

Wrap Around Accommodation Working Group

Minutes of Meeting Friday 21st April 2017

Attendees:

Marianne O'Loughlin - Parent Council, Chair (MO)

Cara Davidson - Wrap Around Group, (CD)

Alasdair Cameron - Òganan Dhùn Èideann (AC)

Christine MacLeod - Deputy Head Teacher (CM)

Introduction

MO welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the remit of the group which is to bring together the Parent Council, the School, and Òganan, to discuss options and solutions for the long-term delivery of wrap around care for Taobh na Pairce families. The group agreed to take a creative 'everything is on the table' approach to discussing options and possible solutions. CM reiterated that final decisions on accommodation rested with the school and must be in the educational best interests of all pupils.

Recap on wrap- around accommodation requirements

AC outlined the current service delivered by Òganan, numbers of families registered, attendance patterns, and basic accommodation requirements as set out in the background paper. These include a need for access to toilets, as well as sinks for food preparation, and ideally for painting / activities etc. Access to cloakroom space is also particularly useful for younger years.

Update from Senior Management Team

CM confirmed the school roll would rise by circa 70 from August 2017 (90 P1s intake) and the team is anticipating a further additional 70 in 2018.

CM outlined the Senior Management Team's intention to write out shortly to families with details of the Sgoil Àraich sessions to be offered from August 2017. CM also outlined proposals for Council wide expansion of early years provision by 2020, with the number of hours available doubling. This would in turn lead to a requirement for additional nursery space in future years, though it was not confirmed where this would be.

- **Action: CM to provide details of 2017/18 Sgoil Àraich sessions**

Wrap-around questionnaire

CD outlined the Wrap-around Group's proposal to gather information via questionnaire from other wrap-around providers to explore good practice across Edinburgh. There was consensus on the need to capture service providers who delivered care off-site with a school-pick up service (whether on foot or using transport), as well as from providers delivering care in school settings where accommodation was under pressure. The group also discussed the usefulness of hearing from providers covering a wide geographical catchment. A number of additional questions were added to the questionnaire to address these points. The group noted that there are no other known providers of early-years (Sgoil Àraich) wrap around operating out of school premises.

Date and format of 2nd meeting

It was agreed a date would be sought in late August 2017, with a preference for late afternoon during the school week. MO indicated the PC's intention to invite a parent with design skills to help facilitate constructive discussions on optimal usage of space within the school.

- **Action: MO to secure parental volunteer with design skills.**
- **Action: AC to provide floor plans of the school [complete].**

Additional information requirements

The group discussed the difficulties in forward planning in view of the wide variety of unknowns around the growing school roll, growth of Sgoil Àraich provision, and the Council's plans for addressing these. CD indicated that the Wrap-Around group would be seeking a meeting with Council officials to discuss these matters, however it was unlikely such discussions would resolve the uncertainty quickly. In view of this, it was proposed that the Working Group should focus particularly on creative solutions that could be delivered using multi-purpose (i.e. non-classroom) space within the school.

- **Action: CD to approach Norman Martin at CEC regarding a meeting with Council officials on accommodation for wrap-around care.**

CM outlined the School's interest in offering Active Schools activities after school hours. CD and MO stressed the need to seek parental input when determining priorities for the use of limited accommodation space after school. CD proposed issuing a short questionnaire to parents to seek views. The group also noted the variety of existing after school activities on offer by Òganan.

- **Action: Wrap-Around group to develop short questionnaire for parents.** This would be used to gauge future demand for after school childcare, and Active Schools provision respectively, and the extent to which uptake of active schools is contingent on wrap-around care being in place.

Keeping Parents informed

The group agreed to make the minutes of the meeting, and the background papers, available to parents.