

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 September 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Learning Together - National Action Plan
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the publication of the Scottish Government's national action plan on parental involvement, parental engagement, family learning and learning at home 2018 to 2021, entitled, "Learning Together".

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the "Learning Together", Scotland's national action plan on parental involvement, parental engagement, family learning and learning at home 2018 to 2021 be noted;
- (2) to note that a report on progress in taking forward the 13 goals and 52 action points will be provided to a future committee meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1. In August 2018, the Scottish Government launched its new engagement plan to improve links between home and school.
- 3.2. "Learning together", Scotland's national action plan on parental involvement, parental engagement, family learning and learning at home has been developed in collaboration with COSLA and is supported by the National Parent Forum of Scotland, Education Scotland and the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland.
- 3.3. The plan sets out a vision for parental involvement and engagement for the next three years, 2018 to 2021.
- 3.4. The plan is based on the guiding aim of Getting it Right for Every Child. The theme that lies at the heart of the national action plan is relationships, based on trust, mutual respect and collaboration.
- 3.5. It takes account of national and international evidence base, as well as policy and practice expertise. It contains 13 goals and 52 national actions.
- 3.6. A copy of the goals and actions are provided in a summary format in Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. In terms of the 13 goals in the national action plan, the Council will continue to engage and collaborate with parents/carers, schools, early years and services in taking these forward to help achieve better outcomes.
- 4.2. Out of the 52 actions, we are already addressing a number of these.
- 4.3. The aim of the plan is to take forward a further phase of reform in terms of parental involvement, parental engagement, family learning and learning at home by building on the work of our schools and services over the last twelve years through the Parental Involvement Act.
- 4.4. In South Lanarkshire, we are currently reviewing our Parental Involvement Strategy, as highlighted to the Education Resources Committee on 14 November 2017.
- 4.5. The review group will take account of the recommendations in the national action plan to ensure the revised strategy reflects the shift in emphasis from involvement to collaboration and supporting family learning and learning at home.
- 4.6. Our approach in South Lanarkshire is to involve parents in all aspects of their child's education to enable them to achieve their potential in an inclusive and nurturing environment. We wish to empower parents and carers so they feel they have the confidence and skills to support their children with learning.
- 4.7. Increased levels of parental involvement and engagement will lead to rich family learning opportunities and improve the quality of learning at home.
- 4.8. Evidence shows that in South Lanarkshire there is a strong track record in supporting parental engagement and involvement for example:-
 - ◆ our schools and early years' establishments continue to involve and engage parents/carers in learning, events and activities
 - ◆ we have 140 Parent Councils plus a wide range of parent teacher associations;
 - ◆ we have 2 parent representatives on the Education Resources Committee
 - ◆ we have a parent representative on the National Parent Forum for Scotland
 - ◆ parents are involved in the appointment and interview process for Headteacher and Depute Headteacher posts
 - ◆ we organise a parents conference through engagement with parents
 - ◆ we continue to look at ways of supporting family learning

Monitoring

The impact and benefit will be monitored on an ongoing basis through the quality agenda. The quality and extent of parents' involvement in their children's learning will be assessed through the quality framework – How Good is Our School? (4th edition): 2.5 Family Learning and How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare?

- 4.9. A key aspect of the action plan is to build on the progress made by schools, early learning and childcare establishments, parents, carers, families, practitioners and local authorities as we continue to take forward the drivers in the National Improvement Framework.

- 4.10. Joint commitments and partnership arrangements are a key feature of the opportunity to enhance and improve parental involvement and engagement. In summary, the lead for the actions can broadly be broken down as follows:-

Scottish Government	32
Education Scotland	8
Local Authority (PEF and SAC)	4
Regional Improvement Collaborative	2
National Parent Forum	2
Scottish Council for Educational Leadership	2
Scottish Qualifications Authority	1
General Teaching Council for Scotland	1

- 4.11. It is proposed to provide a progress update to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 4.12. It is further noted that the outcome of the review of the Parental Involvement Strategy will be reported to Committee.
- 4.13. The Committee is also asked to note the contribution made by parents, schools and services on looking at the impact of the Parental Involvement Act which has resulted in the development of the national action plan.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained within this report although stakeholders will be engaged as we review our strategy and take forward the action plan.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

27 August 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 14 November 2017.

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Learning Together – national action plan. (August 2018)
- ◆ Review of Learning at Home (August 2018)
- ◆ Review of Family Learning (2018)
- ◆ The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement Act) 2006

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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