

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services
DATE	26th January 2018
REPORT TITLE	Parental Involvement Strategy
REPORT NUMBER	ECS/18/001
DIRECTOR	Bernadette Oxley and Helen Shanks (Acting)
REPORT AUTHOR	Maxine Jolly and Donna Cuthill

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

The report provides Elected Members with a copy of the new Parental Involvement Strategy for approval

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the content of the Strategy
- b) Endorse the actions for improving parental engagement contained in the Strategy;
- c) Instruct the Director of Education to develop an action plan to deliver the outcomes of the Strategy, and to report annually, by way of a service update, on progress with this plan.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES / OTHER HEADINGS AS APPROPRIATE

- 3.1 There is a requirement under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 to prepare and publish details relating to parental engagement. The current strategy (2014-2017) needs to be updated and reported on annually to reflect current guidance and legislation. The Strategy also should be a 'live' document that can be amended to reflect areas of good practice and any new policies
- 3.2 The Parental Engagement Strategy, whether it is a stand-alone strategy or integrated into a broader improvement strategy, should be easily located on the local authority's website or through normal communication channels, including a link from school websites. The parental involvement strategy, or the relevant aspects of the broader improvement plan, should contain

measurable outcomes on parental involvement and engagement, and progress should be monitored

Steps already taken in Aberdeen City

- 3.3 The Local Authority Business Plan and The Directorate Service Plan are aligned with the priorities contained in the NIF. All of these documents make reference to the importance of parental engagement
- 3.4 A Parental Engagement Strategy has been prepared (Appendix A). Consultation has already taken place with schools staff, Family Learning Staff; Children and Young People; Parent Groups including Autism and Other Conditions Support Group, Kinship carers, Family Learning groups, Parent Councils and Children's Social Work.
- 3.5 The current School Improvement Planning process has been revised to ensure alignment with the statutory guidance. Reporting on Parental Engagement is required in School Standards and Quality Reports
- 3.6 An action plan will be developed to support the delivery of the Strategy. This will be reported on annually by means of a service update.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from the report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Education (Scotland) Act (2016) requires local authorities each year to prepare and publish details of activities undertaken regarding their parental involvement strategy. They should comply in full with this requirement while also ensuring that parental engagement is included in the broader National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan reports. These reports should be jargon-free and written in plain English.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 Financial** – The Parental Engagement Strategy and plan are unlikely to carry any financial risks.
- 6.2 Employee** – Having effective guidance on Parental Engagement will help staff to be supported in their interactions with parents and families.
- 6.3 Customer / citizen** – School leaders will be more effective in supporting parents and families to help their child with learning.
- 6.4 Environmental** – The interventions planned to improve parental engagement are unlikely to impact on the environment.
- 6.5 Technological** – The interventions planned to support parental engagement are unlikely to present any technological risks.

6.6 Legal – Statutory duties and relevant legislation are reference in the strategy. The draft strategy will ensure that we address all of the new duties and mitigate this risk. The risk is low.

6.7 Reputational – Not effectively supporting parents and families with their child’s learning could present a reputational risk to the Council, including higher numbers of parental complaints. Effectively implementing the Strategy and close monitoring of impact will enable the Council to positively report on progress made in engaging with parents. The risk is low.

7. IMPACT SECTION

7.1 Economy

Implementing improvement in parental engagement will help parents to support their child’s learning and raise aspirations. These changes will positively impact on our economy and support the theme of Aberdeen Prospers.

7.2 People

Successful implementation of the Strategy will lead to improved outcomes for children, young people and their families. There will be a positive impact on children, young people and families including those with protected characteristics and support our work in ensuring that people are resilient, including and supported when needed.

7.3 Place

The Strategy takes account of local need and will have a positive impact on individual communities across Aberdeen City.

7.4 Technology

Schools will be encouraged to use a range of communication methods with parents, including social media, blogs and school websites. The Strategy should be accessible from school websites and The Aberdeen City Council website

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NA

9. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Parental Engagement Strategy

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