



Govan Home and Education Link Project

(Formerly Hill's Trust Home School Community Project)

Annual Report April 2010 – March 2011

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Limited Company Number 256657



Foreword from Joanne Aitken, Project Coordinator

During 2010 – 2011 Govan Home and Education Link Project went through a huge period of transition and expansion.

In June 2010 an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) was held to change our name and constitution in preparation for the move to Govan Road Campus in August 2010.

After 13 years our award winning Breakfast Club closed its doors for the last time in June 2010 and thank you to Bryan Montgomery, Breakfast Club Playworker who provided the children with a great programme of games and activities.

We are now settled in the new campus and as the number of educational establishments has increased, the number of families benefiting from our services has almost doubled this year to 142.

In February 2011 the Project said goodbye to Lorna Mackenzie, Play Therapist who has been with the Project for 4 years and has moved onto a new job. Thank you to Lorna for her dedicated work with the children and her help in developing this very worthwhile service.

We were delighted to welcome a new Play Therapist, Keeley Morris, who started in March 2011 and who is helping the Project to develop a wider range of therapeutic services.

Thank you to our funders Glasgow City Council Grants Integrated Scheme administered via the Community Planning Partnership, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, The Kelly Trust, The Cattanach Trust and Children In Need.

The Project has a large number of dedicated volunteers who help out within the schools/nursery, project and management committee. We are immensely grateful for their time and commitment especially as many are parents and staff with additional demands.

Thank you to the Management Committee who supported the Project during this busy year. Particular thanks to Louise Brimelow, Headteacher Riverside Primary and Barbara Ferguson, Chairperson.

Thanks to the Govan Home and Education Link Project staff team who do an incredible job in making the Project the success it is. They include Elaine McCrindle, Anne McGrath and Keeley Morris.

This year we have undertaken an increased amount of joint working and strengthened our links with many local and citywide organisations. We have received extensive support from the Social Enterprise Team at Glasgow Regeneration Agency and are grateful for their ongoing assistance in taking our project forward.

Lastly, I would like to thank the most important stakeholders of all, the families. Their patience is greatly appreciated during this time of growth and change.



Introduction

Govan Home and Education Link Project (formerly Hill's Trust Home School Community Project) is a family education support project.

Established in 1995, Govan Home and Education Link Project is a charity and limited company. The Project is funded primarily by Glasgow City Council Integrated Grants Scheme with additional grants this year coming from Children In Need, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, The Cattnach Trust & The Kelly Trust.

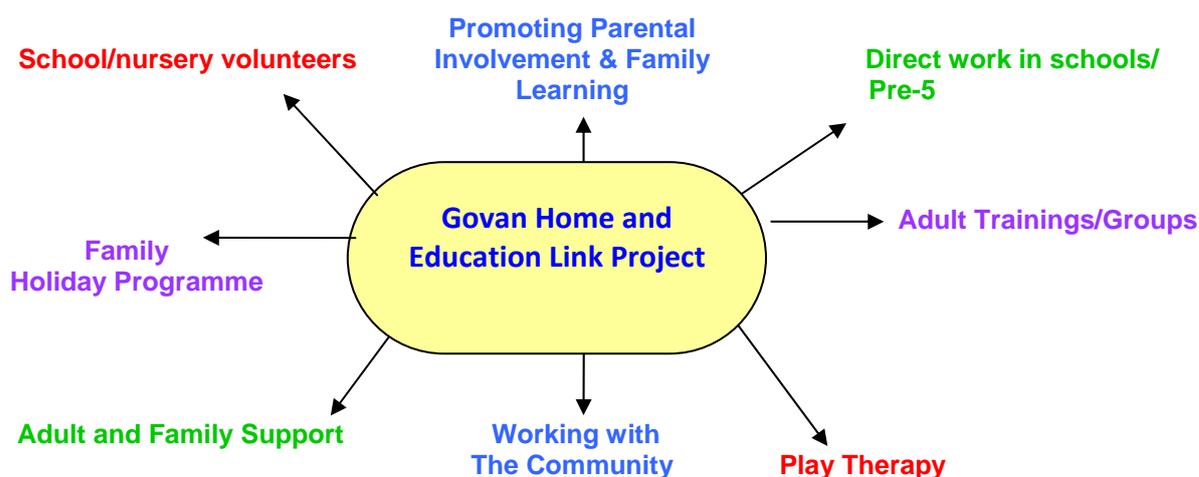
This year the Project offered a range of supports to children and their families attending Broomloan Nursery, Pirie Park Primary, Riverside Primary and St Saviours Primary.

This report will provide an overview of the developments and work undertaken by Govan Home and Education Link Project from April 2010 – March 2011

Aims and Objectives

Govan Home and Education Link Project aims:

“To improve and enhance the educational opportunities and life skills of children and families/carers within Govan Road Campus and Govan Learning Community, through a range of supports and with the development of partnerships between families/carers, education staff and the wider community.”

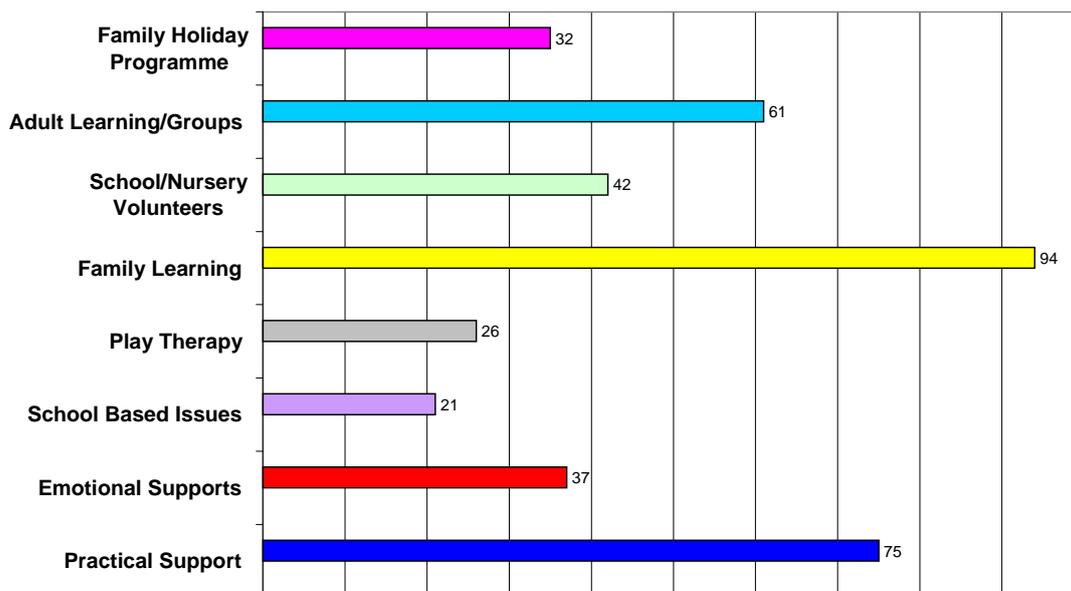


Govan Home and Education Link Project:

- Works directly with education staff, parents/carers, pupils and other agencies offering support with issues such as attendance, behaviour and Additional Support for Learning (ASL).
- Provides a range of parental involvement initiatives.
- Assists primary and nursery schools with their New Entrant Programmes thus supporting smooth nursery and school transitions.
- Offers a range of practical and emotional supports to families on a needs led basis where there are barriers to learning and parental involvement.
- Offers an individual Play Therapy service to children whose early years experiences and traumas are hindering learning and development.
- Delivers individual and group Triple P Parenting Programmes.
- Trains, discloses and supports parents/family members to become volunteer helpers in schools & nursery.

- Delivers a Family Holiday Programme.
- Promotes lifelong learning with a range of training opportunities for parents & family members.
- Runs a parents' support group "Time for Me".
- Links in with local organisations for signposting and referring parents.
- Works in partnership with voluntary and statutory organisations organising community and family groups and events.
- Works closely with education staff, families and other agencies to ensure nursery and school is a positive experience for pupils.

142 families engaged April 2010 to March 2011



Parents Questionnaire June 2010 (35 respondents)

Parental involvement plays a big part in all our activities. How would you rate your involvement in the project – 93% responded *Excellent, I feel the whole family are involved*

Overall, how do you rate the quality of the services we provide – 93% responded *Excellent*

What level of confidence do you have in us to deliver the services we provide – 99% responded *Complete Confidence*

Based on your families experience of the project, how likely is it that you would recommend us to other families in the area – 100% responded *Certain would recommend*

1. Promoting Parental Involvement in Education & Family Learning

The Project recognises that children learn best when their parents are actively involved in their education.

We understand that some parents may themselves have had negative experiences of education. The Project aims to redress this by challenging any negative perceptions and helping parents to see the value nursery and school places on them.

Promoting parental involvement underpins everything that we do and our presence in Govan Road Campus allows the Project to facilitate a number of initiatives in order to achieve this.

Parental involvement can only be achieved by fostering positive relationships with parents, which develop as soon as the child enrolls and develops as they progress through school and nursery.

Project staff take time to get to know families by having a presence at the **P1 New Entrant Programme**. In preparation for the move to the Govan Road Campus in August 2010 the Project Coordinator helped organise the joint Hill's Trust and Copeland programme and presented at St Saviours programme. In addition a visit was made to Broomloan to meet parents with children starting nursery in the campus.

This year the Project took responsibility for the organisation of **Drop In** at Riverside Primary. One afternoon per month and after school, teachers make themselves available for individual and informal meetings with parents to discuss any aspect of the child's learning including progress and behaviour. Both the parent and teacher can request these meetings, which aim to ensure good communication and strengthens home school relationships. 27 families attended Drop In this year.

The Project continued this year to run a **Family Book Club** and this aims to strengthen family literacy and encourage home reading.

"I think the Govan HELP services are worthwhile for parents and children. I have been very happy with the service provided"
Teacher

Individual book bags, purchased by the Project contain a variety of books for babies/toddlers, children, teenagers, adults and all the family. The bags are sent home on loan and via the pupils for 2 weeks at a time.

Before returning the books families are asked to complete an evaluation form providing feedback on the scheme as well as reviewing the books.

Until June 2010, the club ran in Hill's Trust Primary and then in both Riverside and St Saviours Primary once Govan Road Campus opened.

Parent volunteers from both St Saviours and Riverside took responsibility for running the club, with assistance from project staff, and 72 families received individual book bags during the year.

In February 2011 the Project linked with The Village Storytelling Centre to run a 5 week **"Wee Tales"** in Broomloan Nursery. The Village Storytelling Centre sent a storyteller along each week to engage the families in songs, stories and rhymes. The group aims to help children develop their language, vocabulary and imagination. Having parents present also helps strengthen family relationships and parents are encouraged to use the songs and stories at home. The Project organised this initiative and 14 children and their parents attended one or more sessions.

Parental involvement has also been achieved this year through the recruitment of **School/Pre 5 Helpers** within the schools/nursery and through **Adult Training Programmes**, which all help to promote lifelong learning. Both of these initiatives are outlined later in this report.

As well as initiatives within Govan Road Campus the Project links with organisations to provide opportunities for family learning with the wider community. Following on from the success of last years Family Pottery Club the Project linked with Fab Pad to run a **Family Mini Fab Pad** in Govan.

The purpose of the group was to introduce families to Govan Fab Pad. The 12 week programme allowed each family the opportunity to undertake a mini renovation of one room within their home. 5



families started the programme but 2 dropped out after a few weeks.

Activities included making cushions, soft furnishings, canvas art, dry clay modelling and clock making. Each family was allocated £50 by Fab Pad to buy materials for their room design during a shopping trip to IKEA.

In August 2010 Riverside Primary and the Project was approached by Making Things Happen to be involved in a **Medieval Re-enactment in Crookston Castle**, which was being organised in partnership with The Village Storytelling Centre. A storytelling and drama workshop took place with the Riverside Primary P5 class followed by a trip to Crookston Castle. At Crookston Castle families learnt more about the castle's history and took part in arts and crafts, dressing up and medieval entertainment. 20 pupils and family members attended the Crookston Castle trip and the Project advertised the event and mobilised the families to attend.

2. Direct Work within Schools/Nursery

The Project is based in Govan Road Campus which it shares with Broomloan Nursery, Riverside and St Saviours Primaries. Time has been taken to build strong working relationships with pupils, their families and staff

"The Project is unique and excellent and I feel I would not hesitate recommending other families in the area." Parent

As well as organising parental involvement and family learning initiatives the Project acts as **home link**. Project staff communicate daily with the schools/nursery and families to support with issues such as behaviour, homework, timekeeping and attendance. The staff attend regular school based meetings to support pupils with ASN (Additional Support Needs) and their families. Staff communicate directly with Education Liaison Officers to support where school attendance is of concern.

The Project has supported 21 families over the year with specific school based issues.

Parents are important stakeholders in the new campus and we felt it was important that they had an opportunity to view the building, helping them to feel part of it. During August and September 2010 the project organised and facilitated 11 **Campus Tours** attended by 102 parents and family members.

Project staff continue to build on relationships by taking time to greet families in the morning and by helping out regularly in the playground.

3. School/Nursery Volunteers

This year the Project continued to encourage parents/carers to become regular volunteers within school and nursery.

The majority of volunteers are parents and by encouraging their involvement we aim to strengthen home school partnerships. Parents are the best role models to their children and their presence in the school helps motivate children and ultimately raises attainment.

For many parents, helping in the school is the first step in returning to education or employment. Volunteering helps raise confidence, self-esteem and increases skills.

This year pupils' siblings and community volunteers were also recruited.

Volunteers undertake an initial 2 session induction, facilitated by project staff looking at issues including roles and responsibilities, child centred communication and dealing with issues of concern.

All volunteers undertook Enhanced Disclosure, which are administered and paid for by CRBS (Central Registered Body for Scotland). Joanne Aitken is a lead signatory for CRBS.

Volunteers often gather together to share experiences and gain support. Many volunteers have struck up new friendships as a result of their volunteering.

As well as Riverside Primary, for the first time the Project facilitated volunteer helper programmes in Broomloan Nursery, St Saviours and Pirie Park Primary for a total of 23 adults.

This takes the total number of volunteers engaged by the Project this year to 42.

The Project organised thank you lunches in June 2010 and on UN International Day of Volunteering in December 2010.

4. Adult Trainings and Groups

This year, as well as the in-house volunteer helper programme, the Project linked with Cardonald College to provide adult training courses in Govan Road Campus.

Having parents present and learning within the campus sets an excellent example to pupils, who come to understand that learning is life long. There is a high take up of adult courses in the campus and this may be because we have worked hard to make parents feel comfortable and welcome. Parents, who have been out of education for years, often lack the confidence to attend a new learning environment themselves. Courses in the campus allow them a taster of what is available at college and allows them to participate alongside other parents.

This year weekly **ESOL (English as Second or Other Language)** took place attended by 10 parents. This group is invaluable to migrant and asylum seeker families who are often unable to be fully involved in their child's education because their first language is not English.



In addition a 3 week **Emergency First Aid Course** was attended by 11 parents and free childcare was organised for parents, whose children were not in nursery or school.

The Project keeps up to date on the range of learning and employment opportunities available to adults and this year linked parents into organisations including Glasgow Regeneration Agency, Galgael, Fab Pad, The Bridging Project and Glasgow Life.

Through information sharing, the Project helped parents access a variety of courses including adult literacy classes thus increasing confidence, skills, employability and again resulting in better home school partnerships.

Parents are also welcome to use the Project Internet, phone and resource library to gather information themselves on opportunities.

Our "**Time for Me**" **Parents Support Group** continued this year with a wide programme of information sessions, outings and activities. The group aims to bring

parents together for friendship, support and information. The group is of real benefit to parents who are isolated and friendships have developed as a result.

The group takes place during school hours so parents can have a little time free from their children. Childcare is provided free, where possible, for children under 5 who are not in nursery.

The timetable of activities is suggested by the parents themselves. Project staff then organise the speakers, demonstrations and workshops.

Our “Time for Me” activities this year included:



Stress Management

Bus Trip to Pollok Park

Presentation by Govan Money Matters

Pollok Fire Safety Centre visit

Presentation by Cardonald College

Christmas Craft session

WISE Women Self Defence Course

In November and as part of our “Time for Me” programme the Project linked with **WISE Women** to hold a 5-week Self Defence Course.

The Project helped organise this group, organised premises and successfully applied for funding from Strathclyde Police for room hire at the Pearce Institute and any childcare.

“Time for Me” is open to all parents and carers from Govan Road Campus & Govan Learning Community and this year 22 parents participated in one or more sessions.



5. Family Support

The Project understands that issues affecting the family at home can come with the child to school & nursery.

Difficulties in the home and community can adversely affect the child’s learning due to poor concentration, tiredness, and irritability. School attendance and timekeeping can also be affected.

Similarly it is difficult to link parents successfully into school/nursery life, education or employment if they are experiencing family, financial or emotional problems.

The Project therefore offers support to families to ensure that the family is coping to its best ability and the child is freed up to work towards her/his potential within school.

The Projects prides itself on its “open door” policy and excellent relationships with families, which are based on acceptance, understanding and trust.

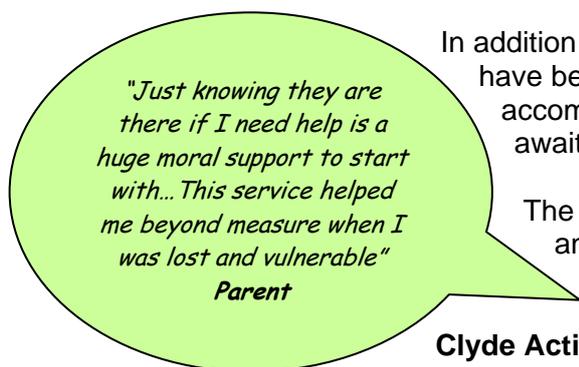
Emotional Support – Parents can drop by for support on any issue. The Project can offer direct support and/or signpost parents to specialist resources within the area or citywide.

This year the Project has also offered emotional support by making referrals and escorting parents to counselling services to help them deal with their own experiences including childhood traumas or relationship issues.

Project staff are not trained counsellors but use listening and solution focussed counselling skills to support parents.

Practical Support – The Project can help advocate on behalf of parents and assist them in accessing services. This includes letters of support to housing associations, help in accessing benefits, training or employment and assistance completing forms. Help with forms is of particular benefit to parents with literacy issues or those whose first language is not English.

The Project also offers support to asylum seeker and migrant families who require assistance integrating into Govan and Ibrox and coping with the challenges of a new country.



In addition the Project supports homeless families who have been placed in temporary homeless accommodation and support is offered while they await permanent housing.

The Project is aware that Christmas is an expensive and stressful time for families, especially those on low incomes. As a result the Project supported 58 family applications, for 109 children, for

Clyde Action Cash for Kids.

A funding application was also made by the Project for the purchase of Christmas Carnival tickets and 11 tickets were distributed to especially vulnerable families who would benefit from a trip out over the Christmas holidays.

Interagency Work - The Project works in partnership with statutory organisations including social work, education, health, and psychological services as well as a large number of voluntary organisations. Project staff liaise on a daily basis with other professionals and attend child protection, planning and review meetings to offer professional feedback and to support families in attendance. Project staff also attend Children's Hearings.

Positive Parenting - Promoting positive parenting is a major feature of the Project. The Project will initiate regular meetings with parents and school/nursery staff to look at the child's behaviour and help develop strategies for consistency between the home & school.

Parents call into the Project office on a daily basis to talk about issues and difficulties they are experiencing with their children. The Project takes time to listen and offers both emotional and practical parenting support.

Having already trained and implemented the NCH programme "Handling Children's Behaviour", this year Joanne Aitken and Anne McGrath both undertook Triple P Level 3 training.

11 families received individual positive parenting support this year.

In 2011-12 project staff will be assisting in the co facilitation of a Triple P Level 4 group and will be hosting a regular Triple P Professional Peer Support Group.

6. Play Therapy

For 6 years the Project has run an individual Play Therapy service for children, aged 3 – 12 years, whose adverse life experiences are hindering learning.



Children referred for Play Therapy will have experienced difficulties and trauma within their lives including domestic violence, bereavement, abuse, parental drug or alcohol misuse, poor attachments and separation. Play Therapy also benefits children with additional support needs, behavioural and social difficulties.

Schools/nursery, other organisations and parents themselves can refer children for this support.

The Play Therapist meets with the child for 45 minutes at the same time each week and carries a mobile play kit, which is set up in a private playroom within the child's learning establishment.

We believe that seeing the child in their school/nursery proves easier for the child as this is an environment they are familiar with and comfortable in. They do not have the same level of anxiety they would have if they were, for example, to attend a specialist clinic.

This year 26 children received individual weekly Play Therapy support.

Due to the complex difficulties of the children referred to us this year, the average length of Play Therapy interventions was 15 sessions.

Since we received help from Govan HELP, everyone has commented that Alan has come on "leaps and bounds" **Parent***

While the therapist works individual with the child, project staff offer additional and complementary parent support.

The Play Therapist is employed by the Project on a freelance basis and this service is funded by Children In Need.

In 2011 – 2012 the Project will be developing its range of therapeutic supports and in addition to individual Play Therapy will offer Therapeutic Groupwork and Filial Therapy.

7. Family Holiday Programme



The Project remains open during the school holidays and this is the opportunity to offer support to families who struggle during these times.

Each year the Project organises a Family Holiday Programme and this year there were 7 day trips to Calderglen Country Park, Glasgow Green and People's Palace, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Kelburn Country Park, Summerlee Heritage Centre and Ayr Beach and Pirate Pete's.

The programme aims to alleviate the boredom & stress some families experience over the holidays, allows families participate in activities they would otherwise not experience and helps strengthen family & community relationships.

This year 32 families/115 individuals attended one or more of our family outings.

8. Breakfast Club Playwork

In 1997 Govan Home and Education Link Project set up a breakfast club in Hill's Trust Primary and this was the first breakfast club in Glasgow. The club was used as an example of good practice before being rolled out free by Glasgow City Council in 2003.

In 2009 the project was announced the Scottish winner of the National Breakfast Club Awards.

Until June 2010 the Project continued to co-manage the club and employed a Playworker to engage the children in a daily programme of games and activities.

From March – June 2010 an average of 29% of the school roll attended on a daily basis. This is compared to a 20% attendance in breakfast clubs across the city.

9. Working with the Community

This year our **GLAD (Govan Leisure Activity Directory)** was updated with times, prices and contact details of all clubs within Greater Govan. We sent it to families via the primary schools/nursery and other children's organisations. This resource is available free to any family or organisation on request.

Another way parents are kept informed and involved is through our **Bi-Monthly Newsletters**, which are sent home to families keeping them up to date on activities within the project and community.



For the last couple of years Joanne Aitken has sat on the **South West Gender Based Violence Working Group** along with Glasgow Life, Govan and Pollok Integration Networks, Strathclyde Police and Glasgow Community Planning Partnership. This group is responsible for the organisation of the **South West 16 Days of Action to Eliminate Violence Against Women**. The event was cancelled in December 2010 due to bad weather conditions.



Instead the event took place in March 2011 on **International Women's Day**. The programme included beauty and health tasters, WISE Women Self Defence workshop, Baldy Bane drama excerpt, live poetry and music, information stalls and a food and smoothie station.

The Project took a lead role in the organisation of this event, which was attended by 126 women.

During 2010 – 2011 Joanne Aitken acted as Membership Secretary of **SNPICL (Scottish Network for Parental Involvement in Children's Learning)**. This organisation folded in January 2011.

In addition she is the Voluntary Sector Representative for **Glasgow Southwest Learning Theme Group** and took an active role in the development of the **South West Voluntary Sector Network**.

Joanne Aitken is a co-opted member of **Riverside Primary Parent Council**.

The Project has continued to increase its profile and in the last year linked with a number of local and national organisations and networks including ASSIST, Cardonald

College, East Pollokshields Mobile Crèche, Fab Pad, Galgael, GCVS (Glasgow Council Voluntary Sector), Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Community Care Partnerships (CCP), Glasgow Life, Glasgow Regeneration Agency, Govan Integration Network, Govan Lifelink, Govan Money Matters, GYIP (Govan Youth Information Project), Homestart, Pollok Integration Network, The Pearce Institute, The Portal, SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations), SNPICL (Scottish Network for Parental Involvement in Children's Learning), Starter Packs, Strathclyde Police, Sunny Govan Radio, Tea in the Pot, The Village Storytelling Centre, WISE Women and the learning establishments which make up Govan Road Campus and Govan Learning Community.

Govan Home and Education Link Project Management Committee

A Management Committee of parents, school/nursery staff and community representatives oversees Govan Home and Education Link Project and meets monthly during the school year.

Office-bearers include the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and Treasurer.

The Project Coordinator is line managed by the Chairperson.

Govan Home and Education Link Project Management Committee for 2010/2011 was:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Ferguson, Chairperson | |
| Stuart Dundas, Vice Chairperson | (Resigned March 2011) |
| Mat Loryman, Treasurer | (Appointed November 2010) |
| Donna Allan | (Resigned April 2010) |
| Louise Brimelow | (Appointed April 2010) |
| Carole Fisher | (Appointed Nov 2010) |
| Patricia Hanley | |
| Jane Robertson | |
| Linda Roy | (Resigned Sept 2010) |
| Rosaleen Smith | (Appointed Nov 2010) |
| Colette Wilson | |

Govan Home and Education Link Project staff team is:

Project Coordinator – Joanne Aitken
 Administrator – Elaine McCrindle
 Project Worker – Anne McGrath
 Play Therapist – Keeley Morris

Joanne Aitken
 Project Coordinator
 August 2011