

Cross-Party Group on Families Supporting Children's Learning

Wed 20 March 2024, 6pm to 7.30pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Fulton MacGregor MSP (Co-convener) (Chair)
Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Cathy Sexton (Fathers Network Scotland)
John Forsyth (Shared Parenting Scotland)
Kathryn Farrow (SPION)
Magaidh Wentworth (Comann nam Parant)
Gill Steele (Comann nam Parant)
Patrick McGlinchey (Connect)
Sara McFarlane (Connect)
Rob Bryne (Fulton MacGregor's Office)
Ciaran McDonald (Scottish Government)
Arran Goodfellow (Parenting Across Scotland)
Beverly Ferguson (Education Scotland)

Apologies

Denny Henderson (Connect)
Greg Dempster (AHDS)
Annie Watson (Enquire)

Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006

Presentation by Patrick McGlinchey, giving a brief overview of the current Act and on the responses to the CPG's survey of members on what they consider the most important parts of the Act, and what is missing or in need of updating.

The CPG discussed the importance of the Act in setting out the rights of parents to be involved and informed about their child's education in law.

The group also discussed elements in need of updating or to be added for the Act to be fit for the current landscape, such as early years settings not included in the current

Act, and no mention of family learning. The Act also does not account for the use of current technology in communication, such as use of online leading to one parent being excluded when parents are separated, and requirement for school handbooks being out of date.

Also discussed was the lack of priority given to parental involvement and engagement in current policy landscape, and potential opportunities to raise the issue such as in discussions around education reform particularly regarding school inspections, and human rights legislation and inclusion of children's and parents' rights.

Action: The CPG will write to the Scottish Government to highlight survey findings.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were approved.

Future work and Member recruitment

The CPG were asked to consider any other groups or individuals who could be invited to join.

The CPG discussed potential topics of future meetings, and will look at relationships and behaviour in schools, school attendance, kindergarten stage, child friendly complaints process pilot. Members were also invited to present on their work.

Any other business

With no further business, the meeting closed.