

## About the Parental Involvement Field Team Projects.



### Background

In November 07 all local authorities in Scotland were invited to submit projects to the Scottish Government. The focus of the projects was to improve parental partnerships in accordance with the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) 2006 Act. These projects were to relate to the three areas identified in the Act:

- parental representation
- learning at home
- home school partnership

The field team are involved in the projects between March 08 and March 09.

### Aims of the field team

By participating in the projects the field team is working:

- To support early years establishments, schools and local authorities in developing practice in parental involvement
- To gather information about parental involvement from a variety of people, including parents, and settings
- To identify interesting practice
- To disseminate interesting practice within local authorities and nationally
- To develop thinking on themes, including communication, transition, support for learning at home, and A Curriculum for Excellence
- To develop links with other national policies and initiatives
- To create resources which will support the development of parental involvement

### The projects

The projects are varied in content and structure to provide a rich source of information. The process being followed by the field team is:

- Stage 1: Discussion of projects with clear actions and outcomes identified  
Completion of Project Overview Sheet (Appendix 1)
- Stage 2: Implementation of project  
Ongoing evaluation and reflection on success/challenges with stakeholders
- Stage 3: Final evaluation of project and next steps identified
- Stage 4: Dissemination of projects and information gathered at authority and national level

## Participants

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Team member</b>
Aberdeen	Bucksburn Primary	Homework	Looking at changing homework format to reflect current educational initiatives. Have surveyed parents, and held "taster" evening with Adult Learning, Health Promotions, Numeracy and Literacy workers	Laura Fowler
	Sunnybank Primary	Homework	Activity club to be run by parents, CLAD and school staff. Parent and child choose from different "clubs" eg Explorer, Investigator, Special Interest, etc "Club" runs for 4-6 weeks then changes	Laura Fowler
	Northfield Academy	Communicating with parents	PC to set up a parents' website, separate from the school one, but linked. Will contain PC news, school info in a less formal format.	Laura Fowler
Aberdeenshire	Meldrum Primary	Homework	Are developing an authority "Bags of Books" initiative further to use as homework. Bags include "Science Sacks" and Puzzle Pockets"(maths) which child uses at home over 6 week period.	Laura Fowler
	Rosehearty Primary	Communication	Engaging parents through cookery classes, bulb bags to grow at home, and making a DVD around the life of the school.	Laura Fowler
Angus	Mattocks Primary	Communication	Developing info leaflets to add to "Parent Information File", beginning with an "active learning evening" for parents, which children will lead.	Laura Fowler
	Seaview Primary	Homework	Looking at homework and how they can use this to build better home school partnerships.	Laura Fowler

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Team member</b>
Dundee	Gowriehill Primary	Communication	Setting up a school website with support from PC, local university and business partners.	Laura Fowler
	Charleston Primary	Homework	Involving parents in reading to/with their children, through book bags, library visits, in school initiatives.	Laura Fowler
	Ancrum, Longhaugh, St Fergus Primaries	Homework	Have sent out same survey in each school & will collate replies before implementing new homework ideas pertinent to own school.	Laura Fowler
Moray	Buckie High	Communication	Responding to parental survey, school introducing parent helpers in some depts, making dvd of school day to use at transition, using parents' skills in school events.	Laura Fowler
	Millbank Primary	Communication	All pupils to be involved in making a film about the school and it's local environment. Involves all parents, a film company & the community, responding to wish of parents for more info about the school.	Laura Fowler
Dumfries and Galloway	Hecklegirth Primary	Family Learning	Exploring different cultures to foster better community relations. The project will culminate in a 'celebration of diversity' event organised by a working group made up of parents and staff.	Lorraine Fisher
	Johnston Primary	Communication	P6 class will work on active learning activities and demonstrate the skills gained to their parents. This will open up dialogue between the school and home on how best to support the children's learning.	Lorraine Fisher
Renfrewshire	Clippens School	Supporting parents at home	Staff are working with partner agencies to support parents who are finding their children's behaviour difficult to manage. Through home visits and observations in community settings strategies are tailored to meet the needs of the family.	Lorraine Fisher

Local Authority	School	Project	Detail	Team member
	St Mary's Primary	Communication	A resource will be developed for EAL parents who are new to the school. The aim of the booklet will be to make families feel welcome and give them access to essential information in their first language.	Lorraine Fisher
Glasgow City	Knightswood Secondary	Supporting Learning at home/ Communication	A working group of staff, parents and pupils are developing various approaches to involving parents both at home and in school. Workshops around homework and development of online resources are well underway. The group are also planning after school family activities.	Lorraine Fisher
	Holyrood Secondary	Communication	Working with partner agencies to develop support for parents in managing their children's behaviour. This project is still at the planning stage.	Lorraine Fisher
South Ayrshire	Queen Margaret Academy	Communication	In partnership with the adult literacy and numeracy service the families of EAL children will be surveyed in order to assess need.	Lorraine Fisher
	Heathfield Primary	Communication	The parent council are hosting an evening event to introduce Curriculum for Excellence to the parent forum and to share how the home supports learning.	Lorraine Fisher
North Ayrshire	Greenwood Academy	Supporting Learning at Home/ Communication	Families will be invited to participate in workshops with their children. The aim is to share with parents ideas and tips around how they can support their children's learning at home.	Lorraine Fisher

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Team member</b>
North Ayrshire (con)	St Winnings Primary	Supporting Learning at home/ Communication	Various initiatives throughout the year which support learning at home. These include maths games going home from P1-P6 for blocks of six weeks and a class book for P1-P3 where the parents and children make a joint contribution.	Lorraine Fisher
East Renfrewshire	Mearns Castle High	Communication	Members of the parent council aim to develop the school website as a resource for parents to support their children's leaning at home.	Lorraine Fisher
Argyll and Bute	Achaleven Primary Easdale Primary Lochnell Primary Dunoon Primary Kirn Primary Rhu Primary Cardross Primary Gigha Primary Lochgoilhead Primary	Active Learning	Authority have formed a learning community where schools share ideas and then individually develop parental involvement in active learning. Parents are involved in supporting the process from the planning stage in each school	Eleanor Jess
Stirling	Bannockburn High	Transition	School is reviewing parental involvement in transition through holding focus groups of P6, P7, S1 parents in cluster primaries. Steering group including parents (and) will then improve transition programme	Eleanor Jess
Renfrew	Renfrew High	Transition/Supporting learning	Parents from associated primaries are working with staff to design events for P7 parents to share information about transition and supporting learning at home	Eleanor Jess

Local Authority	School	Project	Detail	Team member
Falkirk	Denny High	Communication	Series of focus groups are being held with parents on different themes to promote a culture of partnership and parental involvement in Parent Council	Eleanor Jess
West Lothian	Armadale Primary	Transition	Programme for parents of indentified nursery children being developed. Programme develops philosophy of 'Mellow Parenting' with focus on supporting children's learning. Multi-agency working.	Eleanor Jess
	Bathgate Early Years Centre	Grandparents' Group	Steering group formed to increase involvement of grandparents and plan events to promote involvement in supporting children's learning. Multi-agency working	Eleanor Jess
Edinburgh	Portobello High Holyrood High	Communication	Psychological service is working to support schools to develop the use of solution focused techniques in supporting parents in multi-agency meetings	Eleanor Jess
Orkney	Firth & Evie Primary Schools	Communication	Development of a Wider Learning Development (WiLD) Card which would record attainments and progress within school as well as achievements beyond school. The aim is to develop an on-line card which would be accessible to parents, children and teachers.	Lorraine Sanda
Renfrew	Whole authority (GLOW)	Communication	Education Authority along with the Authority Glow Key Contact are exploring how they can set up an Authority wide Parent Council Group on Glow. The project will also consider how parents at school level can most effectively access and benefit from Glow.	Lorraine Sanda
Dundee	Whole authority (GLOW)	Communication	Education Authority along with Dundee Parents Forum are looking at how parents can best access Glow to support learning at home.	Lorraine Sanda

## Contacts

Further information is available from the Field Team:

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For information on the last 2 projects, please contact the national parental involvement coordinator:

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## Conclusion

The information and resources collected, when disseminated, will be used to promote and improve the practice in parental involvement in accordance with the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) 2006 Act.