

Sheena welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all parents, children and young people for their resilience in these difficult circumstances. Sheena introduced Mary O'Connor, Dundee City Council representative for National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)

Budget Update (see presentation)

No new savings were required from Education & Children's Service this year and additional funding had been made available for various areas such as Virtual Campus and Support for Educational Recovery.

Return to Schools and Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) – Summer Term (see presentation)

New guidance had been received around the full time return to school of all pupils after Easter. There will be no physical distancing in place for pupils but there will be an increased focus on mitigations and Lateral Flow Testing.

Focus will be on reconnecting staff and pupils, senior phase qualifications and transitions.

Scottish Qualifications Authority Update (SQA) (see presentation)

There will be discussions across PKC and also discussions with Dundee City Council and Angus Council to ensure consistency and working grades will be provided to SQA leading to certification. There will be transparency throughout as young people will be working at a level. The aim is for certification in August and there should be no surprises.

There is currently an [Appeals Process](#) consultation that parents may wish to contribute to.

National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)

[NPFS](#) is an independent voice of parents in Scotland made up of parent volunteers and was founded in 2009 on the back of the Parental Involvement Act.

NPFS has an information series [Nutshell](#) that covers a huge range of topics such as blended learning and online safety. There is a webinar with Public Health Scotland available on [YouTube](#). Further webinars will be available shortly covering Early Learning & Childcare 1140 hours and SQA.

Impact of COVID-19 – Discussion (see presentation)

A lot has been learned over the past year and everyday actions and routines have changed and the impact of COVID-19, especially on education has been incredible.

Across Perth and Kinross we have witnessed outstanding learning, innovation and creativity and schools have developed outstanding approaches to support learning and engagement. Digital learning has developed at a rapid pace and outdoor learning approaches have resulted in a significant number of schools providing daily opportunities to learn outdoors.

Families have worked in successful partnership with schools to promote engagement, provide support for learning and maintain a progression in learning. Thanks to all of you for keeping children and young people engaged though this stressful and difficult period.

Nationally, the [National Improvement Framework](#) (NIF) was released in December 2020 with clear key messages on the priorities for next year. Scottish education will never be the same and the NIF refers to the importance of creating a more flexible and resilient system which can operate well in a crisis and this is an underlying priority through the framework.

The time is right for change and this is the first opportunity to reflect on and re-think our approaches and look at how we go forward. To allow discussion in smaller groups, breakout rooms have been set up to consider key learning from last year, covering Health & Well Being, Learning and Teaching and Relationships.

An overview of the main points of the feedback from the discussion groups is attached.

Sharon closed the meeting by saying the discussion groups had been very positive and discussions with parents will continue. She again thanked everyone for their support and for coming along to the meeting.