

EDUCATION LEADERS FORUM

INAUGURAL MEETING – 5 FEBRUARY 2018, NEWBATTLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, MIDLOTHIAN

The first meeting of the Education Leaders' Forum was held on Monday 5 February at Newbattle Community High School in Midlothian.

Agenda

- 13.00 Welcome and introductions by Deputy First Minister
- 13.15 What's great about Newbattle Community High School – by Headteacher, Gib McMillan and Newbattle school pupils
- 13:40 Workshop 1 – Closing the Attainment Gap – delivering excellence and equity: Presentation by West Dunbartonshire Council followed by discussion and feedback
- 14.40 Networking break – tea/coffee
- 15.00 Workshop 2 – Renfrewshire Parents in Transition – an integrated approach to improving outcomes: Presentation by Renfrewshire Council followed by discussion and feedback
- 16:00 Summary and Close

Welcome and introductions

In opening the meeting Mr Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills, welcomed everyone and thanked the members for agreeing to participate in the Forum. He also thanked the school for providing the venue, the school brass band who played in the lead up to the start of the Forum and the pupils who were delighted to be involved in the discussion sessions.

Purpose of the Education Leaders' Forum

The Forum members noted the purpose of the Forum.

What's great about Newbattle Community High School

The head boy and head girl from Newbattle Community High School welcomed delegates to the event before handing over to the schools senior leadership team who gave a short presentation. They spoke of how the school is at the heart of their community, the new Campus being built which will provide the first Digital Centre of Excellence in Scotland. They gave an overview of their effective use of Pupil Equity Funding, how they pooled a percentage of PEF allocation to their Newbattle Learning Community; how they worked collaboratively with the community and

focused on three main priorities: parental engagement/family learning; health and wellbeing, emotional and mental health and; attainment with a specific focus on literacy. This focus has contributed to the increase of children/young people taking up free school meals and clothing grants, more than 400 children being supported over the Christmas holiday period and the appointment of Home School Practitioners who have engaged with over 140 young people and families.

Workshop 1 – Closing the Attainment Gap – delivering excellence and equity: presentation by West Dunbartonshire Council followed by discussion and feedback

This workshop was presented by Michelle Diamond, Head Teacher, Our Lady of Loretto Primary School and Linda Booth, Head Teacher and Jean Morrison, Depute Head Teacher, St Peter the Apostle High School. The presentation focused on delivering excellence and equity within West Dunbartonshire, the key drivers for success and the various programmes West Dunbartonshire have put in place to help achieve this. Following the presentation the discussion groups were asked to consider from nine key drivers for excellence and equity what they would prioritise in order of importance and then to select their top three. From the top three drivers they were then asked to choose one specific driver to discuss and provide three successful strategies for taking this driver forward. The nine key drivers for success were:

Vision & Values	Engaging Young People	Data Rich
Collaboration	Professional Learning	Parental Engagement
Innovation	Leadership	Sustainability

All responses were gathered and a review of the feedback received is underway.

Workshop 2 – Renfrewshire Parents in Transition – an integrated approach to improving outcomes: Presentation by Renfrewshire Council followed by discussion and feedback

Peter MacLeod, Director of Children’s Services, Renfrewshire Council introduced this workshop. He advised of the approach Renfrewshire has taken to improving outcomes for children and young people by engaging more families in learning. They have introduced a Parents in Transition programme, with the rationale behind it being to work towards a collective approach in order to make their schools easier to reach. They are quickly moving to the ultimate goal of collective impact on parental engagement. Wilma Leburn and Zoe Inglis, Development Officers from Renfrewshire Council followed up with a short presentation on their programme and asked delegates to work in groups to consider three points based on the statement below:

“We have one third sector partner working with us at the moment. Working with more external partners is the next step in tackling wider social/community barriers that influence family engagement for learning”

- Q1 - WHO are the key partners able to offer a pipeline of support for this development?

- Q2 – *WHY* would they be included?
- Q3 – *HOW* can we align resources and what challenges might there be with this?

All responses were gathered and an overview of key points and emerging themes is attached.

Summary & Close

The Deputy First Minister thanked all for their attendance at the first meeting of the Education Leaders' Forum, the school for hosting and the pupils involved in the discussion sessions. He welcomed feedback from the Forum to help to inform future events and to consider what current topics and issues would be discussed going forward. The next Education Leaders' Forum is scheduled for later in the year and full details will be provided in due course.