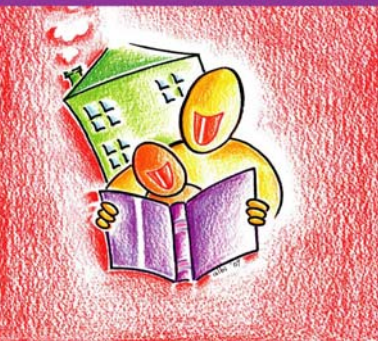


PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT UNIT



NEWSLETTER 2 – NOVEMBER 2007

Welcome to Issue 2 in the series of newsletters for Parent Council Members. Please ensure that a copy of the newsletter is circulated to all your Parent Council members and Clerk.

Thank you to Head Teachers for forwarding material to Parent Councils. Once we have all the forms with Parent Council Chair and Clerk detail returned to the Unit, we will e-mail all future correspondence direct to Parent Councils.

Bank Details – Urgent

Please return the Parent Council Bank Details form contained in the Good Financial Practice Document, Version 2, **as soon as possible**. This will allow Finance to pay funds directly into your account.

Checklist

Since July, the following documents have been issued by The Scottish Government or the Parental Involvement Unit to Parent Councils. Please check that you have copies of these and if not, contact Graham Douglas in the first instance. Graham.Douglas@edinburgh.gov.uk

- Parents as Partners Welcome Pack for Parent Council members
- Parents as Partners in their children's learning Toolkit
- Parental Involvement Unit Newsletter 1 – September 2007
- Form requesting details of Chair and Clerk
- Consultative Committee with Parents Summary Sheet – 25 September 2007
- Consultative Committee with Parents Information and Membership Nomination Form
- A Guide to good financial practice for Parent Councils, Version 2

Constitutions

If you have not already done so, please send a copy of your final, approved Parent Council Constitution to Wendy.Gray@edinburgh.gov.uk

Training

The Parental Involvement Act has provided the opportunity for Authorities to review parental involvement in staff recruitment. Edinburgh is revising the current process and once this is in place, the Recruitment and Selection course will be reviewed and a package of courses will be offered to Parent Councils in the new year.

The Parental Involvement Unit is also reviewing other courses for Parent Council members and looking at new ways of running these. Possibilities include e- mailing courses to members and making courses available on the web. Information will also be relayed at Parent Forum Neighbourhood meetings which will be organised in terms 2 and 3.

Parental Involvement Strategy

Following several requests, especially from Parent Councils, the deadline for views on the draft parental involvement strategy has been extended to Friday 14 December 2007. We hope that this extension will maximise opportunities for the widest possible input to the strategy.

The draft strategy begins with a short Executive Summary which sets out the steps we propose to take in each of our eight priority areas. Some questions are included at the end of the document (pages 39 and 40). The strategy is available online at <http://egfl.net> or from David Maguire (contact details below). Responses can be made electronically or on paper or over the phone. For all feedback, please contact:

David Maguire
Principal Officer – Engagement and Involvement
Strategic Planning
Children and Families Department
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court, Business Centre 1:4
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh EH8 8BG
0131 529 2132
david.maguire@edinburgh.gov.uk

If you have already responded to the strategy, thank you for your contribution. If not, your views are most welcome.

Parental Involvement Unit Webpage

A section on Parental Involvement is on the Council webpage www.egfl.net/parents

Copies of newsletters, distributions and Consultative Committee with Parents minutes and Summary Sheets can be found on this site. The site is being developed and will be the main source of Edinburgh Information for Parents.

Consultative Committee with Parents

To date, 33 nominations have been received, representing a good spread over the city neighbourhoods. A report will be tabled at the next CCWP meeting to explain the remit for representatives, terms of office, cluster liaison, rotas where oversubscribed, support for those with disabilities.

Lists of CCWP representatives will be circulated to all Parent Councils after the meeting on 15 January 2008.

Revenue Budget 2008/09 – Consultation Meeting

All Parent Council Chairs are invited to attend the above meeting on Tuesday 15 January 2008. The meeting will commence at 6.30pm and will be held in Lothian Chambers, George IV Bridge, Parliament Square. The second half of the meeting will be the meeting of the CCWP. Letters of invitation will be issued in December and Agendas and papers will be issued prior to the meeting on 15 January.

Minutes

Please e-mail or post copies of your Parent Council minutes to Wendy Gray, Parental Involvement Unit, Neighbourhood Services, Children and Families, Business Centre 1/1, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG
Wendy.Gray@edinburgh.gov.uk

Feedback

Any suggestions/ comments for future copies of this newsletter should be sent to Graham.douglas@edinburgh.gov.uk