

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Education Officer

Committee Name: June 5th 2019

Subject: Revised WDC Parental and Family Engagement Strategy.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from members for a revised West Dunbartonshire Council Parental and Family engagement Strategy 3-18.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to:
- Approve the revised strategy;(Appendix 1)
 - Note the associated action plan (Appendix 2)

3. Background

- 3.1 The National Improvement Framework action plan 2019 details the **Parental Engagement – Improvement Priorities for 2019**. Improvement priorities will be taken forward across 13 key goals as identified in the joint Scottish Government / COSLA "[Learning Together](#)" [National Action plan](#). This includes steps to strengthen guidance, develop training and support materials to improve the links between home and school.
- 3.2 The plan sets out a vision for parental involvement and engagement from pre birth to age 18. Local authorities have been given responsibility for delivering the action plan in their local communities.
- 3.3 Within this action plan there is a Local Authority Joint Statement for local authority collaboration which has been agreed by the COSLA and by the Association of Directors of Education. Goal L in this states : *'We will develop comprehensive, effective parental involvement and engagement strategies'*
- 3.4 There is a requirement to review parental and family engagement strategies every three years.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1 Collaborative engagement with the WDC parent forum chaired by the Chief Education Officer, and the practitioner strategy group will plan for the implementation of the strategy, shifting the emphasis from "involving" to "collaborating with" parents and families.

- 4.2 There is a new phase of development set out in the strategy to include funded early learning and childcare settings. This will be supported to extend the effective practice that already exists in the sector and to influence establishment improvement priorities.
- 4.3 There is an existing strategic commitment to engaging parents through collaboration to support improvement activity. Parents who wish to undertake a more collaborative role in areas such as school improvement activity and policy development will be supported to do so thus shaping and influencing plans and strategies.
- 4.4 Parent Councils will be supported to act as a partner in school improvement. A variety of opportunities will be provided, recognising that formal meetings are not going to work for everyone. This will be supported through working in partnership with Connect, the to provide high quality professional learning in this area for parents and practitioners.
- 4.5 There will be two versions of the strategy made available, one for establishments and one for parents and families.

5. People Implications

- 5.1 All staff will engage with professional learning to raise their awareness of the strategy and their responsibilities therein.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1 National policy states that there is a requirement to provide funds to support parental representation in establishments. The current session download to establishments to support parental representation is £15,867 and this includes an allocation to all Early Learning and Childcare Centre's including our Partner Providers. Going forward this will be contained within the Educational Services budget.
- 6.2 The new requirement set out in the Scottish Government action plan includes making funds available for Early Learning and Childcare facilities to enable all parents and carer's to be involved.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1 There would be a risk of reputational damage associated if the Council failed to produce a strategy under the terms of the Scottish Government action plan 'Learning Together 3-18'.
- 7.2 There would be no shared and agreed expectations across establishments which would lead to inconsistency for parents and families.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out on the processes of administering the assessments. The revised strategy will enhance the quality of the service provided to all parents and families and therefore can be seen to have a positive impact in terms of the equalities.

9. Consultation

9.1 There has been consultation with WDC Parent forum, strategy group and a range of practitioners across sectors.

9.2 Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 This report reflects the Council's strategic priorities and in particular the aspiration to have meaningful community engagement with active empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged.

Name

Designation

Date:

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Revised WDC parental and family engagement strategy 3-18.

Appendix 2 – Parental and family engagement action plan session 19-20.

Background Papers: Learning together: national action plan on parental involvement, engagement, family learning and learning at home 2018 – 2021. "Learning Together" National Action plan.

Parental Involvement Act:
[https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/getting-involved/Scottish%20Schools%20\(Parental%20Involvement\)%20Act](https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/getting-involved/Scottish%20Schools%20(Parental%20Involvement)%20Act)

Equalities Impact Assessment

Wards Affected: All

