

# NOTICE OF MEETING

A **MEETING** of the **AD-HOC SCRUTINY PANEL ON DISRUPTION WITHIN STIRLING'S SCHOOLS** will be held in the **ROOM 17, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING** on **MONDAY 19 APRIL 2010** at **9.00 am**.

**HAZEL MCMORROW**  
*Head of Governance*  
Clerk to the Council

13 April 2010

## A G E N D A

The Council has established an Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel to investigate disruption within Stirling's Schools. Meetings of the Panel are held in public, except at the discretion of the Chair, who may ask the public to leave the meeting under the provisions of Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and specifically during consideration of exempt information as defined in Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

1. **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**
2. **NOTE OF MEETING OF THE PANEL HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2010** (Pages 1 - 4)
3. **IMPLEMENTATION OF PANEL'S FINDINGS - INITIAL OUTLINE FROM EDUCATION**
4. **BUILDING ON THE SCRUTINY PROCESS - DISCUSSION**

(For further information please contact Margaret Murray, 01786 443216)



## STIRLING COUNCIL

**MINUTES of MEETING of the AD-HOC SCRUTINY PANEL ON DISRUPTION WITHIN STIRLING'S SCHOOLS held in the WALLACE ROOM, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010 at 5.30 pm**

**Present:**

Councillor Callum CAMPBELL (Chair)

Councillor Tony Ffinch  
Councillor Jim THOMSON

Councillor Graham LAMBIE

**In Attendance:**

Sharon Johnston, Service Manager (Inclusion and Additional Support), Education  
Paul McNamara, Research Officer, Chief Executive's Office  
Kathleen Taylor, Head of Communities & Culture  
Margaret Murray, Committee Officer, Governance (Clerk)

### **SS17 MINUTES - 19 JANUARY 2010**

#### **Decision**

The Minutes of Meeting held on 19 October 2010 were approved as a correct record of proceedings, subject to the following amendment:

Ref SS13, paragraph 1, line 5: the words "different methodology" should be replaced with "difference in the methodology".

### **SS18 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

In advance of the meeting the draft final report was circulated to the Panel for comments. The Panel was now invited to consider and agree the contents of the draft final report, prior to it being finalised and presented to Council on 11 March 2010.

The Chair indicated that this was the last opportunity for the Panel to make any significant changes to the report prior to it being finalised for submission to Council. The Chair highlighted the areas of the report, which he considered needed further discussion, and invited the Panel's views.

#### Recommendation 2.4

The Chair provided reasons why he considered that the surveys should be re-administered after a two year period, rather than three years. Following consideration of the effectiveness of both timeframes, implications for Education Services and the possible effects on response rates, the Panel concluded that whilst recognising the benefits of re-administering the survey after a three year period, there was no strong opposition from the Panel to a two year period.

### Specific Recommendations

The Head of Communities & Culture reported that the specific recommendations had been subject to discussion with Officers from Education Services and highlighted that specific recommendation 5 required some further discussion. Following consideration, the Panel agreed that specific recommendation 4 fully encompassed pupil behaviours, therefore specific recommendation 5 would not be required and should be deleted from the report.

### General

There was brief discussion around the advantages/disadvantages of rotating the sample Primary Schools selected for future surveys, whether different Secondary year groups should be selected or whether maintaining the same years would be more meaningful. It was recognised that there would be schools where behaviour patterns increased/decreased and that there would be a need to be a review to better understand what was happening in other schools. The Service Manager advised the Panel that quality assurance information, which was made available annually by headteachers in response to set questions presented to all pupils, provided an opportunity for pupils and staff to comment on their own behaviour and that of others.

In response to a question, it was reported that the national survey had been undertaken between January and March 2009, with results reported nine months later. The results were reported for Scotland as a whole, not by Local Authority area.

With regard to whether there was a formal process in place for knowledge transfer and whether the Council's findings would be made available as a resource for other Local Authorities, it was explained that the national survey findings had been issued in a useful format and that discussion would be needed around how best to disseminate, summarise and promote the Council's results possibly with a similar format to the national summary but Stirling specific. With regard to developing a protocol for distributing the findings, the Scottish Government would be contacted to find out how they distributed their national results. During discussion it was also suggested that the comprehensive research could be promoted in a future edition of Focus.

On the matter of exclusion, it was acknowledged that this area was not the Panel's main focus, however, the Panel was aware of the Council's inclusion policy and that a variety of methods were used to deal with difficult behaviour. The Panel was satisfied with the wording for this.

The Head of Communities & Culture referred to the opportunity which the survey questionnaire had provided for specific stakeholders to identify what would help improve disruption in the classroom. The survey results, particularly those from primary schools, had highlighted that reduced class sizes would assist. Although investigation of classroom sizes was not part of the Panel's remit, because the information had been volunteered, it was agreed that reference should be included in the final report.

Referring to Section 7 of the final draft report, it was agreed that additional information should be included to reflect that it should be remitted to the Service, Delivery & Performance Committee to determine and agree the most appropriate mechanism of monitoring the action plan and follow up survey activity. A

recommendation to this effect would also be included under the Recommendations Section of the main Committee report.

The Panel acknowledged that additional resources would be necessary to provide effective training and to monitor delivery of positive behaviour strategies in the classroom.

It was confirmed that a glossary of terms was being prepared, and would be appended to the final report.

As a result of the volume of information available, it was agreed that the summary data analysis should be appended to the final report and that individual data analysis sets would be made available in the Members' Lounge.

### **Decision**

The Panel agreed:

1. the content of the draft final report as submitted, subject to the amendments and inclusions discussed, being submitted to Council on 11 March 2010;
2. that officers, in consultation with the Chair, finalise the report for submission to Council;

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.50 pm

