

# **Cross-Party Group on Families Supporting Children's Learning**

**Wednesday 30 November 2022 6pm-7.30pm**

Minute

Present

MSPs

Oliver Mundell MSP (Co-convenor)  
Fulton MacGregor MSP (Co-convenor)

Jane Hutchison (on behalf of Stephen Kerr MSP)

Invited guests

Eileen Prior

Non-MSP Group Members

Annie Watson (Enquire)  
Cathy Sexton (Fathers Network Scotland)  
Cheryl Burnett (National Parent Forum of Scotland)  
Christine McLennan (Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network)  
Denny Henderson (Connect)  
John Forsyth (Shared Parenting Scotland)  
Kathleen McTaggart (Glasgow City Parents Group)  
Magaidh Wentworth (Comann nam Pàrant)  
Patrick McGlinchey (Connect)  
Sara McFarlane (Connect)

Apologies

Michael Marra MSP (Co-convenor)  
Alison Preuss (Scottish Home Education Forum)  
Stacey-Anne Lindsay (Scottish Government)  
Colin Morrison (Children's Parliament)

Agenda item 1

Oliver Mundell MSP took the chair and welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the new Cross Party Group on Families Supporting Children's Learning.

## Agenda item 2

### **Roundtable discussion: Scottish education reform and the involvement of parents and families**

The group heard from the following speakers:

Patrick McGlinchey – Connect (CPG secretariat)

Patrick gave an introduction to the CPG and the purpose of the group. Group members are welcome to suggest topics/presentations.

On education reform – highlighted findings from Connect's survey on current parental involvement/engagement which will feed into its response to the National Discussion on education, and comments from young people on parents being involved in their learning.

Eileen Prior – Hayward Review Parent & Carers Stakeholders Group

Eileen gave an introduction to the Hayward Review, the independent review of qualifications and assessment headed by Professor Louise Hayward. The method of the review is to bring together everyone with an interest in qualifications and assessment to create a web of organisations. Eileen is working with NPFS to network with parents/carers.

Methods of engagement include a Facebook group, newsletter, dedicated focus groups, Q and A with Professor Hayward, Padlet.

Next step – Prof Hayward to develop recommendations for March.

The group discussed challenges – busy policy landscape with the National Discussion and other consultations, parents suffering consultation fatigue, tight timescales involved, not able to reach all parents, information packs not reaching all schools/Parent Councils.

There was discussion on the Angela Morgan additional support for learning review recommendations still outstanding and how the importance of recognising achievements of all young people feeds into the Hayward review. Action: Oliver suggested this could be standing item on CPG agenda, and to submit Parliamentary questions on the Morgan Review and how it feeds into the Hayward Review/other reforms.

Magaidh Wentworth - Comann nam Pàrant

Magaidh discussed the work of Comann nam Pàrant. Focus has been on the Languages Bill consultation, but there is a lot of crossover between these different consultations. Discussed issues affecting Gaelic Medium Education – Primary from a lack of teachers but otherwise is able to provide a full GME experience. Secondary – with only one dedicated GME secondary school, other schools only provide some GME with qualifications very limited.

Other discussion points included – frustration of parental engagement being seen as a tick box rather than meaningful, and the need for cultural change. Importance of teacher education. How reform to bodies is being led by the bodies themselves, with a lack of learner/parent input.

**Date of next meeting**

Spring 2023, date to be circulated.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm