

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Education, Culture and Sport**
DATE: **18 November, 2010**
DIRECTOR: **Annette Bruton**
TITLE OF REPORT: **Parent Involvement in Education**
REPORT NUMBER: **ECS/10/095**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This Report serves to update Committee following Councillor Cormack's Motion and previous reports (the last one being in May, 2010). In particular, the Report informs Committee that the arrangements to establish an Aberdeen City Parent Forum have now been implemented.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Committee endorses the work undertaken by parent council representatives and officers to establish the new Forum, and notes progress since its establishment.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs for holding meetings of the new Forum will be met from current resources.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The previous report to Committee in May set out the dialogue and work with parents, via the termly meetings for all Parent Councils, to establish the best way to set up a new Aberdeen City wide Parent Forum. The Forum complements the termly meetings structure for all Parent Councils and helps to enhance effective representation. It also enhances effective communication between parents and the Authority.

The new Forum consists of up to twenty-four representatives, two drawn from each Associated Schools Group (ASG).

To date the Forum has met on four occasions and is quickly beginning to establish itself. A Chair and other appropriate office bearers have been selected and Terms of Reference are being finalised. Officers, including the Director of Education, Culture & Sport, have attended all meetings to date to assist and support the Forum as it establishes itself. A verbal update of progress was provided by the Chair of the Forum to the last termly meeting of all Parent Councils in September.

Forum members are very conscious of their representative role and meetings over the coming months will continue to establish that role and to communicate effectively with all Parent Councils.

The Committee Report of last November, 2009 instructed officers to bring back a further Report on the issues and changes necessary to allow parent representation on the Education, Culture & Sports Committee. The new Forum has taken the view (and officers agree) that it needs to establish itself more fully with parents before taking on additional roles. Officers will therefore continue to liaise with the Forum over this specific matter and report back to Committee at the appropriate time in the future.

6. IMPACT

Corporate - Developing and implementing ways of further enhancing parent involvement helps to support community engagement with local communities and to develop a strong partnership with parents. The new Forum is a substantial development for enhancing “voice” of a key stakeholder group within Aberdeen.

Public - This Report is of interest to the general public but particularly citizens who have children of school age.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Education, Culture & Sport Committee Report May, 2009
- (ii) Education, Culture & Sport Committee Report November, 2009
- (iii) Policy & Strategy (Education) Committee Report June 2009
(The Background Report)
- (iv) Policy & Strategy (Education) Committee Report September 2008
(The Parental Involvement Strategy)

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Sohail Faruqi
Service Manager (5-14 Education & Additional Support Needs)
sfaruqi@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 522695