

Special Schools Chair of Parent Council's City-Wide Meeting

11 December 2024

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Notes

Welcome & Introductions	
<p>Attendance: Lynne Binnie (Chair) – lynne.binnie@edinburgh.gov.uk Jane Geddes (Oaklands) Emma Clater (Prospectbank) Eleanor Ryan-Saha (Redhall) Sinead Reynolds (Woodlands) Maurice Shamash (St Crispins)</p> <p>Headteacher Representative: Sandra Craig (Prospectbank)</p> <p>Guests: Michelle Kirkpatrick (Team Manager, Children's Services) Donna Murray (Head of Education) - lynne.binnie@edinburgh.gov.uk</p> <p>Minutes recorded by Lynne Binnie and Jane Geddes</p>	
Agenda/Notes	Actions
Previous Meeting Minutes	Agreed
Action Tracker	Lynne to put in place an action tracker to keep account of the actions agreed at each meeting.
Parent Council Items	
<p>Incontinence products Maurice Shamash - St Crispins Families struggling to get access to size and quantity of nappies / pads for their children. There is a limit of four per day per child – parents can order no more within an allotted time frame. Buying extra is extremely expensive. St Crispins have put in place a swapping scheme and product bank for parents. Desire to lobby the system. Jane noted that feedback from Oaklands is that the problem is most prevalent amongst the female children over 12 years. Maurice commented that the “style and functionality” of the pads and nappies that are provided are not discreet and suitable for mobile children. Alex noted that this</p>	<p>Maurice and Lynne to devise a short Microsoft form to collect views on this matter across all special schools. This will be used to inform next steps which will include an approach to NHS regarding the concerns.</p> <p>Michelle to explore with her team and partners whether this is an issue more widely and feedback to Lynne.</p>

<p>hasn't been raised in this forum before. Sandra noted in her school there is an issue with sizing.</p>	
<p>Holiday Hub Maurice Shamash - St Crispins February and Easter holiday hubs organised and allocated. Process for summer and the remaining academic year should be the same as before. Full council meeting at end of Feb which will determine budget. Michelle provided an update on her understanding of the situation and discussed background. Alex outlined his understanding of the committee agreeing that the HH provision should be scrutinised before allocating budget.. It was noted the budget will not be reduced but it is not enough to fund the current model. Sinead and Jane outlined that a HH working Group will be held in January with ECFJ Convenor. Councillors, Officers and Parents to brainstorm new models for the provision. Alex stressed that the dates for these weekly meetings should be decided as quickly as possible so that there would be time to have a "work up" prepared before the February budget. Jane contributed her thoughts and preference for a model that takes into account 'assessment of need'. Maurice and Sinead agreed with the point regarding needs based assessment. Michelle and Lynne whilst appreciating the concept of a "needs based assessment", stated it would be expensive to carry out, and expensive to sustain. Monies would be taken from the existing budget thereby reducing the amount available for running HH.</p>	<p>Lynne to contact Daniel Balarie to remind him of the earnestness of the meetings that have been offered via the ECFJ be progressed so that diaries can be arranged</p>
<p>Section 23 applications Maurice Shamash St Crispins Maurice provided feedback from parents regarding the threshold for access to section 23 funding including what he has heard in terms of threshold requiring 'physical violence / self-harm'. Eleanor noted Redhall parents have the same concerns. Jane noted that most pupils in Oaklands have Section 23 in place. Michelle was surprised to hear the feedback about thresholds and will pass on a leaflet regarding section 23/self-directed package of support/EDAN Hub to parent councils. Michelle explained the challenges in service delivery across her service at the moment for families who have been assessed as requiring support and current waiting lists e.g. short breaks, outreach. Michelle confirmed that applications for section 23 should continue to be made. Section 23 is a full needs assessment informing what supports are required. Jane asked Michelle about respite and SDS payments. Unfortunately, there was no time to fully answer. Jane requested that this be carried over to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Michelle to arrange for leaflet re. section 23/Edan Hub/SDS to be distributed with the minutes /</p> <p>Lynne and Michelle to discuss how best to facilitate her attendance at this meeting and with parent councils more widely.</p>
<p>Officer items</p>	
<p>Inclusion Review – Lynne Binnie</p>	<p>Inclusion review power point to be shared with notes alongside a note</p>

<p>Lynne provided an update on the inclusion review and the proposed restructure of the central services and answered specific questions regarding impact on the special school sector. Benefits of proposal to special school sector includes increase in staffing in deaf support team and visual support team specifically in relation to support needs required in Braidburn and Oaklands respectively. The proposal for complex healthcare posts would also have benefits across the sector. The proposal to create a dedicated team for care experienced CYP and those at the edge of care would have an impact within Gorgie Mills as it is proposed this team would be located there under the responsibility of the Headteacher.</p> <p>Lynne flagged future work that is relevant to special schools regarding the school estate and will bring this as an agenda item to a future meeting.</p>	<p>of the learning community within which the special schools reside.</p> <p>Learning Communities: Oaklands – Craighoysten Redhall – Firhill Woodlands - Currie Braidburn – Firhill Gorgie Mills – Tynecastle Pilrig Park – Leith Prospect Bank – Leith Kaimes – Gracemount St Crispins – Gracemount</p>
<p>Parent Engagement – Donna Murray Donna outlined her vision for the parent engagement strategy. Donna described how she is planning to take this work forward including visits to school. Delivery Plan 25-28.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date(s)</p> <p>11 March 2025 11 June 2025</p>	<p>Agenda Item for March to include - Respite and SDS payments – Jane Geddes</p>