. Comments were to be fed back by 1 November 2008. Thereafter the strategy would be redrafted with the aim of the Parental Involvement Strategy going to Lifelong Learning Committee for approval in January 2009.

## **Parent Council Representation on Perth & Kinross Council Committees**

Information on Parent Council Members serving on various committees had been prepared by Democratic Services and was included in the packs (this information has also gone out from Democratic Services directly to every Parent Council). Places on these committees are open to all Parent Council members, not just the Chair. Nominations are also being sought for a Primary School Parent Council Representative to serve on the Lifelong Learning Committee. If anyone was interested in this, Ian Jackson, Perth Academy Parent Council, who currently serves as the Secondary School Representative would be happy to give an overview of what would be involved.

## **Nominations for Parent Council Focus Group**

Some nominations had come forward. Still looking for a representative from a secondary school outwith Perth City.

**School Term & Holiday Dates**

Dates for school session 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 were included in the packs. Karen Robertson highlighted that as a result of the consultation, from October 2010 the October break will commence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in October.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next Parent Council Chairs meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 March 2009. Details of venue will be confirmed nearer to the date of the meeting.

John Fyffe thanked everyone for attending and then closed the meeting.