

COMMUNITY SERVICES
STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 26th August 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors John Allan (Chair), Ian Douglas, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant, Alec Oattes, Robin Reid and Philip Saxton.

Apology: Councillor Elaine Little.

Attending: H. Garland, Executive Director – Community and Children; M. Williamson, Head of Curriculum and Service Improvement, S. Alexander, Principal Accountant; and A. Gerrish Committee Administrative Officer.

1. Items for Call-in.

Decided: to note that no items had been called-in from the meeting of the Leadership Panel on 18th August 2009.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

Decided: to note the Minutes of the meeting of 24th June 2009 (issued).

3. Parents Survey for 2009.

There was submitted a report (issued) of August 2009 by the Head of Curriculum and Service Improvement detailing the results of the Parents Survey for 2009.

The Head of Curriculum and Service Improvement

- (1) tabled a booklet entitled “Parental Involvement in South Ayrshire Schools” a partnership with parents which had been designed to meet the needs of parents/carers and professionals who had an interest in extending parental involvement in children’s education in South Ayrshire; and
- (2) advised
 - (a) that the majority of schools carried out their own survey every year and that HMI also carried out surveys with parents when schools were being inspected by them and that the majority of surveys had been positive;
 - (b) that all schools would be required to carry out a survey this year which would be collated by the Executive Directorate; and
 - (c) that arrangements were being made to hold a Parents’ Conference in October 2009 for raising awareness of changes being made in Scotland’s Schools.

A full discussion took place and questions and concerns were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to surveys and the lack of responses, the distribution methods, the numbers being carried out, resources, analysis and outcomes and the Executive Director – Children and Community and Head of Curriculum and Service Improvement responded accordingly.

Decided: to note the results of the survey and to congratulate the Head of Curriculum and Service Improvement and her staff in moving forward in achieving parental involvement in South Ayrshire Schools.

The meeting ended at 10.35 a.m.