

## 24-12 Chair's Report

Welcome, to the new faces.

SAPOE has continued to go forwards and here are few of the key developments.

Welcome and thanks to Ali who has taken the post of Lead Officer, it is a changed role from the Executive Officer post we previously had. So I would like to say many thanks to Neil who took us through a key stage of our development and has been helping and supporting Ali understand where SAPOE is now.

Ali has hit the floor running and you will have seen the newsletters he has been sending out, these are to become a regular feature. Hopefully you find these useful and informative. If you have anything you would like included, please let Ali know because one of our missions is to share best practice.

He is also working on all the back-office functions to improve what is provided to you as members.

He is also keeping track of and making sure we are following our strategy.

He has sent out a members survey it would be great if you could fill it in as it will help us to see where we are as an organisation.

The Exec have continued to engage with Scottish Government, Education Scotland and other bodies to represent your views and ensure we have a strong voice for those we represent. We are represented on Cross Party Groups and steering groups.

We are very grateful Andrew was able to step in and represent SAPOEs views, alongside those of Edinburgh City Council at the Committee stage of the Residentials Bill. The videos of all the evidence are available to watch on the Scottish Government web site.

There is a short-lived group who are looking to create our response to the Curriculum Improvement Cycle which is currently happening, it would be great if you are able to contribute to this please contact Liz or join the WhatsApp group.

If there are any other places you feel we should be engaging, please let us know and if you have any views please let us know.

The Going Out There framework is still being worked on and we have been given funding to continue to maintain and develop this. Thanks to the group for the great work they are doing. If you are able to contribute a small amount of time please contact Des or Liz. This is an incredibly valuable piece of work.

Likewise the Training Team would value some new members to help them continue their great work.

After the tragic accident in the South of England the MAIB produced a report with some very valid points. This has led to the Due Diligence workshop today. Alongside this Neil has been doing some research into Lifejackets and Bouyancy Aids and their use.

Please keep contributing to the WhatsApp Updates as I certainly find them very valuable. If you are not in the group please contact Ali and he will add you.

It is an old saying but I feel it is still valuable to repeat, as an organisation we are only as good as our members and although we are all busy the voice we have grown shouldn't be underestimated. If we want to steer the policy which affects us and our sector we need your help to engage with the policy makers. It isn't a huge commitment but it can have a massive effect.