



STEPS PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL AGENDA



Monday 24th April 2023

Agenda item	Minutes	Decision	Action
Welcome and attendees	<p>Lorraine Kerr, Chairperson, Parent Diane Delaney, Secretary, Parent Lynne Blair, Treasurer, Parent Louise Laing, Parent Angela Power, Parent Mr McKeever, Head Teacher Miss Ritchie, Teacher</p> <p>Lorraine welcomed Miss Ritchie to tonight's parent council meeting and thanked her for joining us.</p>	N/A	N/A

Apologies	Susanne Ryan, Parent Emma Dalziel, Parent Corrine Booth, Parent Mrs Ewens, Principal Teacher	N/A	N/A
Headteacher's report	<p><u>School Capacity – Children and Young People</u></p> <p>Mr McKeever was happy to provide an update on current projected numbers for the next school term. However, he advised that it is likely that these numbers will change as a result of late placement requests coming in.</p> <p>As it stands 50 new P1's are registered to attend for the new sessions.</p> <p>There are currently 8 placement requests. At the moment Mr McKeever has no information about the age/ stage of school these requests are for therefore, until this is confirmed Mr McKeever can only project classroom set ups for the session.</p> <p>Mr McKeever is hoping that by the end of May all numbers will be confirmed including outcome of placing requests. However, as mentioned earlier, there may still be late placement requests.</p> <p>Discussion about the impact of the new houses being built behind beside Garfield Hotel. Over the next year, new families will be moving into these houses with the likelihood of increasing placing requests/ transfers across all age groups.</p>		

Mr McKeever advised that some placing requests in relation to the new housing estate are currently being required to ensure that the postcodes are aligned to the zoning of Stepps Primary School. Mr McKeever also advised that there has been a couple of requests come in where the postcode is so new that it has not been recognised by the system determining catchment schools.

Mr McKeever confirmed that on top of the new P1's there are new students joining the school across P3, 4 and 5.

The Parent Council have noted their concerns through discussions about school capacity over several years. Concerns were reduced with the creation of 3 new classrooms to the school with school capacity increasing. However, given the new houses being build, there are concerns once again that capacity will be reached very quickly. The concerns relate to what happens when the school reaches capacity before all of the new houses have been sold/ people moved in.

School Capacity – Staffing

Mr McKeever confirmed that as it stands, staff numbers have not increased despite the school capacity increasing. Parent Council noted concerns about this.

Mr McKeever confirmed that the local authority is currently looking at placements for newly qualified teachers and he is currently unsure whether one will be allocated to join the school. Nothing confirmed as yet. This post would have to

be funded by the school and at present there is no budget to cover this

Lorraine asked Mr McKeever whether it was correct that schools are having to cover the recently approved wage rise for any teachers employed via PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) from their PEF budget this year. Mr McKeever confirmed that is the case. Stepps Primary is not impacted because our PEF allowance hasn't been used to employ any teachers since it is not of a sufficient amount to do so. Questions were asked by members of the parent council about the appropriateness of using PEF money in this way. Members were unclear why the local authority do not have responsibility to pay for enough staff members to allow schools to function. Mr McKeever confirmed that PEF can be used this way.

Mr McKeever advised that the formula for staffing is based on class sizes. Therefore P1-3 tend to have more teachers because there are small classes. P4 – 7 have less teachers due to more children in the class. Again, members of the parent council highlighting that smaller classes and more teachers would be better in meeting pupil needs.

Mr McKeever updated that three staff members have now returned from leave and the school community have welcomed Mrs Ewens back in her new position as Principal Teacher.

Mr McKeever advised that there will be a vacancy next year, he confirmed that neither he, nor the school have any say on new staff members being transferred into the school to fill

	<p>this vacancy because the teacher will be redeployed from a school that has additional staffing due to a fall in school roll. The parent council notes that this is disappointing given that other authorities recruit staff to suit their school community.</p> <p><u>Class structures for next term</u></p> <p>Mr McKeever confirmed that it is likely that there will be 15 classes next term, with one composite (probably p1/p2).</p> <p>Mr McKeever will aim to confirm all information with children and families before the end of school term. However, if more placing requests are received and/ or additional teaching staff are provided, this may change these structures.</p> <p>Mr McKeever confirmed that projected school capacity by August 2023 is approximately 424. The current school roll is 412. Maximum capacity is set at 448.</p> <p>Again, concerns noted that there is no doubt that the new houses will bring far more children and young people into this school catchment area and the impact this will have on them and everyone if the school is at capacity.</p> <p><u>Inspection from Education Scotland</u></p> <p>Mr McKeever advised that he has received a confidential initial/ draft report from the inspection. He cannot share the details of this until the report is finalised, agreed, and published.</p>	<p>Mr McKeever will update the school community on new class structures/ teachers for next term before school finishes for the summer</p> <p>Diane/ Lorraine will continue to liaise with local councillors about concerns regarding school capacity impacts</p>	<p>Information expected in June</p> <p>Diane has written to all three local councillors for Ward 5 and the constituency MSP about concerns raised in PC meetings as well as the issues raised by the parent forum via the recent survey.</p>
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	<p>Mr McKeever confirmed that 8 inspectors were involved in the inspection with 2 dedicated to inspecting the nursery. There was also a lay inspector speaking to children, young people, and families. Inspection lasted 3 days.</p> <p>Everyone agreed that the inspection process was a positive experience for the school, albeit it was a very busy few days for staff members.</p> <p>Mr McKeever suspects the report will be published in 2-3 weeks' time.</p> <p><u>P7 Residential</u></p> <p>Miss Ritchie was a staff member supporting the P7 residential and reported that it was an overall success with everyone having fun. Mr McKeever confirmed that everyone was really pleased with the experience with lots of positive feedback. This has been the first P7 residential in quite a while.</p> <p>Positive elements of the experience were based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lots of different opportunities/ experiences for the young people to explore - 4 days (rather than 5) - Physical Education type activities but with access to really good resources, equipment, and support <p>Mr McKeever advised that the young people were excellent representatives of the school whilst away too.</p>	<p>Inspection report likely due in May 2023</p> <p>P7 Residential planning for next session will begin soon</p>	<p>Report received, good and very good gradings.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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	<p>As a result of this success, Mr McKeever confirmed that this will be looked at again for next session. Given the cost is an important consideration, 4 days is also more cost effective. Starting planning early will give parents the opportunity to pay up the costs for this too.</p> <p>Suggestion from a parent council (PC) member for P7s to present their experience to the current P6's to help them understand what to expect for next term. Mr McKeever said this could be organised.</p> <p>Another question from PC member about the possibilities of paying up the costs online as well as in person – perhaps using the parent portal. Mr McKeever confirmed that Mrs Gibson will be looking into this, and will be working with Chryston High School to see how they use the online system.</p> <p>Mr McKeever confirmed that payment of the recent P7 residential was in cash or cheque with parents paying money incrementally and this been recorded/ receipted.</p> <p><u>20 mph Consultation Blenheim Avenue/ Cumbernauld Rad</u></p> <p>Mr McKeever reminding us of the current consultation on suggestion to make both roads a 20-mph zone.</p> <p>Short discussion resulted in unanimous agreement from PC members on this issue given the volume of traffic and young people commuting to school on foot, bike, scooter.</p>	<p>Mrs Gibson looking at online payment options for parents/families at Stepps PS. Will update</p> <p>Lorraine will share consultation link on Twitter via the PC account</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p>
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	<p>Concerns continue most days about the behaviour of drivers within and around the school community.</p> <p>Drivers continue to park around the roundabout at school pick up and drop off times. Drivers' area also double parking and sometimes triple parking at the front of the Community Hub part of the school estate, making the area dangerous for everyone in the location. Despite repeated attempts from Mr McKeever to advise of the dangers of these types of driving behaviour, it continues most days.</p> <p><u>Class Trips</u></p> <p>Mr McKeever confirmed that on the back of recent discussions from the parent forum about the reinstatement of school trips (since Covid lockdowns), he is delighted to announce, trips will go ahead before the end of term.</p> <p>Mr McKeever advised that the biggest barrier to school trips are costs associated with paying for the school bus. Costs in the region of £400-500 per bus. Mr McKeever advised that he is grateful to the PTA who have agreed to subsidise (£5 per child) some of these costs in order to reduce costs to parents. The school will also make a contribution but even with both the cost of the trips are still likely to be £10/11 per child.</p> <p>Families will be able to pay up costs of day trips if required. Plans are currently being made and will be announced as soon as possible. Mr McKeever will be seeking volunteer support from the parent/ carer community too.</p>	<p>Lorraine will submit a response to this consultation on behalf of the PC</p> <p>School trips will be announced soon</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
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	<p><u>Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)</u></p> <p>Mr McKeever advised that the school has been allocated the same amount as last year £48,600</p> <p>He will consult with the parent forum about priorities for the use of this budget.</p> <p>This year it was used to fund a teaching support assistant and Barnardos. Mr McKeever would be keen to continue both given the critical role both are playing in supporting specific needs of the school community with positive outcomes.</p> <p>When asked Mr McKeever advised that Barnardos input has been deemed a success. In terms of their work with parents, the uptake was low probably due to the workshops being held during the day. Suggestion from PC member that Barnardos meets with the parent council to consider options to reach out to parents/ carers.</p>	<p>Mr McKeever will consult with the parent forum on the priorities for PEF spending.</p> <p>Mr McKeever will suggest to Barnardos that they speak directly to the PC about engagement with the parent forum.</p>	<p>Awaiting</p>
<p>School Works Update</p>	<p>Mr McKeever confirmed that he has no updates about ongoing works within the Community Hub,</p> <p>Lorraine updated the meeting of her ongoing attempts to Communicate with NLC about the community hubs on</p>		

	<p>behalf of the PC and collaboratively with Stepps Community Council. Lorraine advised that the reality is that there have been no real updates since December 2022 despite emails being sent in February, March, and April. The only information being conveyed is that there are feasibility studies being undertaken at the moment. The department declined to meet face to face with the PC and community council also.</p> <p>The PC are concerned about the lack of transparency, information and effective two-way communication about the community hub, library, and the impact on the school estate. In any other situation, with a private partnership, a service level agreement would be in place with expectations around timescales and work. The department have provided no information on any of this.</p> <p>As a result, both the PC and Community Council are dissatisfied. This has been communicated consistently and repeatedly over several months now not only to this department, Education, but also to our MSPs and local councillors. It appears that no one is able to provide the information required to the PC, neither are they able to support the PC in its efforts to collaborate with the local authority on these issues.</p> <p>The PC are frustrated and disappointed that the Community Hub is lying empty. As it stands there is no spaces in Stepps that are free and accessible to community members (provided previously via the library). Furthermore, given the size of the school community it is</p>	<p>PC will await update from NLC in May before deciding on further action.</p> <p>PC will continue communications with MSP, MSP and local councillors</p>	<p>Diane has written to all 3 local councillors and MSP re concerns about multiple</p>
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	<p>absurd that Mr McKeever is not able to make use of this empty space whilst the feasibility studies are ongoing.</p> <p>Diane and Lorraine met with the Secretary of the Community Council last week to discuss what further action can be taken. Our conclusion was to wait for the update in May 2023 and consider action thereafter. In the meantime, the PC will continue to liaise with local councils, MSPs and MPs on the issue and encourage everyone in the parent and wider community to do the same.</p> <p>Lorraine also advised that the PC are still awaiting representation and support from elected political representatives due to the unresolved issue in relation to communications received from the head of education (North) Mr McLaughlin last year. This was in relation to an email sent to the Secretary of the PC. The email contains information that is incorrect, misleading, and also offensive to parents/ carers in terms of the language, tone, and content. Given that the PC already have two formal complaints that were not upheld regarding the same issues. The view was taken that local councillors running the Council should get involved. As it stands, this appears to be a challenge for them. We initially sought support from MSP Fulton MacGregor and Cllr Josh Cairns (SNP) on this last year. Therefore, 6 months later we are still awaiting a resolution on this. Cllr Cairns has stated that he is initiating communication with Mr McLaughlin to arrange a meeting to discuss this email. We are aware that MP Steven Bonnar is also willing to support the PC on this issue too.</p>	<p>representing Stepps</p> <p>PC will await outcome of Cllr Cairns requesting meeting with Mr McLaughlin</p>	<p>issues including this</p> <p>Awaiting update</p>
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	<p>Diane also updated that she had reached out to MSP Monica Lennon (Scottish Labour) in relation to some work that she had been doing on children's rights in relation to food/ mealtimes in schools. As a result, Diane wrote to Monica asking about children's rights in NLC in relation to food choices, mealtimes, and spaces. Diane also asked about the specific issues in relation to the size of Stepps PC dining room given the volume of children now attending.</p> <p>MSP Lennon forwarded Diane's email to Mr McLaughlin who responded answering all of the questions (attached at the end). Mr McLaughlin advised that information will be provided to both the school and the PC before the end of the summer on the issue of the dining room.</p> <p>MSP Lennon has also agreed to visit the school and meet with the PC. Diane to arrange this.</p> <p>Mr McKeever confirmed today that he has had no information about the dining room from the local authority.</p> <p>We discussed that previous proposals had been made about creating outdoor pods into the school playground to allow children and young people to eat outdoors. The PC have never been consulted on this and would oppose it on the basis of already inadequate space in the playground for the children to get out. If the local authority is also proposing to expand the playground to accommodate outdoor pods, this is something we would like to discuss.</p>	<p>Date for MSP Monica Lennon to visit the school and meet PC members to be arranged for May</p> <p>Awaiting information from Mr McLaughlin on issue with dining space (before summer)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Awaiting</p>
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	<p>Creating pods without increasing the playground would be disastrous in terms of opportunities for the children to run about and play given that there will be approx. 425 children in that playground by the end of the summer.</p> <p>Again, the PC convey their disappointment at the lack of effective two-way conversation on these matters, lack of collaboration and partnership from the local authority in engaging with the PC in relation to views and contributions about how to improve school life for children, young people, and staff.</p> <p>Another option that could be considered is that the dining room is extended. There is space to the back of the dining room that would permit it. Again, this would reduce the size of the playground, however, given the space behind the dining room there actually isn't much opportunity for children to play.</p>		
<p>Housebuilding/ Dunlop Consultation</p>	<p>Diane advised that Louise (who had left the meeting by this point) had queried February 2023 minutes regarding information recorded about zoning of houses on the Dunlop estate. Minutes had recorded that children and young people in Dunlop would be zoned to St Joseph's and Stepps Primary School. Diane had recorded this information as a result of previous information being conveyed via Community Council / Community Board meetings.</p> <p>However, since the last PC meeting, NLC has issued a consultation to the community on the rezoning of the Dunlop</p>		

	<p>estate. Information now stating that young people will be zoned to Chryston schools.</p> <p>Lorraine and Mr McKeever also advised of ongoing confusion over the catchment schools for the new Garfield estate. Most recent communications are indicating that all children living in the new Garfield estate will be zoned to Stepps or St Josephs.</p> <p>Given the ongoing confusion. The PC will write to Andrew McPherson asking for clarity for both housing estates.</p>	<p>Lorraine will write to Mr McPherson for clarity on catchment schools for Dunlop and new houses at Garfield Hotel</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Parent Council Communication - survey</p>	<p>Lorraine apologised for the late dissemination of the parent forum survey. This was due to the school inspection and the school bus and transitions surveys being issued by the authority.</p> <p>Lorraine advised of 56 responses so far.</p> <p>Lorraine provides a brief overview of some of the responses so far</p> <p>Most people aware of the PC 1 person didn't know that the PC exists 16 don't think PC are visible 26 didn't know we had twitter Social Media preference is Twitter 1st and Facebook 2nd There are some not using social media too</p>		

	<p>Lorraine advised that the comments are suggesting some confusion around the roles of the PC vs the parent teacher association due to comments on fundraising spending and activities. Lorraine will share this information with the PTA chair.</p> <p>Other issues that parents raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need better transitions arrangements <p>The PC have raised this issue via the parental involvement officer previously and will raise again on behalf of the parent forum. The consistent issue from families relates to the late timing of starting transition processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need play based learning P1-P3 <p>Mr McKeever advised that NLC have not rolled out training for all teachers on play-based learning and without this and the resources to support this type of learning it is a challenge to implement.</p> <p>Mr McKeever advised that as a team they continue to try to develop practice around this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More outdoor play <p>Mr McKeever advised that next term, the school community should see an increase in outdoor learning opportunities. Lots of planning already under way for this including a loose</p>	<p>PC to write to William Collum again about transitions issues. Raise with local councillors also.</p> <p>Raise issues with local councillors in terms of how parents can get involved in policy change, staff training to improve outcomes for children and young people</p> <p>Lorraine to write to Peter McNally (NLC Community Development</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Diane has written to local councillors and MSP</p> <p>Completed</p>
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	<p>parts session. Staff are seeking guidance to develop and improve outdoor play.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food portions <p>We discussed food/ mealtimes, especially given the recent response from Mr McLaughlin on children's rights and mealtimes.</p> <p>Mr McKeever confirmed that the catering team are instructed to issue food to children as described on the menu and they will not accommodate specific preferences. For example, if a child does not like peas, this cannot be accommodated, the catering team are instructed to put the peas on the child's plate.</p> <p>PC members agreed that this does not appear to align with children's rights on the information conveyed by Mr McLaughlin.</p> <p>As a result, the PC will follow up on this and feedback to back to MSP Lennon on this issue.</p> <p>Discussion about how to help the parent forum see the work of the Council. Suggestion that we could have a regular section in the school newsletter.</p> <p>Minutes of PC meetings will now be put on the school website. Any parent can ask for copies of the minutes at any time</p>	<p>Partnership) to get an update on the development of the outdoor classroom in the wooded area beside the school</p> <p>Diane will feedback to MSP Monica Lennon on children's rights/ food</p> <p>PC to update parent forum in the school newsletter – discuss possibilities of this with Mr McKeever</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Need dates of when the newsletter is circulated</p>
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	<p>The survey closes next Tuesday. PC members will arrange a meeting to discuss and analyse findings and report back to next PC meeting in June.</p> <p>Lorraine also added in that NLC are currently engaging in a curriculum review.</p> <p>Diane also added that there is currently a consultation on play and outdoor spaces in NLC. Diane has been informed that the school playground can be included in any comments that children, young people, and families want to make about this space. Mr McKeever has already shared this via the school Twitter page.</p>	<p>PC to meet to discuss/ analyse parent engagement survey to plan response and action</p> <p>PC will feedback to next PC meeting on survey results</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>Parental Engagement Work Group (NLC)</p>	<p>Lorraine updated the meeting on ongoing work with NLC Collaborative work with William Collum Parental Involvement Officer for NLC.</p> <p>Only PC chairs are permitted to attend these meetings where information is provided via NLC on issues that they deem to be relevant/ important to parents.</p>		

	<p>Lorraine also volunteered to be part of a parental engagement strategy working group. The purpose of this group is to create a new NLC parental engagement strategy.</p> <p>Lorraine advised that there are only 4 parents on this group, despite the size of NLC, how many primary and secondary schools there are.</p> <p>Lorraine advised that attendance to the NLC Collaborative Group has now reduced significantly from between 40 and 70 members to approx. 25 members. This is because the parental involvement officer has restricted attendance to PC Chairs. This is likely had an impact on the number of volunteers for the parental engagement strategy group.</p> <p>Lorraine advised that there was discussion and attempts made by PC members in NLC to write sections of the new strategy. However, William agreed that he would write a draft of the new strategy and the working group would comment / feedback on this.</p> <p>Eventually the new strategy will go out to all PC groups for comment before the final copy is agreed and published.</p> <p>Next meeting to discuss the draft following today's meeting is 15th May.</p> <p>Lorraine advised that creating the new parental engagement strategy has been interesting and a challenge. She advised that she has been hearing about mixed experiences across NLC about the different relationships that PC chairs have with Head Teachers and that there are some difficulties and</p>	<p>Next Parental Engagement Strategy Meeting is 15th May</p>	<p>Completed</p>
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	<p>tensions in some schools. Therefore, having the parental engagement strategy will be helpful for clarity for everyone. However, the main issue for PCs across NLC is about how local authorities are held to account regarding their roles and responsibilities within the Parental Involvement Act 2006. Lorraine has raised several times on behalf of the PC that the main gap in practice regarding the legislation is that there are no parents/ carers sitting in the Education and Families Committee within the Council. Many local authorities across Scotland (e.g., South Lanarkshire, Edinburgh, Scottish Borders) have parents sitting on their committees and some of them like South Lanarkshire Council permit parents to vote on these committees. The PC has engaged several times with local councillors and the education convenor on these issues without any success. Cllr Cairns (SNP has agreed to put forward a motion to the Council on introducing parents/ carers into the committee as part of discussion/ participation on all matters regarding education and families.</p> <p>Lorraine also updated the meeting following her discussion with Willie Collum tonight that he had met with the Scottish Parental Involvement Network (SPION), and they updated that the Learning Together Policy document currently being reviewed has been delayed. This is due to the parental engagement officers in the Scottish Government being moved to another department, Current contact for SPION officers is Dr Beverly Ferguson at Education Scotland who is taking the lead for now on parental engagement matters.</p> <p>Lorraine also advised that Willie Collum confirmed that NLC were remain associate members with Connect. This is in</p>	<p>Await update from Cllr Cairns on motion to Council</p>	<p>Completed – Motion submitted and will be held on 22nd June 2023</p>
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	recognition of the support offered to PCs in having membership with them.		
Minutes of the last meeting – for approval	Louise had queried information about the rezoning of the Dunlop estate. Agreed that the minutes were correct at the time of writing, taking account that there is still no clarity on this. PC will follow up	Lorraine will write to Andrew McPherson for clarity of zoning/ catchment areas for Dunlop and the Garfield new estate.	Completed
Correspondence	MSP Monica Lennon Cllr Josh Cairns MSP Fulton MacGregor Catherine Sweeney – re Connect Training William Collum – PIO Peter McNally – Community Partnership Officer Kerry Tierney – Partnerships and Projects Officer (Asset and Procurements/ Enterprise and Communities Stepps Community Council via Alice Morton and Sameeha Rehman Education Scotland, HMIE Inspection Team NLC Collaborative Parent Group		
AOCB (Any other competent business)	PC noted significant concerns if the school bus were to be removed due to the number of children using the bus (currently 100). Removal of the bus may increase vehicles in the school estate. This is already a significant issue.		

<p>School bus consultation/ Transitions consultation</p>	<p>Lorraine confirmed that the bus from Stepps to Chryston High School will continue.</p> <p>The transitions survey was issued but there has been no communication or work with PCs in NLC about this survey. Transitions are a major topic of interest to parents. This PC has raised it previously and will raise again with the PIO and Councillors.</p>	<p>Awaiting outcome of both consultations</p>	<p>Transport consultation ended and report available.</p> <p>Rezoning consultation ongoing.</p> <p>Transitions survey analysis ongoing.</p>
<p>Community Council</p>	<p>The Community Council are looking for new members. More information https://www.steppsc.com</p>		
<p>Rights Respect Committee (RRC)</p>	<p>Diane updated the meeting that she is a member of the schools Rights Respecting Committee. The committee is working to achieve the Silver Award. The committee is engaged in lots of work in helping the entire school community not only understand what children's rights are, how to uphold them.</p> <p>Diane suggested that there is an excellent opportunity for the RRC to work with the PC to try and help share the learning about children's rights further.</p> <p>Everyone agreed that this would be a good idea.</p> <p>Diane commended the work of the committee.</p>	<p>RRS invited to present to the PC</p>	<p>Dates/ planning required</p>

<p>Newly Created Path</p> <p>Parent Council Finances</p>	<p>During the Easter holidays a new path has been created within the school estate but in the woods. Mr McKeever is unclear of the purpose of this path. The PC will follow up to enquire</p> <p>Lorraine advised that William Collum confirmed tonight allocated funding from the Council to PCs in NLC</p> <p>Primary school £478 plus 23p per pupil</p> <p>Secondary school £328 plus 23p per pupil</p> <p>(Less because there are more pupils)</p> <p>Lorraine advised that it appears impossible for the PC to access money allocated to us. Mr McKeever also advising that he is unable to access information to see what money is in the account.</p>	<p>PC to write to local councillors to enquire about purpose of the path</p>	<p>Completed – Lorraine</p>
<p>Removal of NLC Grade 9 early years workers</p>	<p>The meeting finished at 9 p.m. and this item could not be addressed within the meeting. However, Lorraine sent an email to all PC members advising that all parents should be encouraged to write to local councillors outlining our concerns and opposition to the decision to remove Grade 9 workers from the ELC workforce.</p> <p>Lorraine has also voiced her concerns to Mr. McKeever on this too.</p>	<p>All parents are encouraged to write to local councillors and MSPs to</p>	<p>Completed</p>

	In terms of the role of the parent council in relation to recruitment/ employment/ contractual matters for ELC workers, there is no legal remit. However, the PC can voice our opposition of the Council's decision on this and support the workers in their campaign to ask the Council to reverse this decision.	outline their opposition and concern about the removal of this grade from the NLC ELC workforce.	
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Next Meeting Monday 5th June 2023 p.m. at Stepps Primary School

Minutes completed by Diane Delaney 25th April 2023

APPENDIX

COPY OF RESPONSE FROM MR MCLAUGHLIN REGARDING EMAIL TO MSP MONICA LENNON (SCOTTISH LABOUR)

Diane Delaney asked MSP Monica Lennon if she could find out the following:

1. ALL children in primary schools in NLC are involved in decision making regarding the food provided to schools? If so, how?
2. ALL children in primary schools in NLC have a say on when they eat lunch and have their snacks? Can you share the details of this?
3. ALL children in primary schools in NLC have a say on where they eat lunch?
4. Can you also advise how the work of MSYP, members of the youth forum and other representative groups for children and young people directly links to outcomes for individual children in primary education?
5. Can you respond specifically to repeated concerns about the inadequate size of the dining room in Stepps Primary School and requests from the Parent Council for 5 yrs. now to address this?

RESPONSE FROM MSP MONICA LENNON BELOW

From: Lennon M (Monica), MSP <Monica.Lennon.msp@parliament.scot>

Date: Thursday, 13 April 2023 at 14:17

To: Diane Brisbane <dianebrisbane@hotmail.com>

Subject: RE: Scottish Youth Parliament Recommendations and North Lanarkshire Council

Dear Diane

Thank for your patience. I received a response from North Lanarkshire Council on 11 April. I have provided a copy below for your review.

I will be happy to meet with you discuss it further. If it is helpful, the meeting could take place at Stepps Primary if that is convenient and practical. That would allow me to see the dining hall and meet with other parents/staff if helpful.

My diary is already quite full for the rest of April, so if there are dates and times that work for you in May/June, please let us know. I am usually in Parliament Tuesday to Thursday.

Best wishes,

Monica

Sent on behalf of Gerard McLaughlin, Chief Officer (Education – North)

Dear M. Lennon.

Please accept this response on behalf of your constituent who wrote to you asking how North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) is currently, or planning to, incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into practice. Your constituent is also keen to understand how the work of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) will be implemented in schools to ensure the voices of young people are centred in decision making.

To enable me to answer your enquiry I have collaborated and sought information from colleagues across the Service and the response below outlines my findings. To ensure clarity in our response we have provided an answer to each of the questions individually.

1. Are all children in primary schools involved in decision making regarding the food provided to schools? If so, how?

NLC's menus are created centrally, to ensure options available comply with appropriate nutritional guidelines. Children can select from a choice of hot and cold menu options. Our pre order system is designed to ensure children get their first choice. The menu is changed weekly and has a 3-week rotational cycle. In addition to this, theme days are incorporated to highlight current events within the school curriculum. Schools share the menu options using social media platforms so parents/carers can discuss menu choices with their child. The menu is also shared via the Council website.

When new menu choices/options are introduced or the menu has been refreshed, the catering staff offer taster sessions for pupils to encourage them to try new options and to provide feedback.

Periodically, pupils also have the option of completing a survey to provide feedback re. menu options etc.

2. Do all children in primary schools have a say on when they eat lunch and have their snacks? Can you share the details of this?

It is normal practice for children to eat their snack/lunch at designated times i.e., playtime and lunchtime. This structure protects teaching time and enables children to enjoy the social benefits of eating snack/lunch with their peers, at the designated times. It also allows the school to ensure they comply with appropriate supervision requirements at playtime and lunchtime. All children can drink water, at any time, throughout the school day. Notwithstanding this,

if a child ever expressed feeling hungry or thirsty in class, a staff member would respond appropriately, ensuring the child or young person received something to eat/drink.

3. Do all children in primary schools have a say on where they eat lunch?

Individual schools identify one or more area within the school where children can eat their lunch, normally within designated dining room areas. Specific arrangements can vary between individual establishments depending on the space/facilities available and local arrangements. For example, some schools allow packed lunches and school dinners to eat in the same area, others offer different spaces for children with packed lunches. Some schools allow school dinners and packed lunches to eat together but operate a staggered lunch break, with infants and seniors eating at different sittings. Specific lunch time arrangements are managed by individual school headteachers in consultation with catering staff. Almost all schools, allow children to eat lunch outside if the weather is appropriate and supervision ratios support this. Children also have the option of going home for lunch.

4. Can you advise on how the work of MSYP, members of the youth forum and other representative groups for children and young people directly links to outcomes for individual children in primary education?

Within North Lanarkshire, there have been key developments regarding United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). As part of the current Children's Services Partnership Plan, areas of good practice have been highlighted. We have also identified key areas to build upon in the Children's Services Plan for 2023/ 2026.

Key highlights include.

- The co production of the #Makeitright Campaign launched during COVID restrictions. This is still visible via social media, boards and Council Offices, throughout North Lanarkshire. A follow up project is ongoing whereby our young people are co-producing Peer Education materials and support sessions to be delivered by young people to other young people. This will be ready for release by the end of the year.*
- Community Learning and Development (CLD) has led on staff training to raise awareness of UNCRC. This training will now be shared with young people and families.*
- Members of the Children's Services Partnership have used national guidance to develop a Children and Young People's Well Being Impact Assessment that will be included as part of every paper being presented to Committee, from the 1st of April 2023.*
- As part of the Community Boards and Local Outcome Improvement Plans, there has been an increase in the number local youth forums, from 6 to 9, to reflect the community planning process. Young People from the local youth forums are supported to participate in the Community Boards by CLD Youth Workers.*
- FutureNL is another new development. This is a transformational Board where young people represent their local youth forum, meeting with a cross party group of elected members, to share their experiences and influence key decisions affecting young people.*

North Lanarkshire Young Scot pages highlights the different ways that young people can get involved in having their voices heard via [North Lanarkshire – Young Scot](#). Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament in North Lanarkshire are currently working with the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) to campaign on

the Right Food, following a survey carried out with young people across Scotland. Here is a link to the recommendations for decision makers [RTF Recommendations \(syp.org.uk\)](https://www.rtf.org.uk).

In addition, North Lanarkshire MSYPs and young people from the local forums have a meeting planned with Derek Brown, Depute CEO, to review the findings from young people in North Lanarkshire, who completed a consultation on Education Reform. 25% of respondents to this survey were from North Lanarkshire, facilitated by YouthLink Scotland.

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament can be contacted directly through their MSYPs emails as well as through our local CLD teams. CLD teams regularly engage with, and promote, community-based opportunities within primary schools, especially at the key transition stage of P7/S1. Information on the local youth forums can also be accessed on the link above. The Children's Parliament also offers a range of materials and resources that may be suitable for the children within a primary school context. [Children's Parliament: Children's human rights, participation & engagement \(childrensparliament.org.uk\)](https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk)

As part of the Rights respecting School's programme, a number of schools are proactively working with all stakeholders to embed the rights of the child (UNCRC) throughout all aspects of school life.

5. Concern about the inadequate size of the dining room in Stepps Primary school and request from the Parent Council to review this.

We are currently reviewing the dining room capacity within Stepps Primary School. Further information in relation to the outcome of this review will be presented to the head teacher and Parent Council, before the summer break. At present, the head teacher has identified and is utilising another area within the school for children with packed lunches to eat their lunch. This arrangement can be supported in terms of space available and adult supervision ratios. The head teacher has also advised that children have the option of eating outdoors when weather and supervision

I hope this information is of assistance.

Kind regards

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For updates on my period dignity campaign, please visit www.periodpoverty.scot.
