
APPROVAL OF FINAL DRAFT OF PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS FRAMEWORK

Report by Service Director, Young People Engagement & Inclusion

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6 OCTOBER 2020

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report proposes that the attached Partnership with Parents Framework reflects and aligns with the national guidance and legislation outlined in Learning Together: national action plan on parental involvement, engagement, family learning and learning at home, to provide a clear strategic direction on collaborative practice with parents for all schools and in Scottish Border Council.**
- 1.2 The Partnership with Parents Framework (Appendix 1) sits within the "Achieving Excellence in Learning play #yourpart", alongside the Inclusion Strategy and the Inclusion Policy presented to Executive Committee in January 2020.
- 1.3 National Legislation and Guidance sets out a vision for parental involvement and engagement from pre-birth to age 18. It takes account of a national and international evidence base and Scottish education system expertise. Aiming to provide a national vision, but allowing for local and community innovation and flexibility, it sets out clear expectations for all Scottish schools.
- 1.4 The guiding vision is that every parent and family should be supported to be involved and engaged in their child's education throughout their learning journey. This national approach has been informed by The National Parent Forum's Review of Scotland's 2006 Parental Involvement Act (published May 2017).
- 1.5 There is an evolving set of national expectations and resources to further define and support this work with parents published by Scottish Government and Education Scotland to provide further guidance to Local Authorities and outline Scotland's vision and underlying principles regarding collaboration with parents:
 - 1) Review of Family Learning (Education Scotland) July 2019
 - 2) Engaging Parents and Families Toolkit (Education Scotland) October 2019
 - 3) Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006: updated statutory guidance consultation January 2020 to April 2020

- 1.6 Scottish Borders Council has a clear vision and commitment to raise attainment and achievement for all our children and young people. The full participation of parents in learning and school improvement is an essential element in achieving this. The Partnership with Parents Framework has been designed to provide schools within Scottish Borders Council with a clear framework to support them in developing a collaborative improvement culture with parents.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee agrees to approve the final drafts of the Partnership with Parents Framework (Appendix 1) and confirm this can be circulated to all learning establishments in Scottish Borders.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Two Scottish Government documents are central to the development of the Framework:

1. **Learning together: national action plan on parental involvement, engagement, family learning and learning at home (Learning Together)** in August 2018. This guidance was developed in partnership with the National Parent Forum of Scotland, the members of the national Parental Engagement Steering Group, the Scottish Parental Involvement Officer Network (SPION), the Association of Directors of Education, Headteachers, parents and third sector employees. The national plan is defined by three key principles:

1. That our priorities and our approach should be guided by the needs and interests of the child and their family.
2. That parents are the primary educators of children.
3. That it is only through positive relationships – relationships between families, and those working with children and young people, relationships based on trust, mutual respect and partnership - that we will achieve our aims.

It's aims are to: ensure that parents are supported to be fully involved in the life and work of their children's early learning and childcare setting or school; encourage and support collaborative partnerships between practitioners, parents and families; get the right support in place so that parents can engage in their child's learning; expand access to family learning opportunities which meet participants needs; improve the quality of all communication between practitioners, staff, parents and families, and improve the skills of leaders, front-line practitioners and support staff.

2. **Review of Scotland's 2006 Parental Involvement Act** in May 2017, recognised that a great deal had been achieved, but there is more to be done. It formed recommendations to Scottish Government, national agencies, local authorities and schools. Key messages include: a desire to improve and update key aspects of the Act and accompanying guidance; a need to extend the legislation to cover the early years; a requirement for further partnership working between parents and practitioners; a need to protect and promote the role of the parent council whilst addressing equality and; and a desire to further implement the learning at home strand of the Act.

These documents have informed the Partnership with Parents Framework and resulting in clear alignment with national guidance and policy.

- 3.2 (a) The Partnership with Parents Framework sits within a suite of frameworks:
- i. Quality Improvement
 - ii. Learning Teaching and Assessment
 - iii. Inclusion
 - iv. Partnerships with Parents
- (b) Each of these frameworks form part of the Council's strategy to raise attainment for all. They are all informed by research and strategies known to be successful in pursuit of the overarching aim of raising attainment.
- (c) The Partnership with Parents Framework, and its associated appendices, detail the actions required by all concerned to ensure the ongoing development of collaborative practices with parents in all learning establishments within Scottish Borders Council. It has drawn on the evidence from our Parental Involvement and Engagement Census to baseline our regional picture on parental collaboration and clearly defines strengths and areas for improvement.
- (d) In doing this, the framework provides clarity for all and supports Scottish Borders Council's schools in implementing the national legislation and expectations which currently sit within several Scottish Government and Education Scotland documents. The framework also allows for flexibility within schools to identify their local improvement priorities, as long as it is evidence based and in collaboration with parents.

4 CONSULTATION PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 At a national level, the expectations of practice, along with guiding principles and aims, were co-produced with parents. The regional tailoring of Scottish Borders priorities has been heavily informed by the results of our Parental Involvement and Engagement Census, which had just under 2000 respondents and covered all areas required by the national guidance contained in Learning Together. Further consultations have also taken place through discussions with the Strategic Headteacher Group and all Headteachers have had the opportunity to engage with the draft framework and provide feedback at the Headteacher Engagement day in February 2020.
- 4.2 Work will continue with parental groups in further developing engagement practice. This will be informed by recent practice on digital engagement with parents as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 4.3 A Strategic Overview Group has been established to oversee the delivery and evaluation of the framework. The Group consists of a Headteacher representative from each high school cluster, an Early Years Team

representative, Quality Improvement Officers and a member of the Additional Support Needs Team.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The attached Framework (Appendix 1) has been developed based on the information gathered during consultation and national expectations.
- 5.2 The Partnership with Parents Framework clearly defines the expectations on each school regarding collaborative practice with parents. It supports the work needing to be undertaken by schools by providing an outline of national policies, research evidence and supportive tools to enable delivery and evaluation of impact.
- 5.3 This approach will ensure that all parents living in Scottish Borders can experience a clear and consistent approach to involvement in their school and their child's learning.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

The Council has considered new national documentation and ensure that Council policy and guidance takes account of all national advice, guidance and statute. Officers have fully consulted with a range of partners before finalising documents, therefore mitigating any potential risks to practice.

6.3 Equalities

- (a) An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.
- (b) It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

6.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this

report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into this report.

Approved by

Lesley Munro
Service Director,
Young People Engagement & Inclusion **Signature.....**

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Kevin McCall	Quality Improvement Officer, Education

Background Papers:

Scottish Government papers:

Scottish Borders Improvement Framework: Quality Improvement in Education (2019)

Review of the Impact of the 2006 Parental involvement Act (2017)

"Learning together" Scotland's national action plan on parental involvement, parental engagement, family learning and learning at home (2018)

Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 (2006)

Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006: updated statutory guidance consultation (2020)

Review of Family Learning (2017)

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014),

National Improvement Framework (2016),

Previous Minute Reference: N/A

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