



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT UNIT

Newsletter 3 – April 2008

Welcome to issue 3 of the newsletter. I hope that you have found these newsletters helpful and informative. If you wish any item which may be of interest to all Parent Councils included in future newsletters or wish to comment on communications received from the Parental Involvement Unit, please e- mail these to Wendy.Gray@edinburgh.gov.uk.

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIPS

Two information sessions have been organised at St Thomas of Aquins High School, Chalmers Street, as follows:

Wednesday 7 May 2008 6.30pm – 8.30pm (refreshments from 6.00pm)

Saturday 10 May 2008 10.00am – 12.00pm (refreshments from 9.30am)

There will be ‘keynote’ speakers on topics such as ‘Making the Parental Involvement Strategy Work’ ‘Parental Contact (including Non Resident Parents) Policy’ ‘Partnerships for Learning’ and the launch of the Parental Involvement Unit Information Pack.

There will also be input from a Parent Council Chair who will talk about his/her experiences and an opportunity for those attending to ask questions. Full details have been e- mailed to Parent Council Chairs.

TRAINING

Recruitment and Selection

Details of courses for Parent Council members have now been issued to all Parent Council Chairs. If you have not seen a copy of the flier which was issued, it can be viewed at www.egfl.net/parents (Parental Involvement Section)

Effective Chairmanship

This course is now available online on the Parental Involvement section of www.egfl.net/parents

Effective Clerking

This course will be issued to Clerks this month and will also be available online.

DISCLOSURE

Subject to Parliamentary approval and, taking account of views expressed during three half- day engagement events (April 2008), Scottish Ministers propose to amend the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003.

In brief, the law captures in a child care position, Parent Councils and other parental representative groups who work in an educational establishment.

Further information will follow as soon as more information becomes available.

FUNDING PACKAGE 2008/09

Correspondence will be issued shortly to Parent Councils advising the financial package for 2008/09. This package will again include insurance cover for Parent Councils for the period 1 August 2008 – 31 July 2009.

Please remember to open a bank account specifically for your Parent Council (See Finance Guide) and forward the details on the form contained in the Guide, as a matter of urgency, to Wendy Gray. Funds will not be allocated to Parent Councils until such time as bank details are received.

An updated Financial Guide (Version 3) and funding allocation will be issued to Parent Councils this month. Please ensure the updated version of the guide is followed as this includes some important changes e.g. process for approval of clerk payments.

NATIONAL BODY

Currently, a single national parent body in Scotland has still not been established. Parent Councils should note that any correspondence from any organisation regarding membership should be considered carefully before signing up and paying invoices.

It would be helpful if your Parent Council could discuss the formation of a National Body. Areas you may wish to discuss could include role/ membership and election of members/ size/ financing and maintaining independence.

Please submit your views to Wendy.Gray@edinburgh.gov.uk. These, together with feedback from discussion of this area at the forthcoming Parent Information Sessions, will be collated and passed to the Scottish Government.

E- MAIL ADDRESS

The establishment of an e- mail address at schools for each Parent Council is not currently an option for the Parental Involvement Unit to administer. The Unit will continue to e- mail correspondence and information direct to Parent Council Clerk and Chair addresses where we have these.

Parent Councils may wish to consider setting up an external account e.g. school nameparentcouncil@gmail

LATEST NEWS

Please remember that Children and Families Latest News is available on <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/childrenandfamiliesnews>.