

# REPAIR (Edinburgh) Newsletter

Robust Engagement with Parents for ASN and Inclusion Reform



## Update

### Holiday Hubs

The Consultative Committee with Parents (CCWP) met on 21 January on Teams. Elected members, officers, Hub providers, and parents/carers came together to discuss the future of the Hubs.

There was a lot of talk about where in the Council the service should sit: under Education or Social work. However, this decision needs to be made internally, after which the Council will come back to us in another meeting – date not set.

Officers are to decide how the Hubs will be delivered and feed this back to the ECFC as quickly as possible.

There will be no significant change in the budget. Allocation letters for places on the summer Hubs will be sent out from 5 February, following the budget-setting Finance Committee on 4 February. If an extra £100k is agreed, recruitment will begin for 2 members of staff to manage the Holiday Hub service.

It was clear that elected members across the parties support funding the Holiday Hubs and have a good understanding of the issues.

You can view the webcast here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ccwp2101>

## Information

### Acronyms

The City of Edinburgh Council uses a lot of acronyms and specialist terms. Here is a handy guide to a few of them:

CEC – City of Edinburgh Council. Responsible for services in many areas of our daily lives, including education and family support.

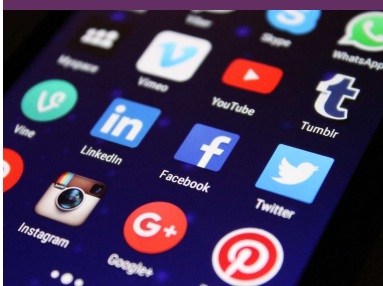
CEJS – Children, Education and Justice Services. The department responsible for education and family support, headed by Amanda Hatton.

ECFC – Education, Children and Families Committee. A small group of councillors chosen by each party who meet every couple of months to discuss and vote on policies affecting our children and their schools. Anyone can watch, in person or online: <https://tinyurl.com/cecefc>

IR – Inclusion Review. A review leading to a proposal to restructure Inclusion services, including Additional Support for Learning (ASL). See page 2 for more!

SW – Social Work. The department currently responsible for Holiday Hubs.

Next time: Acronyms used in schools!



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All our Social pages can be found here: -

<https://linktr.ee/repair.edinburgh>



**Any Education Questions**

This is your chance to put questions to Senior Leaders in Edinburgh Council about what is happening in education.

Grassmarket Centre,  
86 Candlemaker Row,  
Edinburgh

Tuesday 4 February, 19.00 - 21.00

**REGISTER HERE**  
[AnyEducationQuestions.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/AnyEducationQuestions)

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Update

## Inclusion Review (IR)

This review aims to restructure staffing, and thus delivery, of several of the Inclusion services which are part of Education. Most notably for our families, it proposes localising the Additional Support for Learning (ASL) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) teams, moving them to learning communities (local clusters of schools).

Although there were town hall meetings and a survey last spring, families were not given a chance to point out issues with the detailed proposals, and so we brought our deputations. These led to round tables where Lynne Binnie, Head of Education (Inclusion), explained her proposals to parent council representatives and answered many questions (the second will be on 27 January. Contact your parent council to see if your school is participating).

Members of the REPAIR steering group also met with Lynne and several councillors to talk about our vision for inclusion and the need to codesign policies with the families directly affected. They explained that the review aimed to address longstanding human resources issues, not to reduce services. It was an open and constructive discussion, described by one CEC officer as the “best parent meeting” he had attended. Lynne agreed to clarify:

1. How the proposed structure will ensure the “support and challenge” function of the ASL team
2. How school management and staff will be upskilled regarding inclusion
3. What the new vision and method for parental engagement will be

We will keep you updated!

Information

## Why bring a deputation?

If you think there are problems with a policy being discussed by the Council or one of its committees, you can speak directly to councillors through a deputation.

Members of the steering group made deputations to full Council and then to the Education, Children and Families Committee late last year calling for more consultation on the Inclusion Review. There were also deputations on Holiday Hubs, leading to the recent Consultative Committee with Parents (see page 1).

Deputations are an important way of sharing our lived experiences and ideas with decision-makers. They are not as scary as they sound, and we’ll give more information about bringing deputations in a later newsletter, or you can always contact us.

However, they address issues at a relatively late stage. Better parental engagement earlier on should reduce the need for deputations, and so we formed REPAIR.

Information

## Useful dates

Budget-setting Finance Committee: 4 February  
 Education, Children and Families Committee: 25 March  
 CCwP: 26 February (*Postponed*)  
 Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP) on Holiday Hub: no date set  
 Mainstream Parental Engagement Meeting (*Previously Locality*): 5 March  
 Special School Parental Engagement Meeting (*Previously SS Locality*): 11 March  
 Full Council: 6 February, 20 February, 20 March  
 Culture change Working group: no date set  
 Inclusion Review report sent to ECFC: mid-February for 25 March meeting

“We shouldn’t have to fight to have the correct support in place.”

Steering Group Member