

## Appendix 1 – 29.2.24 (N. Dow)

High-level notes from the Parent Locality Meeting.  
17 people joined the meeting.

- Introduction to Carole McKenzie, background includes working with Primary, Secondary, School Inspector and more recently Head of Education from 2015 until new appointment as Executive Director for South Lanarkshire. SLC is the 3th largest Local authority, 145000 pupils, 140+ schools. Revenue Budget £350m for SLC, significant portion spent on teacher salaries.
- Carole shared team structure, including her replacement, new Head of Education for Clydesdale, Jacqueline Wallace, and her school improvement plan for Clydesdale.
- Priorities for National Agenda reviewed – see slide.
- Main Challenges & Issues -
  1. Finance:
    - a. Not enough money coming in.
    - b. Outgoing costs are higher due to inflation.

This year SLC required to find around £20m in savings.

First survey sent out, and responses reviewed. Results confirmed “education” is a priority amongst survey responders.

2<sup>nd</sup> survey has been sent to MM last Friday, to be sent on to Parent Council for survey on where proposed savings will be coming from.

2. Education reform – are exams fit for purpose? Are the agencies designed to support effective? (SQA and Educ. For Scotland)  
NPFS has prepared a survey, for parents to complete:  
[NPFS follow-up survey on Education Reform \(national bodies: qualifications & assessment\) \(google.com\)](#)
  3. Evergrowing spectrum of complexities of needs- the impact that Covid has had on children and their readiness to learn. Education department doesn’t have all the answers, Cabinet secretary looking at it, some of the needs are disruptive behaviour, particularly in ASN children. Some funding announced, £900k, but equates to pennies when split across all SLC schools (140+).
- Inspections – SLC looking very good – Weekly inspections due to size of LA. Not had 1 follow through inspection since 2015.
  - Primary attainment – Carole will go through this once the data is publicly available.
  - Specific issue raised by one individual regarding Division & Equality / Religious Observance in a specific school. Offline discussion to continue with Des.
  - Regarding funding, Carole emphasised that there is now a need to consider what is a “luxury?” Librarians example given.
  - Cheryl confirmed that the SLC is still waiting for the funding settlement results to share with LA’s.