

# Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group Families Supporting Children's Learning

Tuesday 28 February 2023

Online Meeting 6pm-7.30pm

Minutes

## Welcome and introductions

In attendance: Oliver Mundell MSP (Co-Convenor), Michael Marra MSP (Co-Convenor), Cathy Sexton (Fathers Network Scotland), Cheryl Burnett (NPFS), Denny Henderson (Connect), Emma Dougan (Edinburgh Council), Jeremy Balfour MSP, John Forsyth (Shared Parenting Scotland), Kathleen McTaggart (Glasgow City Parents Group), Kathryn Farrow (SPION), Magaidh Wentworth (Comann nam Parant), Patrick McGlinchey (Connect), Sara McFarlane (Connect), Sharon Collie (NPFS), Stephen Kerr MSP, Sue Webber MSP

Apologies: Angus Robertson MSP, Annie Watson (Enquire), Daniel Johnston MSP, Foysool Choudhury MSP, Gordon Macdonald MSP, Miles Briggs MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Stacey-Ann Lindsay (Senior Policy Manager – Parental Engagement and Inclusion, Scottish Government), Vicki Lavelle (Parent)

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

## Roundtable discussion: Parental involvement and engagement of parents of children with additional support needs

### Speakers:

Emma Dougan – Edinburgh Council: Emma gave a presentation on how Edinburgh Council supports parental engagement and involvement of parents of children and young people with additional support needs.

Cheryl Burnett – National Parent Forum Scotland: Cheryl gave a talk on her work with NPFS representing parents to input into national policy on ASN, including the ASL Project Board and the Angela Morgan Review, and as chair of the ASL Network.

Actions: The group agreed to write to LAs, COSLA and ADES for more details on how local authorities are responding to the action point in the Scottish Governments ASL Action Plan to encourage local authorities to establish parent groups to support enhanced collaboration and communication on additional support for learning, and to write to the Convenor of the Scottish Parliament Education, Children and Young People Committee to highlight tonight's discussion.

## Any other business

Minutes of the previous meeting (30 Nov 22) were approved.

Patrick provided an update on the actions of the last meeting: Oliver submitted Parliamentary Questions on the Morgan Review and how it feeds into the Hayward Review/other reforms and following this informed the group Louise Hayward met with Angela Morgan.

## Future meeting topics

To look at the Parental Involvement Act as the group discuss this being out of date and is in need of a refresh, with particular issues around shared parenting with both parents not being equally involved, and school handbook update requirements. Action: CPG secretariat to work with NPFS and SPION to produce a discussion paper ahead of a dedicated meeting.

## Date of next meeting

To take place after Easter recess, date to be circulated.  
The meeting closed at 7.30pm.