



STEPPS PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL
 PARENT COUNCIL
 AGM



Monday 6th February 2023 (2)

Agenda item	Detail	Decision	Action
Welcome and attendees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lorraine Kerr, Chairperson, Parent 2. Diane Delaney, Secretary, Parent 3. Lynne Blair, Treasurer, Parent 4. Susanne Ryan, Parent 5. Louise Laing, Parent 6. Mr McKeever, Head Teacher 7. Cllr Williams (Scottish Greens) 	N/A	N/A
Apologies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emma Dalziel, Parent 2. Angela Powers, Parent 3. Corrine Booth, Parent 4. Cllr McLaren 5. Cllr Cairns 6. MSP MacGregor 	N/A	N/A
Headteacher's report – Mr McKeever	<p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>Mr McKeever advised that overall, there had been some issues in relation to planning and organising school events and activities due to both staff and pupil absences since the last parent council meeting in October.</p> <p><u>Clerical Staff</u></p>		

The senior clerical office staff member is currently off work on sick leave. This leaves only 1 part time member of clerical staff, who works Mon-Wed, but does not have the training to work a number of the computer systems. The other part time member of clerical staff, who works Thur-Fri, is off on maternity leave (due back March 2023)

Mr McKeever has managed to secure cover via a clerical worker from Chryston Primary on a Thursday and Friday.

The absence of frontline /reception/ clerical staff has had and is continuing to have a significant impact on the school, particularly in relation to communication and organisation and planning. Mr McKeever and Mrs Jeffreys have had to cover the office, removing them from their normal duties.

The parent council have previously raised these issues directly with the Council however no other resolution has been offered.

Class Teacher

One of the P1 teachers is absent due to a scheduled operation so the class is currently being covered by another staff member. The children and parents of the class have been fully informed and updated.

Senior Management Team

Mr McKeever was delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Ewing as Principal Teacher. Mrs Ewing knows Stepps Primary School, she is also a keen advocate for outdoor learning. Mr McKeever is awaiting further information about start date since NLC are still processing the necessary paperwork. Once the paperwork is completed it is likely to be another month due to 4 weeks' notice requiring to be served.

Transitions (P1 & S1)

53 children are registered with the potential to start school in August 2023

3 children have stated their intention to defer

Mr McKeever will keep the parent council. Informed of any further changes to staffing

There have been 2 placement requests so far.

Mr McKeever noted there is potential for further placing requests and school registration given that families are now moving into the new estate (behind the Garfield Hotel).

Number of children registering for P1 as well as other class years will determine the planning for the number of classrooms, year groups and composite classes required for the next school year.

There was some discussion about whether the new houses are zoned to Stepps Primary School. Lorraine advised the meeting that the answer to this is yes as per recent communications received to Stepps Community Council via the Norther Forum Corridor and from North Lanarkshire Council (document attached- Appendix 1). The Council have now confirmed that children living in the new estate will be zoned to Stepps Primary School. There is extended capacity from the recent installation of three new classrooms, however, it is clear that this capacity will not last long given the number of new houses and the school will be back to being full again likely by the end of next term.

North Lanarkshire Council have now confirmed in writing that there is no plan to change catchment areas for the new housing estate meaning that families can access both Stepps and St Joseph primary schools. The Council have also confirmed that work will progress this year to ensure that all children in the Dunlop estate are also zoned to Stepps and St Joseph's primary schools.

North Lanarkshire have provided the following information about local school current and planned capacity, current rolls, and projected roll.

School	Capacity	Planned Capacity	Roll	Projection	Note
Chryston High School	996	1422	933	1354	New Extension planned
Chryston Primary School	317	509	368	459	New School opening in 2023
Stepps Primary School	450	450	407	424	
Gartcosh Primary School	188	434	238	422	New school planned
St Barbara's Primary School	242	342	223	330	4 Classroom upgrade in construction

St Joseph's Primary School	246	207	206	214	Can be managed through placing requests
Auchinloch Primary School	100	100	95	105	Can be managed through placing requests

There is continuing concern from the parent council about the impact of capacity to the school estate. This will be discussed at the other agenda item points.

Lorraine advised that issues regarding the school estate in relation to the Community Hub including the reinstatement of the community library will be discussed at the next Community Board meeting on the 22nd of February. This meeting is open to all in the community, and everyone is invited to participate in this discussion. Attendance can be secured by emailing CommunityMatters@northlan.gov.uk

Mr McKeever confirmed that 47 young people are leaving P7 onto secondary school this year. This means that the trend of more children entering the school than leaving continues.

Mr McKeever also confirmed that in recent years, increases in school year group numbers are occurring across all year groups (not just P1). This is likely as a result of new families moving into the area. These types of changes across year groups can have an impact on the number of classrooms which also means the number of teachers required in the school. Mr McKeever is currently working with Michelle O'Halloran regarding the projections and likelihood for class numbers and sizes this year and the potential requirement for additional staff. Mr McKeever agreed to keep the parent council updated on these discussions.

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

Mr McKeever advised that the Council have announced a temporary postponement for ELC enrolment due to a legal challenge. This information has been shared recently to all parents in the school community.

Community Hub at Stepps Primary School estate will be discussed online on 22nd February 2023 via the Community Board

No further updates on the Community Hub other than feasibility studies are continuing.

Diane and Lorraine both conveyed that concerns and anxieties have been raised by parents about what this means for their child. Although information has been published about the legal challenge, parents do not know what they should do while waiting for further information. The issues are apparently related to a dispute between private nursery settings and NLC regarding hourly rates paid to the two different settings. Private nurseries are claiming that paying them a lesser rate than authority nurseries are unsustainable and unfair. Cllr Claire Williams advised that she would liaise with colleagues (MSP Ross Greer) about this issue.

Cllr Williams also advised that enquiries from parents should be directed to the Chief Officer of the Council (Mr McLaughlin – Director of Education) regarding how parents can access their statutory entitlement to 1140hrs funded ELC.

****Since the meeting, the Council have now issued a directive to all parents that applications can now be made to NLC for ELC placements.****

Cllr Williams will make enquiries about the issues of pay differences between providers

No updates

School Events

Mr McKeever advised that the school have been delighted to invite parents back into the school to engage in some shared learning events since the start of this year. This followed the success of parent's evenings at the Xmas events. Everyone agreed how important these events are for children, families, and school staff and that they have all been a great success. Much credit to the children in all their efforts to present to parents during the shared learning events.

Mr McKeever confirmed that as a result of the full building works/re-instatement of the library and community spaces not yet being completed, with the current layout of the school, any planned event, inviting parents into the school requires significant additional planning and work to ensure the safety and security of all the children. This ultimately means locking down the school to ensure security, keeping the public away from accessing spaces where the children are using during the school day. In reality the children in the new classrooms, previously the library, have to be decanted to the original part of the school. This is additional planning that was not anticipated since the works were expected to be completed for return to school last August, which should allow for safe and secure access at the rear of the building.

Parent Council members unanimously echoed their concerns about the ongoing issues regarding ineffective communication and progress about the community hub which is joined onto the school estate. The main issue for parents is the children are safe and not disrupted as a result of community access to the school. Procedures to ensure the safety of children at the moment are having an impact on organisations of these events.

Concerns noted by the parent council about the ongoing lack consultation, effective two-way communication, and progress of the re-configuration of the community hub and the impact that is having on the school community. These concerns have repeatedly been raised to elected Councillors

Parking/ Road Safety

Mr McKeever advised that road safety and inappropriate parking in the school continues. With concerns overall about how to tackle the behaviour associated with inappropriate parking. Mr McKeever advised that asking drivers to move on when they park unsafely and inappropriately either results in being ignored, or offensive/ verbally abusive language being directed to them. The local police and the Council are aware of these ongoing issues.

Mr McKeever advised that the janitor is not permitted to intervene to ask drivers to move on if they are parked unsafely due to risk of harm to him from drivers.

The parent council unanimously condemned this behaviour, echoing concerns from Mr McKeever that someone, especially a child will be hurt one day. Diane advised that the parent council are aware that this issue is apparent across many schools in NLC, and there appears to be no effective solution. Police arriving on the school estate with their police car means that drivers have the opportunity to engage in safe driving. In future, requests could be made to the local police to park away from the school estate during their assessments of the situation. Diane or Lorraine could raise this with the police at the next Community Council meeting.

Mr McKeever advised that unfortunately there is a growing issue with drivers parking or waiting unsafely/ inappropriately across from the P5 exit. As a result of the concerns about risk of harm/ accident, Mr McKeever is considering moving the P5 exit to the same space that all other children in the senior wing exit from. This may deter drivers waiting at this spot.

A suggestion was made to Mr McKeever that he writes directly to P5 parents about this, he advised that he had planned to.

Another suggestion was made about staggered start and finish times, however Mr McKeever stated that this was supposed to be the strategy during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and many

Diane/ Lorraine to discuss with Community Police at next Community Council meeting the possibility of police parking their car away from the school estate during their next visit.

Mr McKeever will write to P5 parents about increasing road safety concerns of drivers waiting across from the P5 exit doors. Consideration that P5 children may need to exit from the same doors as the rest of the senior children

Diane/ Lorraine have not yet had the opportunity to speak to the Community Police but will do so when the opportunity arises.

	<p>families did not/ could not engage with this due to having multiple children across year groups and work commitments.</p> <p>Cllr Williams suggested an incentive to those children walking or using bikes. Mr McKeever advised that this was done previously and although there was some success with it, there is a large section of the school community who are driving due to work commitments and other needs etc.</p> <p><u>P7 Residential</u></p> <p>All plans underway and staff, children and families all appear excited about this upcoming opportunity on 27th March for 3 nights.</p> <p>Lorraine asked about potential strike impact. Mr McKeever is not aware of any strike dates that may impact on this residential and will continue to liaise with parents as necessary.</p>		
<p><i>School update</i></p> <p><i>Works</i></p>	<p>Lorraine informed the meeting of the ongoing frustration and disappointment from the parent council regarding the lack of effective two communication, consultation, and progression.</p> <p>Lorraine updated that the parent council and community council responded to NLC proposals about the reconfiguration of the community hub spaces including the library with suggestions that should be discussed at a face-to-face meeting given the complexities and concerns. NLC declined to facilitate this stating it was not the right time to meet face to face. They did agree to consider the suggestions made.</p> <p>Lorraine advised that the information we have from the Council regarding the ongoing works to the community hub is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 3 feasibility studies ongoing from TSNL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Widening the road (behind the hub) ▪ Secure entry (between the hub and the school) ▪ Repurposing the library (see appendix 2 for suggested layout of new library) 	<p>The parent council will continue to collaborate with the community council on ongoing issues and concerns.</p> <p>The parent council await an update from MSP Fulton MacGregor regarding</p>	<p>March and April update from NLC has been no progress. They do acknowledge the timescales are 'frustratingly slow'. LK wrote to them after the March update asking if SLA's are in place. No</p>

More recently we received an update from the Council regarding our suggestions and we were told that our suggested redesign will not be accepted due to regulation requirements.

The parent council and community council have met and discussed our concerns as well as our solutions extensively. We are very disappointed and concerned that the council have not answered the questions that we submitted to them. Neither have they engaged in the consultation that they promised a long time ago.

Diane advised the concerns of the parent council on these matters are not unique to parents, the community council meeting held last week strongly echoed our concerns about the lack of empowerment, effective communication, shared leadership, or partnership or even engagement on this issue. Both the community and parent council are of the view that telling citizens what is to happen is not consultation, nor engagement.

The community council concluded that an urgent meeting was required with elected local councillors. Diane advised that this remains a frustrated area for the parent council given that we have written to and met with local councillors and the regional MSP about these issues. MSP Fulton MacGregor wrote to the Director of Education (Mr McLaughlin) before Christmas 2022 to suggest a meeting given our ongoing concerns, the lack of resolution or at least discussion on the issues, particular those where there are tensions and disagreements. All of this was exacerbated by the email sent to the parent council from the Director of Education. The parent council are not clear why the Director sent this email to the parent council because the previous communications from the parent council had been directed to elected local councillors. The most significant concerns in the Director's response are outlined in the red box below. The parent council concerns were raised with MSP Fulton MacGregor, and we continue to wait for an outcome to his request for a meeting with the Director.

further action regarding a resolution to the ongoing issues raised with him about the Director of Education's email to the parent council,

further response received.

Cllr Williams will arrange another meeting with Mr McPherson and feedback/ update the parent council on any outcomes.

No updates on this

As outlined above, arguably the council has spent more officer time communicating with and responding to enquiries in relation to Stepps Primary School than any other of over 150 learning establishments. It is therefore regrettable that the parent council view the level of interaction as requiring urgent review and action. It is accepted that the council cannot and will not be able to meet the expectations of the parent council – however the following is offered in that regard.

It is noted that Stepps Primary School is ranked as category A – the highest possible ranking for both the condition of the school and the suitability of the learning and teaching spaces. This is in direct contrast to 31 schools which have a condition rating of category C, and 43 schools which have a suitability rating of category C. Given the pressure on the budgets within the council, it is reasonable to suggest that the council should focus time and spend on improving the lower graded schools. For every pound spent on a category A school, a pound less is spent on schools of a lower category. These statistics are collated at a national level based on a defined set of criteria and therefore is an accurate measure of both suitability of the spaces and the condition of the spaces across all learning and teaching spaces in Scotland. It is therefore regrettable that a category A school has, as outlined in your email, had years of correspondence and conversations about the inadequacy of the facilities on offer – but which have been assessed as the highest available category of education provision. This has undoubtedly impacted on the councils ability to respond to more acute needs of schools in category C.

In closing, the council to date has not been afforded the opportunity to concentrate on improving our most in need schools due to the need to respond to enquiries such as these - but would welcome any future opportunity to do so.

Mr McKeever was not able to offer the meeting any updates. Advising that there are a variety of different people visiting the school building regularly in relation to the community hub, however he is not always clear who the workmen are and the purpose of the visits.

Cllr Williams advised that she has spoken to Andrew McPherson about change management and communication to the Stepps Community in relation to the primary school and the community hub. Cllr Williams agrees that the communication strategies coming out of the Council are ineffective because so many different departments and people are involved in this work, but no one is managing how communication is working between and across the groups and stakeholders. Cllr Williams advised that she would ask Mr McPherson for another meeting to continue discussions on these issues. Cllr Williams also advised that the best forum for discussing these issues, especially in relation to seeing an outcome is the Community Board meetings.

Diane also highlighted that the response from the council in relation to Question 4 (see appendix 1) does not align with the views and experiences of Stepps Primary School Parent Council. In particular, the Parent Council would dispute and/ or disagree with the following:

- *“the council have consistently engaged with the appropriate stakeholders, at the appropriate time, sharing information and, when appropriate, seeking views”*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Updates were provided regularly throughout the remediation and decant process at Stepps PS, and education colleagues also met with representatives from the Parent Council at key points in the process." - "Continued engagement is ongoing in relation to the reinstatement and repurposing of community spaces." <p>Given that there is conflict and disagreement with matters regarding engagement and communication, the parent council is of the view that it is critical that a face-to-face meeting is arranged in order to resolve these issues.</p>		
<p><i>Parent Council Communications (survey)</i></p>	<p>Lorraine advised that she created a draft survey and sent out to the parent council for consultation before Christmas. Agreement that the survey will be sent to the parent forum. Mr McKeever has agreed to send this survey via email to his email list of parents.</p> <p>The purpose of the survey is to gather some feedback from the parent forum on their understanding of the role of the parent council, their preferred communication methods and also to hear about their priorities and the work of the parent council.</p> <p>Diane also asked Mr McKeever if he would let the parent council know if there are any upcoming opportunities for the parent council to engage with parents via any school events (i.e., transition activities).</p>	<p>Survey will be issued to all parents via Mr McKeever.</p> <p>Mr McKeever will let the parent council know about school/ parent focused activities coming up that we can get involved in.</p>	<p>Survey issued w/c 17th April</p>
<p><i>Parent Engagement Working Group</i></p>	<p>Lorraine informed the meeting that NLC Parental Involvement Officer Willie Collum has invited a small group of PC chair or secretary volunteers to form a subgroup to review the current parental involvement strategy for NLC and to create a new one. There are currently 6 parents on the group representing both primary and secondary school equally. Lorraine advised that Willie has stated the ambition for parents to lead the way forward in the creation of the new parental engagement strategy.</p>	<p>Ideas on the parental involvement strategy to be</p>	<p>Lorraine is continuing to work with Parental Involvement Officer</p>

	<p>Lorraine advised that there is a substantial amount of reading to take place in advance of the next scheduled meeting for 9th February. The last parental engagement survey was completed in 2017.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about parental engagement in NLC by members. Overall, the group is of the view that there is a scope for significant improvement, particularly in relation to policy planning, making and implementation as well as review and evaluation of policies.</p> <p>Diane and Lorraine also both noted that all parents are grateful for the work that Willie does for the NLC collaborative group, particularly his efforts in inviting NLC officers to these meetings to deliver presentations to parents on matters of importance to the council/ parents. The main issue with these meetings is that Willie sets the agenda, he arranges the presentations on the basis of his agenda. Online meetings are good but there is a disadvantaged/ barrier to being able to engage in full discussions about topics. The meetings don't feel parent led or focused. These issues have been raised directly with Willie and Barrie Sheppard as the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPRS) Rep on a couple of occasions, but the format remains the same.</p> <p>Further concerns noted in relation to NLC parental engagement strategy is what the difference a strategy actually makes when the rhetoric of the strategy is not aligned with the reality. Parents want this to be more than a paperwork exercise, the strategy needs to have meaning, and the ability to hold everyone to account, including councillors and officers.</p> <p>Timescale for completion of the new strategy is August 2023 (although this is flexible).</p> <p>Lorraine is looking for contributions from parents regarding ideas for input to the strategy. She will keep us up to date as the group progresses.</p> <p>Cllr Williams advised that she is not clear how parents can become more involved in decision making and planning at central/ authority/ policy level.</p>	<p>sent Lorraine.</p> <p>Lorraine will continue to update the council on progress on the development of the strategy.</p>	<p>to William Collum and other PC members on the development of the strategy. A draft version should be available in the near future for parent councils to consider.</p>
<p><i>Transitions Survey</i></p>	<p>Lorraine advised the meeting that parents from another parent council had advised that a survey on transitions experiences had been issued to parents in their school.</p> <p>It transpired that the survey had been sent to Stepps Primary School also via Mr McKeever. Mr McKeever did issue this information to all parents via email.</p>		

Given the lack of context of the survey, Diane had enquired via local councillors about the context as well as asking other questions that had been raised from parents about whether the survey was specifically for parents of children with additional support needs. Diane is still waiting for a response to this email. However, all parents have now been issued a link to access the survey via a text message. Diane has asked all members to encourage parents to complete the survey and share the link amongst their NLC parent friends/ contexts.

Diane had also asked for information on the current procedures referred to in the survey introduction. On the 27th of January 2023, a response on this was received from the Director of Education (assuming one of the emails sent to local councillors from Diane was forwarded to the Director), he provided the following information on the current procedures in place for transitions for children and young people in NLC:

“Currently we provide our transition planning and support using the national frameworks and guidance and links to these are provided below. We are currently working towards developing a local transition policy to incorporate both the national guidance and the needs of our children and young people locally.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended 2009) <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/research/education-additional-support-for-learning-scotland-act-2004>

Standards in Schools Act 2000 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2000/6/contents>

Getting it right for every child <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>”

Mr McKeever advised that children and young people are also being surveyed on their experiences too.

***** At the point of writing the minutes, a response was received from the parental involvement officer answering questions about the context of the survey. The response will be attached to the minutes *****

Parent Council members to encourage any parents they know in NLC to complete the survey

<p><i>Road Safety/ Flooding</i></p>	<p>Diane advised the meeting about the ongoing issue with flooding on the path and road at Bannantynes Sports Centre. The issue is that after heavy rain or long periods of rain, the rainwater accumulates on the road and then floods onto the path. This is generally the path that children walk on to get to school. They use this side because the path on the other side of the road is too narrow. What happens is that the children reach the point where the path is flooded, realising that they cannot cross through the flooded area (the water would saturate their feet completely), they attempt to cross the road at the mini roundabout. This is a peak commute time. The area is already high risk in terms of road safety in the mornings. We previously raised our concerns with NLC requesting an intervention perhaps in the form of a zebra crossing or lollipop person. This was rejected by the council on the basis of their assessment that the crossing did not meet their criteria as being a high-risk area.</p> <p>Diane told the meeting that this week and on several other occasions she has witnessed extremely dangerous and high-risk scenarios of children trying to cross the road when the area is flooded.</p> <p>Last week, Diane and Lorraine both reported the issue to the Council with an immediate response. The area was drained in time for the children exiting school. The community council also intervened.</p> <p>Diane suggested that there needs to be a longer-term solution, either to improve the drainage or to improve the surface of the road, and/ or raise the pavement area. Cllr Williams agreed to take this forward with roads department. Diane has also sent a report to the community council on the issue.</p>	<p>Await any updates via the Community Council on their collaboration with the Council on this.</p> <p>Cllr Williams will speak to Roads Dept and update the council on progress.</p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p>	<p>Lorraine reviewed the action/ decision points from the last meeting and requested updates where appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School App <p>Mr McKeever advised that he is still progressing this, but it has been delayed due to other priorities mainly relating to staff shortages. This is still on the agenda but remains at an early stage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Photographs <p>Requests previously made if class teachers could take a whole class photograph and put on Twitter for parents to access given that the opportunity for the official photographer is prioritised to P1 and P7. Mr McKeever agreed that this would be ok and in the future he could engage in further</p>	<p>Await further updates from Mr McKeever</p>	<p>Re School App Mr McKeever has not followed up due to inspection. He intends to visit Glenmanor School to have a look</p>

	<p>consultation with the parent forum about photography. The main issue in the past has been cost of this for parents.</p> <p>3. Playground issues Answer to questions from the parent council to Michelle O'Halloran regarding the playground area in terms of space and flooding issues. Lorraine advised the parent council are still waiting on this response and will forward the email to Mr McKeever to ask Michelle to respond.</p> <p>4. Outdoor / Dining space No updates on this</p> <p>5. Homework Mr McKeever continues to monitor engagement</p> <p>6. PC Minutes Mr McKeever will upload PC final minutes to the school website</p>	<p>Lorraine will forward email questions to Mr McKeever, who will forward to Michelle O'Halloran.</p>	<p>at the App in use their</p>
<p><i>Treasurer/ Bank/ Finances</i></p>	<p>Lorraine advised the meeting of the ongoing unresolved issue in relation to Stepps Primary School parent council accessing allocated funds from the authority. Lorraine explained that every year an allocated budget is provided to PCs in NLC. This a requirement under the Parental Involvement Act (2006). This budget is to pay for expenses accumulated by the aren't council which permit the council to run. As it stands, the parent council does not have a bank account because the Chair has been unable to access the funds. Lorraine is aware that other parent councils have their budget paid directly into their PC bank account.</p> <p>The parental involvement officer for NLC has advised Lorraine that PC funds must be paid via the primary school and managed by the head teacher. This means any requests for use of the budget must go through Mr McKeever. This is not in the spirit of the legislation where parent councils are independent of their schools.</p>		

	<p>Mr McKeever also advised that there has been changes to the financial systems and this has made it more complex and timely to access/ process funds.</p> <p>The allocated budget is approximately £300 per year. Funds not used by the parent council are used by the school.</p> <p>There is an issue because at the moment Lorraine is paying for administration and stationery from her own personal finances.</p> <p>This is another area of frustration that has been unresolved for quite some time now for the parent council and feels like it is not worth the associated work/ stress.</p>	<p>No further action on this at the moment</p>	
<p>Matters arising</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>Correspondence</p>	<p>Correspondence to and from the following people:</p> <p>Councillor McLaren. (Scottish Labour) Councillor Cairns (SNP) Councillor Williams (Scottish Greens) Councillor Campbell (Education Convenor – Scottish Labour) Fulton MacGregor, MSP (SNP) Meghan Gallagher, MSP (Scottish Conservatives) Stephen Kerr, MSP (Scottish Conservatives) Monica Lennon, MSP (Scottish Labour) Gillian McKay, MSP (Scottish Greens) Anas Sarwar, Leader of Scottish Labour Cllr Jim Logue and Leader of NLC (Scottish Labour) Richard Leonard, MSP (Scottish Labour) Barrie Sheppard, NLC National Parent Forum Representative Cheryl Burnett, SLC National Parent Forum Representative Willie Collum, Parental Involvement Officer NLC Parent Council Members/ co -opted members Parent Forum via Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp groups Stepps Primary Parent Teacher Association NLC Parent Council Collaborative Group</p>		

	NLC Parent Council Chairs/ Secretaries		
AOCB (Any other competent business)	<p>1. Defibrillator</p> <p>Diane advised the meeting of a discussion that took place at the recent community council meeting regarding the installation of defibrillators in Stepps. The suggestion from community members (also parents of children at Stepps Primary) is that Stepps would benefit from having between 4-6 units spread across the area including one within the school estate. Given access requirements, installation of a defibrillator would be best located at the community hub. Mr McKeever advised that TSNL the owner of the school/ land would need to agree to the installation.</p> <p>Lorraine agreed that the parent looking for more information on this can contact Lorraine for more information regarding TSNL.</p> <p>2. Bikeability</p> <p>Councillor Williams advising of NC Community Volunteers offering a bike hub, whereby refurbished bikes can be given out to those who need one free of charge. This will be supported by bikeability classes being offered by NLC. The school has been contacted regarding bikeability classes and is in discussion with NLC regarding these. In the past volunteer parents had provided the classes for the children.</p> <p>3. Parent Council Members</p> <p>The meeting ended before this point could be discussed (due to school building requiring to close).</p> <p>There are currently 4 vacancies for the parent council.</p>		
Date and Signature	<p>Minutes Completed by Diane Delaney, Secretary on 9th February 2023</p> <p>Next meeting Monday 24th April 2023 - 7pm – 9pm – Stepps Primary School</p>		

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APPENDICES

1. Questions Northern Corridor
2. Stepps Library Public Group Suggested Layout
3. Response from Willie Collum on transitions survey questions

APPENDIX ONE

Questions from Northern Corridor Community Forum

1. Does NLC have a similar Supplementary Guidance Document to that provided by West Lothian Council?

Following the conclusion of the Examination and Adoption of North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan, Planning staff have been working with colleagues in the Education Service on the production of similar Supplementary Guidance to that referred to in West Lothian. This will be presented to Committee for subsequent public consultation as soon as it is available, and would then be subject to stakeholder and public consultation.

2. If YES, is it available to the public?

As detailed in Q1 above, new document will be released for public consultation.

3. If NO, where is this type of information held by NLC and why is it not available to the public?

Refer to the responses to Qs 1 & 2 above. In addition, in the absence of guidance, contributions are calculated and applied on a case-by-case basis, depending on a proportion of the current and projected cost of each level of solution that is identified as being needed, ranging from internal reconfiguration to extension to new build. As such, it is not possible to give a general estimate. Contributions are secured through secure legal agreements between the Council and the relevant developer as a condition of obtaining Planning Permission.

4. Why has NLC not made available its forward plan/infrastructure requirements for the delivery of education at Stepps Primary School?

Work has recently been concluded to increase capacity to facilitate the additional requirements at Stepps Primary School through the provision of three additional classrooms. Over the years, officers from across the council have consistently engaged with the appropriate stakeholders, at the appropriate time, sharing information and, when appropriate, seeking views. Updates were provided regularly throughout the remediation and decant process at Stepps PS and education colleagues also met with representatives from the Parent Council at key points in the process. Continued engagement is ongoing in relation to the reinstatement and repurposing of community spaces. We will continue to engage and update with our proposals to ensure transparency with all community groups, education & families management, the head teacher, the parent council and NLC community coordinator, where we aim to communicate the processes involved and our rationale behind the authority decision-making. NLC are currently undertaking feasibility studies and awaiting a building warrant decision which is being carried out through TSNL (the building owner) on the proposals for the rear access to the community hall and conversion of the modular space. An update will be provided as these works are progressed.

5. Why has NLC not identified the need for a review/consultation of Stepps Primary School catchment area which would mitigate capacity pressures arising from the Gateside Farm, Stepps development?

It should be noted that the Gateside Farm development is within the Housing Land Audit and is accounted for within the current school roll projection. There is no requirement to review the school catchment area at Stepps Primary School in relation to this development.

6. Why was a speculative volume house building appeal permitted (by DPEA Reporter) when there were unresolved infrastructure issues and capacity at Stepps Primary School?

The Council is not in a position to explain decisions made by an independent DPEA Reporter. The Council can only reiterate that planning permission was initially refused, leading to the Appeal, and provide a link to the [Decision Letter](#) for Appeal PPA-320-2118, which stated that permission was being granted “*subject to conditions and the completion of an agreement under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, or some other suitable agreement, to secure financial contributions towards the provision of education infrastructure and affordable housing*”.

7. Why is there no clear guidance/explanation available from NLC in relation to a catchment area review for the Dunlop Streets?

When these houses were constructed, they were within the boundary of Glasgow City Council. These houses have always been zoned to Glasgow City Council and Glasgow City Council Schools. As they were not part of North Lanarkshire, and as they were not zoned to North Lanarkshire Schools, no contribution was provided to North Lanarkshire in relation to the school estate or indeed any other provision. Over a number of years, the residents thereafter approached the Boundary Commission to have this area move into North Lanarkshire. Again, the action and result were out with the control of North Lanarkshire Council. Whilst the residents are now zoned to North Lanarkshire, there is no spare capacity to accommodate them within the local schools. It should be noted that this is the case across many local authorities with pupils being zoned to schools not within their local authority boundary. As such the position within this local area is far from unique. However, it is offered that North Lanarkshire Council, whilst receiving no capital funding to mitigate the impact of the boundary change, is looking to identify provision within the local area. To that end, North Lanarkshire Council are seeking approval to proceed with a Statutory Education Consultation through 2023 to realign the school catchment area to include the Dunlop Grove Estate. If approved the consultation process will begin and relevant stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in the consultation process.

8. What is the rationale behind postponing mitigation measures until the housing development at Gateside Farm, Stepps is complete?

Answered in Question 5.

9. Why did NLC permit major house building and increased population growth across Ward 5 which:

(i) Brings significant pressure on the delivery of education infrastructure; and

(ii) Cannot be supported because the necessary education infrastructure and space is not there to accommodate the increased number of pupils presenting?

10. Why is NLC not implementing an “infrastructure before development” approach?

Taking 9 & 10 together. Notwithstanding the substantial costs incurred directly by the Council in providing roads infrastructure surrounding links to the M73 Junction 2A and the realignment of the A752 as the first phase of the Community Growth Area, housing development within the Area has been Regional and Council Policy since the mid-2000s, having been endorsed by three Strategic Development Plans’ Examinations and two Local Development Plan processes since 2006. Planning permissions include specific measures to ensure that the education and infrastructure improvements that are directly required as a result of this development can be delivered. As outlined at Q3 above, developers are required to contribute (and have been contributing) towards the cost of such by way of secure legal agreements. In Gartcosh, contributions have been being taken in relation to planning permissions granted. The recent statement regarding the identification of a site after lengthy and complex negotiations involving several parties means that work on design, speeding up the provision of a new Gartcosh Primary School with a capacity of over double that of the existing school (from 188 – 434), along with Additional Supports Needs and Nursery provision, as well as community facilities. With regard to Stepps and the A80 corridor, it is noted that the Council has consistently refused planning permission for housing and the DPEA decision letter stated that schools’ capacity had to be mitigated through the application of similar secure legal agreements as to that delivered for Gartcosh. That said, regarding the specific permission granted on Appeal, the required legal agreement covering education contribution has not been completed as yet. However, the Council is working towards new build being the appropriate solution and contributions will be taken on that basis accordingly.

11. Why has NLC strategic management allowed education infrastructure and delivery across Ward 5 to reach an urgent and acute stage?

It is offered that the council did not approve the new housing in Ward 5 which has put additional pressures on the education estate. This was approved by Scottish Government Planning Reporters, following refusal by North Lanarkshire Council. These pressures however must be managed, and the council is and will continue to manage these pressures. The council has effective modelling processes in place to manage school provision. There are two factors however that the council cannot control:

- Placing requests – whilst the council can refuse placing requests, these can subsequently be approved at appeal - and this has happened in most years at Stepps PS, putting further pressure on this school.
- Housing allocations – both planning and education agree that there is adequate provision of housing within the Northern Corridor area and no further housing is required. Again however, this can be appealed to Scottish Government and the latest house approvals in this area have been via this external process.

It is hopefully recognised that the current position is that the council is looking to mitigate places within Ward 5 and solutions are being worked on at present which are outlined in question 1.

12. Why is there no indication that a catchment area review/ consultation will be carried out across Ward 5?

As answered in Question 5 and Question 7 North Lanarkshire Council are seeking approval to proceed with a statutory education consultation for schools within Ward 5.

13. The capacity of the schools in the Northern Corridor Area to meet the needs of the children in their locality in particular with reference to the increasing housing that has been and is still being built.

Across all schools in North Lanarkshire, the council looks at influencing factors that can change the school rolls. Particular attention to the assessment of emerging housing identifies those schools where it is anticipated that pupils will be generated by housing allocations (programmed up by the current Housing Land Audit and Local Development Plan), Denominational/Non-Denominational Split and Pupil Product Ratio. A summary of those schools within the Northern Corridor experiencing issues around capacity and the mitigation measures being introduced is enclosed below:

- Chryston Primary School will open in the summer of 2023 to accommodate 509 pupils. It is anticipated that the school roll will peak and then start to decline. The school is designed that spaces can be repurposed and utilised for other areas of the community in the long term.
- Chryston High School has a planned extension to increase the capacity and will also house an Early Years facility. Work will begin on this project in 2023.
- Stepps Primary School has recently been redeveloped and additional capacity created through 3 additional classrooms.
- St Barbara's Primary School is under construction within the Annexe building which will add 4 additional classrooms to the capacity.
- Gartcosh Primary School – The council is committed to replacing the current school, new site has been identified and a NLC is seeking approval to proceed with a statutory education consultation this year.
- St Joseph's Primary School – No capacity issues and can be managed by placing requests.
- Auchinloch Primary School can be managed by placing requests.
- All other schools have no capacity issues.

This information is summarised with further capacity details in the table below:

School	Capacity	Planned Capacity	Roll	Projection	Note
Chryston High School	996	1422	933	1354	New Extension planned
Chryston Primary School	317	509	368	459	New School opening in 2023
Stepps Primary School	450	450	407	424	
Gartcosh Primary School	188	434	238	422	New school planned
St Barbara's Primary School	242	342	223	330	4 Classroom upgrade in construction
St Joseph's Primary School	246	207	206	214	Can be managed through placing requests
Auchinloch Primary School	100	100	95	105	Can be managed through placing requests

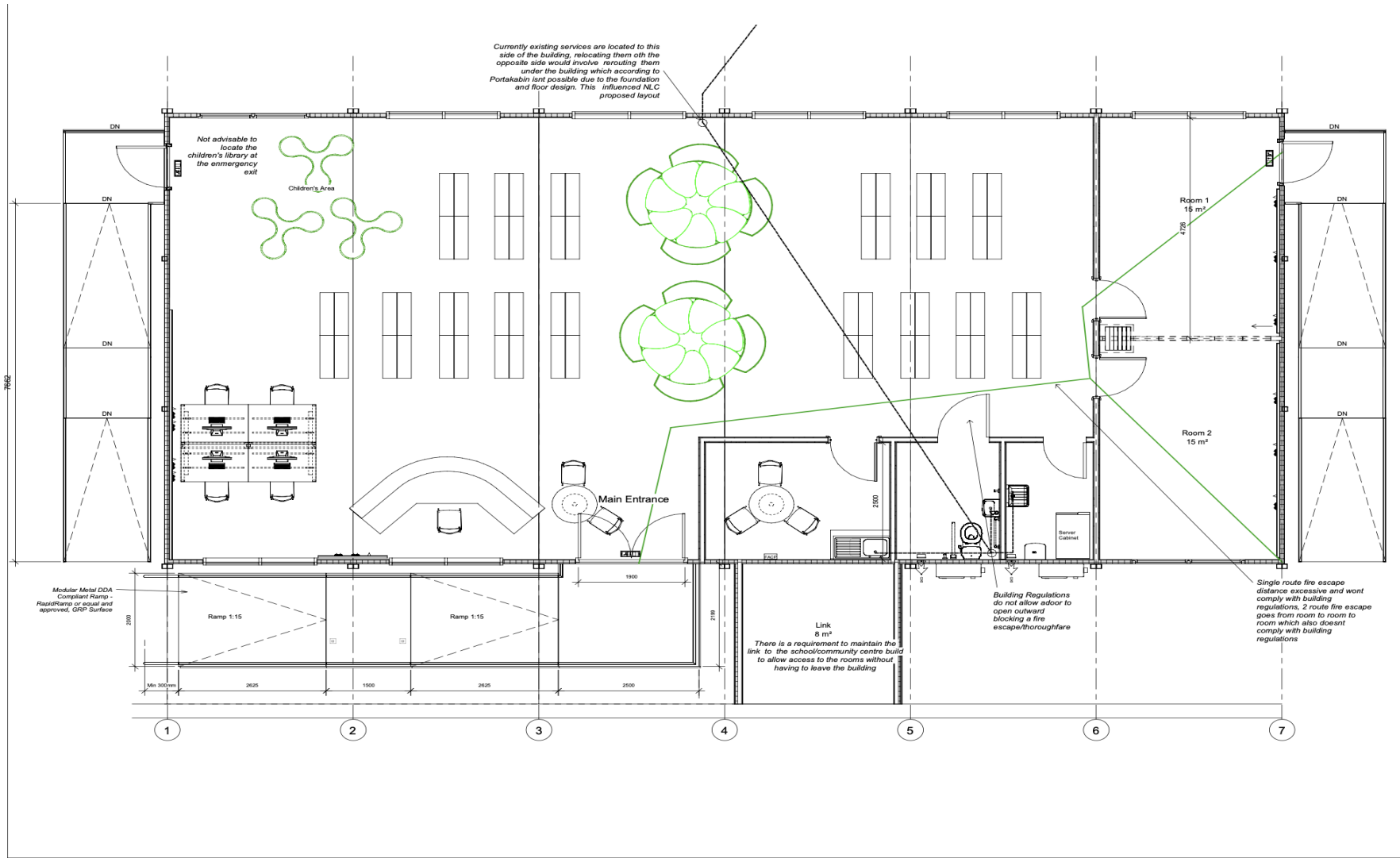
- 14. The boundaries for the schools reflecting the boundaries of the local communities so that children are able to attend their local school and not one in another local authority area.**


North Lanarkshire Council are seeking approval to carry out a Statutory Education consultation to rezone the catchment boundary of schools in the Northern Corridor. If approved this will take place throughout 2023.

- 15. And specifically the resolution of issues around school provision in Gartcosh.**

Land for the school site has now been purchased and NLC are seeking approval to proceed with a Statutory Education consultation that will take place throughout 2023.

APPENDIX TWO – STEPPS LIBRARY PUBLIC GROUP SUGGESTED LAYOUT



Letter		Date		Contents	
Revisions					
Purpose of Issue					
		ENTERPRISE & COMMUNITIES ASSET & PROCUREMENT SOLUTIONS Civic Centre, Woodhall Street Glasgow G4 0TW ML1 1AB			
Job Title		Proposed Stepps Library 10 Belhelm Avenue Stepps			
Drawing Title					
Public Group Suggestion					
Drawn		01/24/23			
Author		EFP2019			
Drawing No.		Rev.		Date	
AL(5)06					

APPENDIX THREE – RESPONSE FROM WILLIAM COLLUM ON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TRANSITIONS SURVEY

(Questions are in bold, responses are in normal font below)

There is no indication that this is specifically for parents or families of children with ASN. There is one question on the survey about ASN. Therefore, we remain unclear if this is the case.

The proposed new transition policy will apply to all pupils across North Lanarkshire including those with additional support needs.

What is the 'Transition Workstream'?

The purpose of the Transition workstream is to review current policies and practice across educational establishments in North Lanarkshire with a view to developing a new "Transitions Policy for Education" to bring equity to transition experience. The aim of the workstream is to make recommendations to North Lanarkshire Council, Senior Leadership Team by providing a coherent policy to support planning for all children and young people within North Lanarkshire.

Who is on this, where can we find information on this?

This workstream consist of professional officers across Education and Families.

What is the relationship between the Transitions Workstream Group and the Parental Involvement Team?

This is a separate work-stream.

Are parents sitting on the Workstream Group?

This workstream consists of professional officers across Education and Families, but we are keen to listen to the views of all parents and carers in NLC.

What role are parents playing in the development of the transitions policy?

Stakeholder views are now being gathered via a group call questionnaire to all parents in NLC.

What role are children and young people playing in the context of UNCRC and GIRFEC?

The views of young people who have experienced transitions within education are being gathered via their representative group (Pupil Council).

What role is scientific evidence/ research playing?

As above- This workstream is officer led consisting of professionals across Education and Families.

Can we clarify that they are not governed therefore by ELC setting policies? Do ELC settings have transition policies?

ELC have their own arrangements governing transitions.

What role do Private, Voluntary and Independent ELC settings have in this, and childminders? Do they have different procedures.

Partner providers are supported by North Lanarkshire Council and therefore will be included in agreed arrangements.

What/ where are the National Guidelines on Transition?

How can we determine what needs to be improved if we don't know what the current National or local procedures are?

The Additional Support for Learning (Changes in School Education) Scotland Regulations 2005 and as amended (2017)

We have no idea how many parents have already completed the survey.

The survey is currently live and was issued to all parents/carers in NLC. This information is therefore not easily available at this time.

In order to avoid parents feeling undervalued, or that they wasted their time in completing the survey or that their individual views and experiences don't matter, what message should we now send out to parents to reflect that only one response per Parent Council is required?

All parents/carers have now been issued with the questionnaire, and have the ability to express their individual comments/concerns as appropriate.

Can advise what parents should do who do not want to disclose their views and experiences directly to the Parent Council?

As above, a questionnaire has now been issued to all parents/carers across NLC

Many parents prefer a survey because it is anonymous, how will you seek out the views of those parents who wish to be anonymous?

All submissions will be treated in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

What will happen to the contributions that parents have already submitted via the survey form?

The deadline for submission is tomorrow all submissions up to and including this deadline will be fully considered

Could we have an overview of the role of the Continuous Improvement Officers role in the transition policy?

The Continuous Improvement Officer is leading this piece of work

We are unsure why a view has been taken that one response per Parent Council is now requested? Can this be explained?

As above, a questionnaire has now been issued to all parents/carers across NLC.