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## **SPTC PUBLISHES FINDINGS FROM PARENT SURVEY ON NEW CURRICULUM**

- **Majority of parents\* have mixed feelings about Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)**
- **Greatest concern is negative attitudes and reluctance of teachers to change**
- **Vast majority see change in their child's school but little change to parental involvement**
- **No consensus on benefits of CfE**

SPTC, the independent voice of parents and carers in Scottish education, has today, Friday 12 August 2011, published the findings of its recent Parents Voice survey on Curriculum for Excellence, carried out earlier this year among 101 parents. Commenting on the findings, SPTC executive director Eileen Prior said:

“This is our largest survey yet on Parents Voice and it received an extremely animated response! The overall impression is that parents are generally behind the new curriculum but have mixed feelings and concerns about its implementation, particularly in secondary school. It's also clear there is confusion among some.

“Probably most notable was the enormous variety of comments about the benefits – there was absolutely no consensus. In marketing it's understood that selling the benefit is the key to success but on that measure CfE appears to have fallen well short of the target.”

Other key findings include: parents expressed most concern about negativity and lack of willingness among teachers to change what they do. In relation to the role of parents, only three people identified parental involvement as an area where they had witnessed change, and nine noted communication and parental involvement as a concern.

“This is a valuable snapshot which gives us a picture of the concerns and confusion parents have around Curriculum for Excellence,” concluded Eileen Prior. “We have to remember the curriculum is just one element of the change taking place in Scottish schools, which is why our Annual Conference in Edinburgh in November is entitled Making Sense of the Change: we’re planning a stimulating day with great speakers, including Scotland’s own David Cameron, and lots of discussion so participants can get to grips with the changes and, most importantly, debate where we are going.”

**END**

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Issued by SPTC. For further information please contact Eileen Prior or Eleanor Conor on 0131 226 1917 or email [eleanor@sptc.info](mailto:eleanor@sptc.info) or [eileen@sptc.info](mailto:eileen@sptc.info).

**Note to editors:** SPTC is a membership organisation for almost 2000 parents’ groups all over Scotland, and an independent charity. Parents Voice is its on-line survey group which parents and carers can opt into, to receive occasional brief surveys on a range of educational topics. The next Parents Voice report will be on the new qualifications and will be published later in August. SPTC’s annual conference, Making Sense of the Change, will take place in Edinburgh on November 12, 2011. A full programme will be published shortly.

\*parents refers to all adults who have a caring responsibility for children