

## **Breadalbane Academy Parent Council**

### **Meeting to discuss the Evidence 2 Success Survey with Fiona McKay, Education & Children's Services, Perth & Kinross Council**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
Breadalbane Community Campus**

#### **Notes from the meeting**

The notes from this meeting are presented in a different format to the usual action notes taken at our meetings as the majority of the meeting was taken up with discussion of the findings of the Evidence 2 Success survey.

**Present:** Sarah Kelly, (Team Leader Children and Young People's Services NHS, Perth & Kinross), Jane Kennedy, Fiona Macdonald, (Deputy Chair), David McCluskey, Fiona McKay, (Service Manager, Education & Children's Services, PKC with responsibility for Evidence 2 Success), Caroline Nash, (Chair), Andrew Pointer, Linda Swan (Headteacher), Avril Taylor, Chloe Tisshaw, (School Nurse), Mike Williamson, (Cllr), Karl Wright, Sarah Yearsley, (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Graham Armstrong, Alexa Keen, (Youth Worker), Natasha Morris, Tommy Pringle.

#### **Agenda:**

##### **Fiona McKay, Evidence 2 Success presentation and discussion**

Fiona outlined the background to the Evidence 2 Success, (E2S), survey explaining that PKC were taking a community planning approach and that the whole community, not just school, were involved in ensuring the well being of our young people. PKC want to improve what they offer children and young people and the aim of E2S was to help target investment where it is most needed and can be most effective.

The project was delivered over 2 years. PKC is still working out what the next steps should be following on from the results of the survey.

PKC level data and school level data is now available publicly. The data from some smaller schools is not being shared publicly to ensure confidentiality for the respondents.

More information is available on the PKC website <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/4899/Evidence2Success>

We discussed outcomes of the survey that were of interest more broadly across Perth & Kinross and Fiona explained how PKC will focus on specific developmental outcomes that they will be able to influence. Of particular focus for PKC are the following areas:

- Healthier gestation and birth
- Improved school readiness
- Early academic engagement
- Substance misuse
- Anxiety and depression

We moved on to look at the Breadalbane Academy results in more detail. Some of the parents present expressed their unhappiness with the way that the survey was conducted and the robustness of the research methodology. There was a concern that the issues parents highlighted around the survey and data evaluation methodology

meant that the results were questionable and could not be taken seriously. Fiona McKay agreed to supply a copy of the mathematical model that was used.

Linda Swan explained that the school was interested in the survey results as this was an opportunity for them to look at emerging issues for Breadalbane such as how do we engage young people in school.

One parent was concerned about the discrepancies between the results of the survey on truancy rates in comparison to the school's own records of truancy. We discussed issues such as substance misuse and differences between rural schools' results in certain areas and those of urban schools.

A parent raised a concern over the relatively small sample size of pupils in S4 for example where there are 80 pupils, feeling that a small number of responses could skew the overall picture emerging from the survey in comparison with larger schools in Perth.

There was some concern over figures relating to alcohol use among the older pupils at Breadalbane. Again the school staff present felt that the survey data gave them an opportunity to discuss some of these issues with pupils and to gauge where further support might be needed. Linda Swan pointed out that a lot of these issues, ie around alcohol, substance misuse and relationships are things that are discussed with pupils anyway.

We discussed anecdotal evidence that pupils at Breadalbane Academy may have a lower tolerance around antisocial behaviour than pupils in other school settings and that this could be borne out in their responses to questions about levels of antisocial behaviour. Some of these issues are already being discussed at the Aberfeldy Community Council, with local businesses and with the local police.

Linda Swan and David McCluskey said that they would be discussing E2S with staff at the INSET days on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Fiona McKay said that if PKC undertook a similar survey in future they would handle the pre survey phase better. She couldn't understand why information letters for parents about the survey weren't received as they had all been posted out. E2S was also trailed in the local press. Several parents at the meeting said that they hadn't received the letters and felt that the survey should have been an 'opt in' rather than an 'opt out' survey. Parents were concerned about the question of informed consent. Fiona said that there was no legal requirement for the survey to be opt in.

Linda Swan reminded the meeting that the survey was about the young people's lives outside school as well. Fiona McKay agreed that there can be wider influences than just school on the survey data.

Towards the end of the meeting, one parent did say that we now need to make the most of the data that has emerged for our school and our community.

We had planned to hear from David McCluskey about the school's SQA results but as we had already had a fairly long meeting and robust discussion we decided to postpone this and schedule another meeting.

**Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013, 6.30pm, Breadalbane Community Campus.**