

Learning Together

(National Action Plan on Parental Involvement, Parental Engagement, Family Learning at home 2018 /19)

Action Points in the plan	Lead	Status
Action 1 Joint commitments to enhance and improve parental involvement and engagement will be included within a joint CoSLA and Scottish Government agreement . This will include a commitment to ensure that headteachers work collaboratively with their Parent Council, wider parent forum and school community on substantive matters of school policy and improvement, based on the principle of co-production.	This action point is being addressed by the Scottish Government with COSLA and local authorities 2018-2019	The Council is currently supporting Parent Councils' and the wider parent forum.
Action 2 The Scottish Government will bring forward proposals to improve statutory and best practice guidance on parental involvement and engagement. This will be accompanied by a package of training and information materials. The guidance and training package will underpin a collaborative approach to parental involvement matters, and will aim to encourage and support parental engagement in learning.	Scottish Government	The Council will continue to improve parental involvement and engagement 2018/19.
Action 3 By March 2021 Education Scotland will develop and publish a range of further additions on parental involvement within its professional learning resources including the Engaging Parents and Families Toolkit . These additions will support further improvement in parental involvement by schools and early learning and childcare settings. Priority will be given to case studies from sectors currently under represented within the current suite of support materials.	Education Scotland By 2021	The Council will support the development of case studies and best practice.

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<p>Action 4 The Scottish Government will continue to support the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS) up to 2021. As part of this commitment, the Scottish Government will work with the NPFS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify new ways to provide a representative voice for parents, reflecting the diversity of the parent community; • ensure that forum's representatives are involved in all relevant forums; • promote the forum at every level of the system. 	<p>Scottish Government and NPFS. Up to 2021</p>	<p>SLC has a parent representative on the NPFS.</p>
<p>Action 5 The Scottish Government will ensure that the National Parent Forum of Scotland and other national parent organisations are involved in the annual review of Scotland's National Improvement Framework for education.</p>	<p>Scottish Government and NPFS 2021</p>	<p>Very good progress has been made in taking forward the National Improvement Framework – Parental engagement.</p>
<p>Action 6 The Scottish Government will work with national parent organisations to develop a "Policy Maker's Toolkit on involving parents" by the end of June 2019. The toolkit, which will be targeted at policy-makers and strategic managers at national and local level, will focus on how to support co-design and collaboration with parents in matters of policy and strategic planning.</p>	<p>Scottish Government By June 2019</p>	<p>SLC will support the development of a 'parental toolkit'</p>
<p>Action 7 National guidance on Pupil Equity Funding will highlight the importance of collaborating with parents in planning and decision-making processes relating to the funding.</p>	<p>Pupil Equity Funding</p>	<p>SLC has clear guidance on the purpose and effective use of PEF to 'close the poverty gap'.</p>
<p>Action 8 Between 2018 and 2021 the Scottish Government will work with national parent organisations to raise awareness of participatory budgeting as an innovative and effective mechanism to involve</p>	<p>Scottish Government 2018 – 2021</p>	<p>On-going engagement with parents.</p>

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parents, particularly those who face additional barriers.		
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Action 9 Education Scotland will continue to work with stakeholders to review and refresh the content of Parentzone Scotland. The aim will be to help parents support their child's learning and get involved in the life and work of the early learning and childcare setting or school.	Education Scotland	SLC contributing to the review of Parentzone.
Action 10 From June 2019 onwards all national communication materials for parents will be developed in line with the key principles within the National Improvement Framework Parent Communication Plan. The principles are simplicity and clarity; transparency; relevance; partnership; flexibility and timeliness. <i>This commitment is made by Scottish Government, Education Scotland, the National Parent Forum of Scotland, the Association of Directors of Education, the General Teaching Council of Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority.</i>	June 2019	SLC are and continuing to review communications in line with the NIF.
Action 11 The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) will use its 'Digital First' approach to build an understanding of parent needs, learn from parent feedback and provide a 'toolkit' of plain English publications including social media content, which parents will be able to access during session 2018-19.	SQA – 2018/19	SQA developing this action on a 'Digital First' approach.
Action 12 By March 2019 the Scottish Government will develop an online resource for parents to empower them to make informed choices about the right early learning and childcare setting for their child. The Scottish Government will work with parents and parent organisations to develop the resource.	Scottish Government By 2019	SLC will continue to deliver high quality learning and childcare. (ref Resource Plan).

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Action 13 The Scottish Government will promote the National Parent Forum's "Nutshell" series as providing a simple, straightforward source of information about education matters. The Scottish Government will explore with the National Parent Forum further opportunities to provide nutshell advice in alternative formats.	Scottish Government/NPFS	SLC will continue to support the availability of NPFS communications.
Action 14 The Scottish Government and Education Scotland will work with parent organisations between August 2018 and March 2019 to explore how digital and information technology resources can be better exploited to support parents' involvement and engagement. A report on the available options and next steps will be provided by June 2019.	Scottish Government Aug 2018 – March 2019	Better use of digital technology being used by schools 2018/19.
Action 15 In early 2019 the Scottish Government will convene a national working group to explore practical, effective ways to make it easier for parents, families and wider communities to volunteer in early learning and childcare settings or schools. The group, involving third sector organisations, employer organisations, volunteering organisations and agencies, will seek to ensure that volunteering opportunities in schools and early learning and childcare settings are meaningful and sustainable.	Scottish Government Early 2019	SLC will support the engagement of the third sector to encourage volunteering.
Action 16 The Scottish Government will work with local authority partners to increase access to home-school link workers and similar roles by the end of 2019. The government's investment in Pupil Equity Funding will continue to provide schools with opportunities to employ their own workers where the school concludes that a link worker will support the school's aims. Work will be undertaken with local authorities to widen access to home/school link workers, to monitor progress and to evaluate impact.	Scottish Government End of 2019	On-going during 2018/19 (PEF)

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Action 17 The Scottish Government will continue to work with delivery partners to further develop and implement a range of commitments set out in the National Parenting Strategy.	Scottish Government	SLC is currently reviewing its Parental Engagement Strategy.
Action 18 The Scottish Government will continue to deliver the Baby Box programme. This will include the launch of 'Baby Box 2' with national roll-out of a new design and contents by end March 2019.	Scottish Government By March 2019	SLC continues to support this roll out.
Action 19 The Scottish Government will invest in the Parent Club marketing campaign as a single integrated marketing approach to all parental audiences across learning, health and other policy themes. The learning theme within Parent Club will run from Autumn 2018 and will build parents' confidence in how to adopt learning activities into their daily lives. Parent Club will also be independently monitored and evaluated among parents by May 2019.	Scottish Government By May 2019	Further details awaited
Action 20 The Scottish Government will continue to invest in a package of national programmes to support parental engagement in learning including Bookbug , Read, Write, Count and the Deputy First Minister's Holiday Maths Challenge.	On-going	Very good arrangements in place in SLC
Action 21 Education Scotland will publish examples of good practice on learning at home by March 2021.	Education Scotland By March 2021	SLC currently contributes to sharing good practice.
Action 22 The Scottish Government will ensure that effective support is provided to parents who would like to have access to Gaelic Medium Education for their children.	Scottish Government Gaelic	Mount Cameron Primary and Calderglen High provide Gaelic Medium Education

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Action 23 The Attainment Scotland Fund and Pupil Equity Funding will continue to provide funding to schools from 2018 onwards. Schools will continue to be able to tap into these funds to arrange family learning programmes and to fund joint activity with early learning and childcare settings.	SAF/PEF – 2018	Linked to action 7
Action 24 By March 2019 Education Scotland will publish professional learning resources and case studies to support practitioners in their work to continually improve parental engagement and family learning.	Education Scotland By March 2019	Family learning and parental engagement being taken forward in SLC.
Action 25 By the end of 2019 Scottish Government will develop plans to assess the impact of the range of parental engagement and family learning programmes as supported by the Attainment Scotland Fund and Schools Programme	By end of 2019	SLC currently has effective monitoring arrangements to assess the impact of learning programmes (PEF/SAC).
Action 26 The Scottish Government will conduct an Equalities Impact Assessment and Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment in relation to this plan. The Scottish Government will consider equalities issues in key programmes and campaigns such as Parent Club, Read, Write, Count, the First Minister's Reading Challenge and the Deputy First Minister's Holiday Maths Challenge.	Scottish Government	SLC will continue to take forward and implement equalities legislation.
Action 27 The Scottish Government will work with parent groups to ensure that national education policy documents, strategies and guidance documents are fully "parent friendly". This will include active steps to engage with groups that we have failed to involve in the past. It will include detailed consideration of socio-economic circumstances as well as a wide range of equalities issues.	Scottish Government	Parent friendly communications will continue to be a feature 2018/19 and beyond.

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Action 28 As part of its work to extend and strengthen the Engaging Parents and Families Toolkit, Education Scotland will review and update the existing section on working with parents who face barriers to their involvement by March 2019.	Education Scotland By March 2019	SLC – supports in place to reach out and engage with families
Action 29 Equalities and equity will be addressed as part of the new package of guidance, training and support on both parental involvement and engagement. This will include the equalities needs of Parent Councils, responding to findings from the National Parent Forum's review of parental involvement. In addition, the Scottish Government will make a total of £350,000 available between 2019 and 2021 in order to develop small scale research and best practice materials on a range of equalities themes.	2019 -2021	Equalities and equity is a key priority in the Education Resources Plan – 2018-19
Action 30 The Scottish Government will take steps to support the positive involvement and engagement by specific groups.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Action 31 The joint work to improve national guidance on parental involvement and engagement will be supported by an additional investment in a package of training, awareness raising and advice materials. The contents of this package will be developed by end June 2019 and rolled out via Regional Improvement Collaboratives, local authorities and parent groups during the course of financial year 2019/20. The package will be designed to support collaborative leadership at all levels and skills relating to trust and partnership.	By June 2019	Collaboration by Local Authorities in the RIC will continue to focus on improving outcomes for families (West Partnership Improvement Plan).

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Action 32 The General Teaching Council of Scotland will work with partners to ensure that parental involvement and engagement is fully reflected in amended standards for headship and professional standards for teachers and associated support materials. The new standards and accompanying supporting materials will be in place by August 2019.	GTCS By August 2019	SLC supportive of this action by the GTCS
Action 33 Parental involvement and engagement will be reflected in the new national standards for early learning and childcare settings, expected to take effect in 2020.	By 2020	Ongoing
Action 34 In the early years we will increase support for evidence-based family learning programmes in order to embed this in the early learning and childcare support for families facing disadvantage. As part of this commitment we will include a module on parental involvement and engagement in an online national programme of career-long professional learning on early learning and childcare.	Ongoing	SLC strong commitment to provide high quality learning and childcare and professional development.
Action 35 The Scottish Government will engage further with Initial Teacher Education (ITE) universities and early learning and childcare colleges in order to improve how parental involvement and engagement are reflected in relevant qualifications and courses, and to share expertise.	Scottish Government	Ongoing
Action 36 The Scottish College of Educational Leadership (SCEL), as part of Education Scotland, will work with parent organisations to ensure that parental involvement and engagement are included in the "I nto Headship" qualification and the enhanced leadership support package for practitioners by March 2020.	SCEL By 2020	SLC committed to developing high quality leadership and development.

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Action 37 By March 2019 SCEL, as part of Education Scotland, will pursue the opportunity to build on the 'People and Partners' theme within Excellence in Headship . This theme looks at the importance of collaborative partnership working – a crucial aspect in ensuring effective parental involvement and engagement.	SCEL By March 2019	Collaborative working is a key feature of the work of nurseries and schools.
Action 38 The Scottish Government will ensure that the refreshed national training and development offer includes specific materials developed for and with parents and Parent Councils. The theme of <i>parental leadership</i> , confidence and capacity will be a strong element in this new package of support and advice.	Scottish Government	SLC welcome new training of development/ package of support.
Action 39 The Scottish Government will work with local authorities, Regional Improvement Collaborative Leads and national parent organisations to ensure meaningful parent stakeholder involvement in relation to the priorities for the RICs.	Regional Collaborative	Link to action 31
Action 40 The Scottish Government will retain parental engagement as one of the key drivers within the National Improvement Framework.	National Improvement Framework	SLC has and will continue to take forward the key drivers of the NIF and report on progress
Action 41 Local authority Parental Involvement Strategies will be reframed as strategies for involvement and engagement, with a requirement to review strategies every three years.	On-going	Currently a review of the SLC Parental Involvement Strategy is ongoing

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Action 42 The Scottish Government will engage with Connect's Partnership Schools programme (funded by Skills Development Scotland) throughout the timescale for this plan, with a particular focus on reforming the culture and approach in relation to school improvement. The government will identify and share lessons and ensure that any national training, guidance or support materials take account of the initiative. This will help to support a more collaborative approach to improvement planning.	Skills Development	Will engage with Partnership Schools Programme to improve outcomes.
Action 43 Education Scotland will work with the Care Inspectorate to develop a new shared inspection framework for early learning and childcare settings. This will be implemented in 2019 and will include an appropriate focus on parental involvement and engagement.	Education Scotland of Care Inspectorate By 2019	Shared inspection framework by 2019 noted.
Action 44 Education Scotland will continue to ensure that parental involvement and engagement are considered in the development of new and revised inspection frameworks. National parent organisations will also be fully involved in the on- going review of Education Scotland's self-evaluation frameworks up to 2021.	Education Scotland Ongoing to 2021	Parental Involvement in the new inspection framework by 2021 noted.
Action 45 By the start of the 2019/20 academic session the Scottish Government will create a new National Network on Parental Involvement and Engagement, drawing together practitioners, academics, researchers and policy makers to review evidence, share expertise and build new connections. The aim will be to improve the connections between policy, research expertise and what is actually happening on the ground. As part of this commitment, the government will identify champions for parental involvement and engagement amongst parents and carers, families, practitioners and support workers.	Scottish Government /National Network on Parental Engagement 2019 / 20	SLC will participate in research based activities to effect improvement.

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Action 46 As part of the annual National Improvement Framework cycle the Scottish Government will gather, analyse and publish key performance information on parental involvement and engagement on an annual basis and throughout the timescale for this plan.	National Improvement Framework	Performance reporting of information on an annual basis noted.
Action 47 The Scottish Government will work with local authorities to pilot a new national survey of parents and carers by summer 2019, with a view to wider roll out in academic year 2019/20.	Scottish Government By summer 2019	Proposal to pilot a new national survey of parents noted
Action 48 The Scottish Government will ensure that the Growing up in Scotland (GUS) study provides reliable, relevant and impactful data relating to the links between parental involvement and engagement and children's learning outcomes, publishing the next GUS report by the end of 2018.	Scottish Government By end of 2018	Recommendations and outcomes due to be reported by the end of 2018.
Action 49 The Scottish Government will ensure that activity under Scotland's Research Strategy for Education reflects parental involvement and engagement, family learning and learning at home. The Scottish Government will work with the National Parent Forum of Scotland to review the extent to which research activity under the current strategy incorporates parental involvement and engagement. An initial analysis will be developed by end December 2018. The Scottish Government will consider the further steps that may be needed in order to provide a single "one stop shop" summarising the available evidence.	Scottish Government By end of 2018	Evidence based criteria will be used to effect improvement 2018-2021.

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Action 50 The Scottish Government will ensure that key national policies relating to parental involvement and engagement take full account of the latest research and evidence. As part of this commitment, the Scottish Government will seek appropriate expert input and advice from independent academics throughout the timescale for this plan.	Scottish Government	See action No 49.
Action 51 The Scottish Government, through the Attainment Scotland Fund, will provide funding to the Child Poverty Action Group in 2018/19. This will help to promote awareness of the financial barriers that pupils from low income families face, demonstrate the ways in which these barriers prevent full participation and provide practical steps to address those barriers.	Scottish Government 2018 / 19	SLC actively engaged in actions/programmes to tackle poverty (SAC of PEF) – on-going.
Action 52 The Scottish Government will work with regional partners to share advice and guidance on ways to engage with families living in the most deprived areas in Scotland. This will include the Toolkit for Parent Councils on the Cost of the School Day developed by the Child Poverty Action Group and the National Parent Forum.	Scottish Government	SLC – Tackling poverty is a key priority in the Council Plan and linked to closing the poverty attainment gap.

Goal A (Representation): Strengthen parental representation in the life and work of early learning and childcare settings and schools

Goal B (Collaboration): Expand opportunities for ALL parents to collaborate at every level of the education system

Goal C (Communication): Improve communication with parents and families

Goal D (Information technology): Support early learning and childcare settings, schools and parents to exploit the opportunities provided by information technology to improve parental involvement and engagement

Goal E (Volunteering): Widen opportunities for parents and families to volunteer with the school or early learning and childcare setting

Goal F (Parental Engagement): Improve support to parents and families to help them to engage with their child's learning and development	
Goal G (Family Learning): Increase the opportunities for families to access evidence based family learning opportunities and programmes	
Goal H (Equalities and Equity): Work together to address barriers that limit parents' involvement and engagement	
Goal J (Skills): Enhance the skills associated with parental involvement, parental engagement and family learning amongst practitioners	

Goal K (Parents as leaders): Build the capacity of parents, drawing on their expertise and supporting them to be involved and engaged in their children's learning

Goal L: Ensure that parental involvement and engagement are fully reflected in strategic policies, improvement activity and inspection processes

Goal M (Evidence): Improve the evidence base

Goal N (Funding): Provide appropriate levels of funding for parental involvement and engagement at national, regional, local and school level