

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>10 December 2019</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy - Supporting Family Learning and the Sharing of Best Practice</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ♦ advise of the steps taken to promote family learning in line with the newly revised, Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy launched at the Parents Conference on 13 November 2019.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that it be noted that the roll-out of the revised Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy – ‘working together to support children and family learning’, along with a ‘guide for Parent Councils’, produced by parents for parents, was welcomed by parents/carers and schools at the Parents as Partners Conference held on 13 November 2019

## 3. Background

- 3.1. On 6 August 2019, the Education Resources Committee noted the progress being made to revise the Council’s Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy in line with the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 and the actions which arise in the ‘Learning Together’ National Action Plan published in August 2018.
- 3.2. Active parental involvement, engagement, family learning and learning at home are effective and positive influences on a child’s education. Evidence based research shows that parents, carers and families are the most important influence on children’s attitudes, behaviour and achievements.
- 3.3. The Council’s schools and nurseries play an equally important role in welcoming parents/carers to be partners in their children’s learning journey. Effective parental involvement, therefore, must also be inclusive by encouraging parents, carers and families to be active participants and by making them feel welcome and valued.

## 4 Parents as Partners Conference

- 4.1 Around 100 people attended the Parents as Partners conference held on 13 November 2019 where the focus was on ‘*working together to support family learning*’ in order to help develop a child’s potential through their learning journey from nursery, primary, secondary and if they require additional support needs schools.

- 4.2 Rachel Baxter, Head Teacher of Netherburn Primary School, who led the working group which developed the new Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy, showcased a film which featured 4 parents talking about their individual learning stories and on how the Strategy can be put into practice. The film premier showed that parents from Netherburn Primary are now more confident in supporting their children's learning at school and at home.
- 4.3 Members of the Parents' Focus Group launched a 'Parents Guide' on the role of a Parent Council and copies have been published for all schools and Parent Councils with an on-line version being posted on the Council's website. Copies of the 'Parents Guide' have been made available in Members' Areas.
- 4.4 Another highlight was the showcase of best practice on family learning with the following schools in attendance along with Dyslexia Scotland and the National Parent Forum for Scotland.
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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◆ Burgh Primary, Rutherglen      | ◆ Cathkin High, Cambuslang           |
| ◆ Hareleeshill Primary, Larkhall | ◆ Hollandbush Nursery, Hamilton      |
| ◆ Lanark Grammar                 | ◆ Netherburn Primary, Larkhall       |
| ◆ Sanderson High, East Kilbride  | ◆ National Parent Forum for Scotland |
- 4.5 With the launch of the revised Strategy and Parent Council guide firstly with parents, the next stage is to continue the roll-out using case studies to show what has worked well as there is a commitment throughout Education Resources to meet the requirements in the National Improvement Framework and other associated legislation and Scottish Government guidance.

## **5 Next Steps**

- 5.1 Family learning and parental engagement is something that will continue to feature Council schools and services over the coming months and the Strategy will be rolled out to schools through learning community meetings with case studies being shared to help show what has worked well and build momentum for improvement.
- 5.2 There is also a need to support and empower parents and carers so they feel they have the confidence and skills to support their children's learning and improve the quality of learning at home and plans are being drawn up to offer training and support for parents delivered jointly with parents in localities.
- 5.3 Evidence shows that in South Lanarkshire there is a strong track record in supporting parental engagement and involvement. The evaluations from the Parents as Partners Conference help to confirm this:-
- ◆ 99% showed they welcomed the new Strategy supported by the film and case studies
  - ◆ 96% showed they welcomed the new Parent Council Guide
  - ◆ 97% agreed that the conference provided an ideal opportunity to network
  - ◆ 97% agreed they felt confident to share what they had learned with others at their respective nursery/school
  - ◆ 100% enjoyed the musical entertainment from Lesmahagow High school
- 5.4 The parents focus group deserve the credit for the planning of the Conference and have intimated that they will use the evaluations to guide the next steps in promoting and supporting family learning and learning at home.

- 5.5 It is proposed to provide a further report on the impact of the revised Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy to a future meeting of this Committee.

## **6 Employee Implications**

- 6.1 None

## **7 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 To be met from within existing resources.

## **8 Other Implications (Including Environmental and Risk Issues)**

- 8.1 There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

- 8.2. There are no risk implications arising from the proposals in this report.

## **9 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1 There is no requirement to carry out an equality impact assessment arising from the recommendations from this report.

- 9.2 The revised strategy and parent council guide were developed and designed with parents/carers, nurseries, schools and services and other stakeholders.

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

21 November 2019

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Raise Educational Attainment for All
- ◆ Increase Involvement in Lifelong Learning
- ◆ Improve Lives of Vulnerable Children, Young People and Adults

## **Previous References**

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 6 August 2019

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006
- ◆ Learning Together – national action plan (August 2018)
- ◆ Review of learning at home (August 2018)
- ◆ Review of family learning (2018)
- ◆ Parents as Partners – Toolkit
- ◆ Council Plan

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Des Dickson, Education Operations Service Manager

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