

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILEDUCATION COMMITTEE10 May 2018Report by Director of EducationPARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY 2018 - 2021**PURPOSE**

1. To seek elected member approval of the Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy, 2018 - 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Education Committee is asked to :
- approve the Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy, 2018 – 2021, (Appendix 1);
 - instruct the Director of Education to support all educational establishments to implement this strategy.

BACKGROUND

3. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006, aimed to ensure that parents are; 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.

4. The Act requires local authorities to prepare a strategy document setting out their policies for parental involvement which covered their duties to:

- involve parents in their own child's education, and that provided by a school to its pupils generally
- give advice and information to parents in respect of their own child
- promote the establishment of Parent Councils in schools and support their operation
- establish a complaints procedure for their duties under the Act.

5. The National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education (2017) details the key drivers identified by the Scottish Government to secure educational improvement. Parental engagement is identified as a main driver and is described as a way for parents, carers, families and schools to work together to support children's learning.

REPORT

6. The attached strategy has been written by officers from the Education Department, led by the Head of Education Service (Equality and Equity).

The strategy links clearly to East Renfrewshire's current Community Plan with the Scottish Government and will particularly contribute to Strategic Outcome 2:

- East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.
7. It also aligns to the Fairer East Ren plan, and outcome 2.1.
- Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work.
8. The East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) Parental Engagement strategy aims to:
- strengthen parental involvement and representation in the life and work of schools and early years settings;
 - ensure that parents are provided with the information and support that they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning;
 - reduce barriers which limit the involvement and engagement of specific groups of parents;
 - improve professionals' understanding and skills in parental involvement, parental engagement and family learning;
 - improve children's attainment and achievement.
9. The strategy will build on existing good practice in East Renfrewshire and ensure that parental engagement and involvement will have a central and continuing focus in education. The strategy is supported by a set of principles which provide strategic direction to all staff involved.
10. Critical Indicators and outcomes are set out and will measure the impact of the activities which we will undertake to deliver the strategy.
11. The Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis within the Education Department, with progress reported to the Education Committee on an annual basis through the department's and schools' Standards and Quality Reports.

CONSULTATION

12. This strategy is the result of consultation with parents, head teachers and other related agencies.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no financial or efficiency implications as proposals will be funded from existing budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. Education Committee is asked to :

- approve the Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy, 2018 – 2021, (Appendix 1);
- instruct the Director of Education to support all educational establishments to implement this strategy.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
May 2018

Convener Contact Details

Councillor Paul O’Kane, Convener for Education and Equalities Tel: 07718 697115

Local Government Access to Information Act 1985

Report Author

Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity)
Tel: 0141 577 3204
Janice.Collins@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Background papers

1. National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan
2. Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006
3. Common Core of Skills, Knowledge & Understanding and Values for the “Children’s Workforce” in Scotland, Scottish Government, 2012.

BLANK PAGE

EAST RENFREWSHIRE

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

2018 - 2021

BLANK PAGE

INTRODUCTION

1. This strategy outlines East Renfrewshire Council's commitment to an intensified, more targeted focus on engaging and involving parents in their children's learning and the life of their children's school.
2. Education Scotland provide the following definitions of Parental Involvement and Parental Engagement:

'The term parental involvement relates to the involvement of parents and carers in the life and work of the early learning and childcare setting or school. This can include parent representation on Parent Councils or associations, involvement in establishment self-evaluation and improvement work, and volunteering with fundraising activities or by sharing skills and knowledge to enrich the curriculum.'

'The term parental engagement most commonly refers to parental (and family) engagement in their children's learning. This engagement can be at an early learning and childcare setting or school, in the home or the wider community.'

3. Parental engagement is recognised in the National Improvement Framework as one of seven key drivers in achieving excellence and equity in Scottish education. The engagement of parents and families can help raise attainment for all and help to ensure every child has an equal chance of success. The National Improvement Framework parental engagement driver includes actions to support improvement in parental engagement, parental involvement and family learning.
4. The overarching aim of the strategy is, therefore, to achieve excellence and equity for all learners and their families in East Renfrewshire.
5. The strategy will build on existing skills, values and knowledge of our staff in East Renfrewshire and ensure that parental engagement and involvement will have a central and continuing focus in education. It makes particular reference to the Scottish Government's Common Core of Skills, Knowledge & Understanding and Values for the "Children's Workforce" in Scotland, providing strategic direction to all staff involved.

"Children, young people and families are experts when it comes to their own lives and as workers we need to tap into their knowledge and views by building meaningful relationships with them"

CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY PLAN

6. The strategy links clearly to East Renfrewshire's current Community Plan with the Scottish Government and will particularly contribute to Strategic Outcome 2:
 - East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.
7. It also aligns to the Fairer East Ren plan, and outcome 2.1.

- Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work.

CONTEXT

8. Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 aims to help parents to be:

- involved with their children's education and learning
- welcomed as an active participant
- encouraged to express their views on education.

It places duties on schools, local authorities and Scottish Ministers to help all parents to be involved in their own child's learning, to be welcomed as active participants in schools, and to be able to express their views on school education generally.

9. The National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan (2018) builds upon parents' involvement in the life of their children's schools and encourages parental engagement where parents are truly involved in their children's learning.

9. Education Scotland's 'Review of Family Learning Supporting Excellence and Equity' (Dec 2016) highlights that family learning programmes support parents to increase their individual skills, knowledge and confidence. This in turn helps parents support their child's development as well as their own personal opportunities for learning, training and employment. It also states that embedding family learning across education, health and socio-economic policies is crucial to closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

8. The Council's vision is for East Renfrewshire to be a modern ambitious council, which works to create a fairer future for all. It is committed to improving the lives of local people, promoting equality and fairness and enhancing the area in which we live, now and for the future. The five capabilities of **prevention; community engagement; data, evidence and benchmarking; modernising how we work; and, digital** will be embedded throughout the work of the strategy.

9. The Education Department's vision is one of *Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences*. We believe that this vision can and will be realised when children and young people are active, involved and motivated and supported in their learning by parents who work in partnership with us to help their children achieve.

AIMS

10. The East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy aims to:

- strengthen parental involvement and representation in the life and work of schools and early years settings;
- ensure that parents are provided with the information and support that they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning;
- reduce barriers which limit the involvement and engagement of specific groups of parents;
- improve professionals' understanding and skills in parental involvement, parental engagement and family learning;

- improve children's attainment and achievement.

11. East Renfrewshire's Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy 2018 – 2021 links the wider context of a range of local and education priorities and plans that affect children and families. These are detailed in the following:

- Parenting Strategy
- Early Years Strategy
- Early Learning and Childcare Strategy
- Literacy and English Strategy
- Numeracy and Mathematics Strategy

BLANK PAGE

WHAT WE WANT TO DO AND HOW WE WILL DO IT

Population Outcome
The outcome we want is....

CPSO 2. East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.

Intermediate Outcome
We will know we are making good steps along the way WHEN....

2.1 Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work. *(Fairer East Ren)*

2.3 Children and young people raise their educational attainment and achievement and develop the skills they need.

Critical Indicators

1. % of parents responding positively regarding levels of engagement in their children's learning (Education Department's parental questionnaire Q12).

2. Evaluations of professional learning opportunities provided to staff.

3. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.

Our contribution
So we need to ...

Ensure that parents are provided with the information and support that they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning

Improve professionals understanding and skills in parental involvement, parental engagement and family learning.

Improve children's attainment and achievement

Critical Activities
By.....

- Engaging and involving parents in their child's education.
- Giving advice, information and support to parents in respect of their own child's learning.
- Supporting establishments to develop and devise guidance and approaches to family learning.
- Providing professional learning for staff on:
 - Family Learning
 - Parental Engagement and Involvement
 - Connecting with Parents
 - Common Core of Skills, Knowledge & Understanding and Values for the "Children's Workforce" in Scotland
 - Self-evaluation using Education Scotland's Engaging Parents and Families Toolkit.
- Developing partnerships with CLD and Adult Learning Service to ensure all parents are equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to engage in their child's learning.
- Rigorously monitoring the questionnaire and performance data to inform of school trends and issues.
- Providing professional learning on Parental Engagement and Involvement as part of East Renfrewshire's NQT programme.
- Providing support and professional learning to school staff on working with Parent Councils.
- Ensuring all establishments have a nominated Parental Engagement / Involvement Coordinator.
- Working with all establishments to devise good practice guidelines on communicating and sharing information with parents (including social media).
- Refreshing East Renfrewshire's 'Reporting to Parents Guidance'.
- Implementing the Literacy and English and Numeracy and Mathematics Strategies.

Population Outcome

The outcome we want is....

CPSO 2. East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.

Intermediate Outcome

We will know we are making good steps along the way WHEN....

2.1 Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work. *(Fairer East Ren)*

2.3 Children and young people raise their educational attainment and achievement and develop the skills they need.

Critical Indicators

1. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Settings with a Parent Group.

2. % of educational establishments achieving Family Friendly Accreditation at bronze or above.

3. % of parents responding positively in the department's parental questionnaire regarding:

- I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem (Q14)
- I am kept informed about the work of Parent Council and/or parent association (Q15)
- I feel encouraged to be involved in the work of Parent Council

Our contribution

So we need to ...

Strengthen parental involvement and representation in the life and work of schools and early years settings.

Reduce barriers which limit the involvement and engagement of specific groups of parents.

Critical Activities

By.....

- Extending and implementing Family Friendly Approaches accreditation to all educational sectors.
- Promoting parental engagement with all stakeholders.
- Promoting and supporting Parent Councils in every school.
- Encouraging and supporting Parent Groups in Early Years establishments.
- Providing Recruitment and Selection Training for Parent Councils.
- Supporting partnership with Connect (formerly SPTC) by providing group membership and free training opportunities.
- Engaging with the National Parent Forum Scotland.
- Sharing department information and consulting on policy with Parent Council Chairs and other representatives from Parent Forums e.g. Equalities Forum.
- Establishing diversity champions in each cluster to encourage and reduce barriers to parental engagement for specific groups of parents.
- Reviewing the allocation of bilingual support workers to ensure additionality is deployed to support families in meeting the needs of bilingual learners.
- Extending opportunities for parents and wider family members to volunteer with their children's school / early learning centre, including intergenerational mentoring.
- Showcasing good practice across sectors and establishments.
- Supporting and challenging establishments to ensure parental participation in school planning and decision making.
- Raising awareness among all stakeholders of the Council's Complaints policy.
- Complying with Council's Complaints policy.
- Providing training to staff on policy and handling of complaints.
- Maintaining, monitoring and analysing complaint data to improve service.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Consultation

12. In formulating this Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy, East Renfrewshire Council Education Department has demonstrated its commitment to taking into account the views of parents, staff and other related agencies.

Equalities

13. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of this strategy process.

Finance and efficiency

14. There are no financial or efficiency implications as proposals will be funded from existing budget.

Partnership working

15. The strategy invites families to work in partnership with schools to help all children achieve the highest of standards whilst reducing inequity and closing the attainment gap.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

16. The Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis within the Education Department with progress reported to the Education Committee on an annual basis through the department's and schools' Standards and Quality Reports. Appendix 2 illustrates the performance targets set for 2018 – 2021.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
March 2018

Report Author:
Janice Collins, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity)
0141 577 3204
Janice.Collins@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Links to all relevant supporting documents detailed in this strategy are detailed below:

- Parenting Strategy
- Early Years Strategy
- Early Learning and Childcare Strategy
- Literacy and English Strategy
- Numeracy and Mathematics Strategy

BLANK PAGE

Indicator	2017 - 2018 Value	2018 – 19 Target	2019 – 20 Target	2020 – 21 Target
1. % of parents responding positively regarding levels of engagement in their children’s learning (Education Department’s parental questionnaire Q12).	tbc			
2. Evaluations of professional learning opportunities provided to staff.	Baseline Established			
3. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.	Baseline Established			
4. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Settings with a Parent Group.	Baseline Established			
5. % of educational establishments achieving and sustaining Family Friendly Accreditation at bronze or above (including all 3 sectors).	100%			
6. % of parents responding positively in the department’s parental questionnaire regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem (Q14) • I am kept informed about the work of Parent Council and/or parent association (Q15) • I feel encouraged to be involved in the work of Parent Council and/or parent association (Q16) 	tbc			

BLANK PAGE