Garelochhead Community Council
Proposed education model changes response.

We decided in the interests of fairness and balance to keep our consultative process completely impartial, we have not pushed  nor advertised , nor posted any documentation or views that could be construed as biased until we had consulted with our community..

We held a community engagement afternoon and evening on Monday the 27th of February 2-7pm at the Garelochhead Bowling Club

We have liaised with local parent councils ( Garelochhead Primary, Arrochar Primary)

We have spoken at length with residents in our community including parents, retired teachers, students and local business owners.

Findings:

The community unanimously rejects the proposed education model, they find it a complete and utter waste of time and money.

The Garelochhead Community Council has failed to find a single person or organisation who supports these proposed changes.

The proposal lacks any informative detail , there is no real clear evidence to support these changes. It does nothing to address recruitment issues and as it stands will simply add another layer of middle management into a process that needs streamlining not bureaucratic aspirations of grandeur.  We cannot in any way,shape or form, support nor give a level of mandate to such an appallingly scant and hazy proposal with no detail nor local recognition of educational needs.

We ask the Council to scrap the proposals immediately and focus on engagement with communities to address any  issues with recruitment and ideas to improve the education model of Argyll and Bute. We did not encounter a single family that thought the education model needed fundamental change. A tweak here and there ( mostly related to funding ) but not a single voice saying we need anything related to what has been proposed.

Community councils and Parent councils are full of wonderful, hard working people who work in all sorts of different private and public industries. There is a huge untapped resource of experienced , highly capable and very knowledgeable people who could help address issues whilst maintaining the current and successful education model. The community council is dismayed that no attempt has been made to meaningfully engage this resource.

The consultative process as laid out by the Council has been insulting to our community, The community council is staffed by volunteers who already donate huge swathes of their own time to help better our communities.  The notion that we are being asked to do the consultative process on behalf of paid employees of our local council who supplied us with a 16 minute video , a website with a questionably biased feedback form and some poorly put together zoom sessions that were hosted during the working week and did not allow any meaningful debate was considered poor . Most participants were lucky to be able to ask a single question without even being able to ask a follow up . It was infuriating and questionable in its intent, Much like the feeling of the community to the proposed educational changes. They are potentially dangerous and without any merit nor support.

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