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From: Mailer-Daemon@scotland.gov.uk [mailto:Mailer-Daemon@scotland.gov.uk]

Sent: 16 May 2005 21:22

To: Parental Involvement Bill

Subject: Parentzone Making the Difference Questionnaire

Response from the Parentzone - Parental Involvement questionnaire

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Responding as: An individual

Individual: Yes

Confidentialiy: Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Behalf of groups: Yes

Sharing responses / future engagement: Yes

Question 1: No.

I consider that current arrangements to encourage parental involvement are more than adequate. Dundee Council actively encourages this, as do the schools.

Any lack of parental involvement, is, most likely, due to parent apathy, rather than lack of effort on part of the Education Authorities.

Question 2: No.

We are overburdened by strategied already, and their preparation only serves to take resources away from teaching.

Question 3: Education Authorities, currently, have robust systems in place to plan, develop and improve the provision education - monitored by HMI.

Question 4: No.

Whilst accepting that School Boards were set up by a Tory Government with self-governing schools in mind, I see no reason why the current situation cannot be fine tuned to meet the (apparent) difficulties caused bt the election process etc.

School Boards are all inclusive ie parents, staff, pupils, local community representatives and councillors. Parent Forums only make this optional.

How will Education Authorities cope with a number of very different parent groups??

Question 5: No.

Any body that is worth serving on, deserves some type of appointment arrangement. I would support making the election system more flexible, such as wider powers to co-opt.

PTPA's have no formal elections yet still struggle to get parental support.

The basic problem, as in many walks of life, is that few people are interested in 'being involved'.

It will always be left to a few parents to keep these groups going.

Question 6: No.

Current legislation should be retained with detailed changes.

Question 7: No.

Current practice allows Boards to work together.

Question 8: No.

If this legislation does come to pass, then authorities will have to do this.

If apathy rules at the moment due to the election process, how can you expect to expect parents to get to grips with preparing Constitutions!!

Question 9: NO.

See above!

Question 10: No.

The Scottish Executive talks about inclusion, yet is prepared to abolish a forum which currently includes parents, staff, pupils and others.

More parents being allowed on Boards would address this issue far more easily.

Question 11: No.

Question 12: Yes

Question 13: Rights of attendance as currently provided should endure.

Question 14: Broadly yes, but better to address this through amendments to existing legislation.

Question 15: Broadly yes, but again we do not need new legislation to bring this about.

Question 16: Yes

Question 17: Yes.

Existing arrangements are adequate.

Question 18: Yes

Question 19: No.

Current arrangements appear to be quite adequate.

Question 20: Yes.

Question 21: N/A

Question 22: No.

Current procedures seem to be quite satisfactory.

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