

**Joint meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Architecture and the Built Environment and the Cross-Party Group on Children and Young People**  
**Minutes of Meeting Thursday 6 October 2005**

**Chair:** Robin Harper MSP

**In Attendance:**

Agnes Mullen (Church of Scotland), Alan Rees (IPA Scotland), Alex Brunel (Alex Brunel Research), Alistair Guild (Cockburn Association), Alison Boswell (Fostering Network), Alison Lowe (Children's Parliament), Alistair Hendry (Architecture and Design Scotland), Ben Spencer (CABE Education), Bill Smith (Ellon Academy), Bruce Adamson (Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People), Cerin Richardson (YouthLink Scotland), Christina McMellon (Penumbra), David Gray (One Plus), Deepika Sharma (Children's Parliament), Dermot Patterson (LDN Architects), Donald Gorrie MSP, Eila MacQueen (Scottish Archaeology), Eileen Gill (Scottish Executive), Elaine Gibb (Greenspace Scotland), Ella Simpson (The Rock Trust), Eugene Mullan (Smith Scott Mullan Associates), Fiona McNeil (jm Architects), Frank Savage (Association of Principle Educational Psychologists), Graham Uren (The Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland), Heather Chapple (Architecture and Design Scotland), Howard Liddell (Gaia Architects), Jack Hugh (EAA), Janet Law (Scottish Out of School Care Network), Jet Hay (Children's Parliament), Jo Robertson (BEFS), John Gerrard (Rural Scotland), John Watson (Barnardo's), Judy Panton (Family Fund), Juliet Wilson (National Playbus Association), Keith Thomson (School Estate Branch, Scottish Executive), Laura Paton (Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People), Lord James Douglas-Hamilton MSP, Louis Fraser (Children's Parliament), Mary Dallas (RNIB Scotland), Mary Wrenn (RIAS), Maurice Frank (Centre for Personalised Education), Mridu Thanki (The Eke-Out Project), Patrick Harvie MSP, Riccardo Marini (City Development, City of Edinburgh Council), Richard Atkins (BEFS), Robert McGeachy (YouthLink), Robin Harper MSP, Rosemary Byrne MSP, Sandy Halliday (Gaia), Shelley Gray (Children in Scotland), Sheona Lawson (Children in Scotland), Suzanne Ewing (Zone Architects), Theresa Casey (IPA Scotland)

**Apologies:**

Arienne Sinclair Chalmers, Anne Crawford (SCALA, Edinburgh City Development), Anthony Sneider (The British Psychological Society), Brian Monteith MSP, Carole Ewart (Children 1st), David McDonald (Cockburn Trust), David Milliken (Home-Start), Dona Milne (Home-Start), Douglas Read (Dignan Read Dewar), Gayle Duncan (ACVO), Harry Philips (Holmes Partnership), Ian Baxter (Glasgow Caledonian University), Jane Colvil (Enable), Jenni Barr (Scottish Division Education Psychology), Jenny Sleeman (BTCV), John Duff (RICS), Kelly Bayes (Aberlour), Marlyn Glen MSP, Pat Little (Penumbra), Sebastian Tombs (Architecture and Design Scotland), Shirley Fraser (NHS)

Health Scotland), Sue Stirling (Scottish Executive), Syd Reeve (Sea Cadets), Tara McCarthy (One Parent Families), Vicki Shaver (International Christian College)

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 Robin Harper MSP welcomed everyone to the joint meeting.

## **2.0 Howard Liddell (Gaia Architects)**

2.1 Howard's presentation focussed on children as designers for the built environment and the importance of listening to children's views. He spoke about the design process for Acharacle Primary School and how children and young people's ideas were incorporated into the design of the school giving them a sense of ownership.

2.2 Howard went on to talk about the Eco-City project and the development of the Children's Parliament through children and young people's involvement in this project.

## **3.0 Children's Parliament, Eco-City project**

3.1 Howard asked the children from the Children's Parliament about their experiences of being involved in the Eco-City project. The children said that they had enjoyed making the model city and making new friends. They said that it is 'very important' to involve young people and to listen to their views as it is their future that is being decided. They also suggested that sometimes children have better ideas than adults.

## **4.0 Keith Thomson, School Estate Branch, Scottish Executive**

4.1 Keith drew attention to the School Estate Strategy, *Building Our Future: Scotland's School Estate*, and said that the strategy covers all aspects of school design. The group watched a video on Queen Ann High School in Dunfermline that was completed under the Private Public Partnership (PPP). Keith said that the Scottish Executive provides guidance to Local Authorities who are responsible for procurement of the schools.

## **5.0 Cerin Richardson, YouthLink Scotland**

5.1 Cerin updated the group on the success of the Create Space conference that was held in September. The conference looked at examples of youth involvement and how best to involve young people.

## **6.0 Discussion**

Janet Law (Scottish Out of School Care Network) asked whose responsibility it was to ensure that designated space for day care/out of school services be included in the design spec. Robin said that it was principally the responsibility of local authorities but that encouragement of what the spec should be comes from the centre. He highlighted the

importance of getting the spec right before any consultation with architects. Keith also added that of the Edinburgh primary schools built under the first PPP, 7 or 8 have dedicated out of school space. Maurice Frank (Centre for Personalised Education) highlighted the importance of ensuring that listening to children and young people is an ongoing process. Cerin Richardson (YouthLink) agreed and suggested there be opportunities for children and young people to evaluate and re-evaluate. Keith said that the Scottish Executive engages on evaluation. He said that most local authorities have signed up to the principle. Robin said that involving children and young people in a process of planning or design should be embedded into the general practice of schools and local authorities. He said that where this happens, the child or young person should automatically gain the right to be involved in evaluation. He suggested involving the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People in this. Robert McGeachy (YouthLink) highlighted the opportunity in the new planning legislation to specify that children and young people should have a say.

Meeting closed 2pm