

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	16 June 2014
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Parent Involvement Strategy
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/14/038

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is seek approval for the updated Schools Parental Involvement Strategy in line with the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006. The first Parental Involvement Strategy was approved by the Education Culture and Sport in 2008 and updated in 2010. The legislation requires each authority to update its strategy from time to time and Aberdeen City Council agreed this should be every three years, in order to ensure we have a policy for engaging parents in their childrens learning and to provide a supportive and consistent framework in which Parent Councils can perform their duties.

The strategy ensures that parents are offered the opportunity to engage meaningfully in the education of their children (3 -18 year olds), at home or in school, and to contribute to the life and role of the school within the local and wider community.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (i) To approve the Parental Involvement Strategy 2014-17
- (ii) To note the examples of good practice in city schools to engage parents; and
- (iii) To request that schools continue to support parents to engage them in children learning and that officers support parent councils to have a meaningful role in the life of the school and through the parent representation on the Education, Culture and Sport Committee the strategic planning of education services.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The local authority has a duty to provide financial support to parent council to support them to undertake their duties. A small per capita grant is allocated to all parent councils in the city. The total grant is £38,000 and is within existing resources

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications as a result of this strategy

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 200 sets out the local authority's statutory duty to ensure parents are involved in their children's learning and the life of the school. It aims to help schools, education authorities and others to engage parents meaningfully in the education of their children and in the wider school community. It requires education authorities to promote the involvement of parents in children's education in schools. It aims to help all parents to be:

- involved with their child's education and learning;
- welcomed as active participants in the life of the school, and
- encouraged to express their views on school education generally and work in partnership with the school.

5.1.2 In addition the School Handbook Legislation - The Education (School and Placing Information) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 sets out the local authority duties to provide information to parents and to involve them in the deciding the most effective way of doing that. Schools are required to publish a new school handbook annually by the 8 December each year. Schools are provided with guidance on what should be included in the handbook and how to effectively involve parents in the handbooks development.

5.1.3 The purpose of the Parent Involvement Strategy 2014 is to set out the Education culture and Sport Services commitment to involve and engage parents in children learning and the life of the school, it sets out the standard of engagement expected by all schools and it provides the details of the support that will be offered by the authority to support schools to set up and sustain parent council's and parent teacher associations in all local authority schools to support them to make a difference in children and young people education in the city.

5.1.4 The strategy identifies the three areas identified in the Act where we are required to provide support and guidance and develop effective parental partnership in our education services to improve the achievement and attainment in our schools. These are Learning at Home; Home/school Partnership and Parental Presentation. The strategy provides examples of good practice and provides guidance to schools on how to involve the diversity of parents in the city in the lives of our schools. Finally the strategy sets out an action plan to enable us to monitor and measure improvement.

6. IMPACT

The EHRIA assessment has been carried out.

It links to the Smarter City objectives to:

- ensure all citizens are encouraged and supported appropriately to make a full contribution;
- provide a high quality education service within our schools and communities which will improve attainment and life chances of our children and young people to achieve their full potential in education, employment and training
- create a city of learning which will empower individuals to fulfill their potential and contribute to the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of our communities

It contributes to the delivery of the Five Year Business Plan 2013/14 to 2017/18. Smarter people – ‘Focusing on education including lifelong learning and nurturing a city of learning with a city wide workforce which can grow.’

For Aberdeen’s Children, The Integrated Children’s Services Plan – 2011–15 reinforces the commitments to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families and closing the gap between children in need and their peers. This plan recognises the crucial role played by parents, carers, families and volunteers in improving outcomes for children and young people; that all children and young people need to have a sense of belonging and to be enabled to make a positive contribution to their communities.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There are no risks associated with the approval of this strategy

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Aberdeen – the Smarter City
Aberdeen City Council Five Year Business Plan
For Aberdeen’s Children – Integrated Children’s Services Plan 2011-15

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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