

ISSUES/COMMENTS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING 08-02-2014

ISSUES

extra curricular activities will now be impacted. Very long days for very small children

Whilst I am not against the proposal for the asymmetric week and agree with a lot of the benefits, there are some concerns I have. It is a huge jump for primary 1 children moving from a 2 and a half hour nursery session to these long days. The Friday morning session is a particularly long one, will there only be one break? If so it is a long wait until children receive their lunch with some, particularly country children, not likely to be fed until perhaps 2pm.

No issues

The child care on a Friday afternoon - Many of us have to commute into city centre or the gyle - with the proposed finish at lunchtime this makes this almost impossible as you can not get a reasonable amount of work done in the limited time.

As a parent that works i feel this change would impact on me as i would have to find child care for the children(3) on a Friday - as i doubt my employer (SBC) will change my work hours to fit in with this new change.

To long a day for children and extra childcare costs

I am a parent of a primary school age child. After attending a Parent Council meeting at my child's school and one at Peebles High School my concern is that the Council have failed to make a convincing and compelling case to implement an asymmetric week in primary education (my comments do not refer to secondary education - I think the case is much stronger there).

There are three main reasons for my concern which are related to educational standards, cost savings and impact on parents and wider community:

Educational standards

Whilst the 'quantity' of hours spent in school would remain the same I am not convinced that 10 minutes topping and tailing on four days presents the same 'quality' of teaching opportunity as a whole afternoon in school. I can appreciate that alignment with secondary schools affords opportunities to collaborate together but I would question, in practice exactly how often this would happen and for how many staff. In my view, the loss of the dedicated half day out weighs this.

Cost savings

My understanding is that the main driver of change is the council need to make savings. Implementing an asymmetric week in primary education will not confer any cost savings. This much was admitted by Glen Rogers at the High School meeting when pressed on the matter. Surely a fundamental flaw in the case for implementation in primary education.

Impact on parents and wider community

Parents have real concerns about implications regarding child care, timing of drop off/pick up etc and this effect ripples out to the whole community including employers, child care providers and suppliers of out of school activities. Whilst these issues may not be insurmountable I think it is unjustifiable to force these on the community given that there is no strong case on either educational or financial grounds.

I am open to change but it should be change where there is a convincing case for doing so. I do not feel that case has been sufficiently made for an asymmetric week in primary education.

On a Friday will the children get lunch at school or will they have to wait until they get home? 1.30/2pm is a awful long time for them to wait after having breakfast at 8am or earlier. I think 8.50-3.25 would be more difficult for the younger children, they tired/hungry by the time they get out at 3.

... transformation has been handled... the initial proposal included an additional project looking at a reduction in hours alongside the asymmetric week, then was pulled without any explanation. There is a serious loss of confidence in the Education department to genuinely project manage with the interests of quality education (alongside the necessary financial interests) at the fore. It appears highly likely by the poor communication, extremely tight timescales and kneejerk reactions adopted to changing proposals that this 'asymmetric week' proposal is the thin end of the wedge; i.e it is setting the stage already for a future reduction in hours which SBC are preparing for behind the scenes.

Such a reduction in hours will definitely erode the quality of education our children received, and as such the main issue for me is that the situation generates a total lack of confidence in SBC and the Scottish Government to preserve the fundamental tenets of quality education provision.

Children's level of education decreasing - less hours of learning, less education? I am not convinced that this will benefit the children.

Childcare options - can the children stay in school on the half day if supervised by a teacher &/or Parents? (It is an issue transporting children from school to childcare).

Can they learn something else on the half day, for example a language? (I would rather pay for my child to learn something than pay for standard childcare).

Half day - which day will be chosen? Preferred option is a Friday after school meals.

Short day on FRIDAY would work best for us. Not really very good if it was any other day. Otherwise, it would work OK for our family.

Finding childcare in my area for older primary school children is hard enough without adding extra time off

This doesn't help a modern working family which consists of both parents working full time. Primary school hours until 1.15pm. More costly child care required is not an option in this current financial climate.

I work full time in NHS and live in St Boswells where there is no after school or out of school provision etc so my main concern is childcare for Friday afternoons. Firstly for the logistics of where they can go and secondly for the cost to parents. If we want parents to work to build the Scottish economy we can't make it harder for them with Friday half days

No major issues as I work part-time and don't currently work on a Friday however that may change soon as I'm revising my work pattern. Even so and it turns out I have to work some Fridays then I would need a couple of hours child care but that is not a major problem. I can see for others though there would be child care and financial issues perhaps.

Childcare cover. Many of us have jobs that would not enable a half day once a week. This would impact families with higher childcare costs and potential job issues.

Would affect the time I finish work on a Friday

The cost of Childcare on a Friday afternoon, as I work school hours.

I'm full-time and have to work on a Friday afternoon - this now means that I have to find childcare for my two children and this is going to cost me dearly!

Having a longer day may be too much for the younger kids, my son is in p3 and he is often tired at end of day.

Myself and my husband work full time (without flexi time) and work with long commutes/time away from home. Due to the nature of our jobs and having tried before, we will be unable to either reduce or alter our work patterns to accommodate an asymmetric week.

We have good child care arrangements Fridays being an exception and this is already difficult for us to manage. Our childminder does not work on a Friday, nor has a desire to. This will impact all the families using this provider IF there becomes a NEED for additional child care all afternoon on a Friday.

There are inadequate child care provisions in the area and the present private after school care club would not be able to cope with the anticipated increased demand either. There are additional concerns about this provision and my children were not especially happy there.

We cannot leave Primary school children without adequate care outwith school hours and I would want to know what SBC will do to address the child care issues and assist families like ours, especially as the savings for Primary Schools are said to be 'nil' or 'very limited'.

The SBC education budget issue is fast becoming a further expense issue to families.

Child care

My two sons are at Yarrow Primary School and they do not have an after school club so it will be a struggle for me or my husband to collect the boys earlier on a Friday as we both work.

I am looking to go back to work and will find this harder to get a job due to the early finish one day a week. This will also cause problems for all the after school activities as they will all need to be rescheduled and some would have to be dropped as we could not fit them in.

none

That school start time will change. It is currently 8.30am which caters for working parents well and is a major 'selling point' for the school which suffers from low numbers.

Additionally, anecdotal evidence in Midlothian suggests that because the short day is on a Friday, that teaching in the morning is less focused. A natural wind down feeling towards the weekend seems to prevail that previously didn't occur.

School lunch should be provided on the short day. This is particularly important for children in need who may not receive balanced meals at home.

Early start and later finish for children in the Winter months could mean the children will be traveling home from school in the dark.

Change of working hours would be required to accommodate earlier finish on a Friday.

Longer day for children in school, less time for social activities or just playing outside in Winter months.

From part time in Edinburgh and have juggled my working pattern to suit the current day a week change at school which from what I have seen are difficulties that Edinburgh parents have with the asymmetric week and do not see what the benefits are for the children, teachers or parents (despite what I have seen in this consultation). I would have to rejig my timings at work. At present I use the timings to have some extra time for activities with my toddler - I would not be able to do this if Fridays were reduced to a half day.

Although this may be better for teachers and for saving money it is unsuitable for younger pupils - primary 1 - 3 as they are already exhausted at the end of the normal school day. My son gets on the school bus at 8.20 and is home by 3.20. He is 6. A longer day would be too long.

I also believe that no useful learning will be done on the half school day on Friday.

As a working single parent I will have to arrange extra child- care on the Friday afternoon as will many others.

Child care is the obvious one!! However, I do not believe that my childrens education rests on a school being free childcare and that it is a priviledge and not a rite. Therefore my concern would be that Friday morning in some schools may be considered less of a school day ie not worth starting something as we are going to be finishing soon. In my own childrens school, Gym is often done on a Friday afternoon.

I wonder also what message we are sending our young people when we finish early on a Friday as this is not the norm in most adult working lives.

If all the schools start at the same time in the morning, how will that affect children who get school transport. At the moment various schools stagger their start time to enable 1 or 2 buses to get ALL the children surely more school transport will need to be run which could offset any potential savings.

I have 3 children, 2 in Denholm and 1 in Hawick, I cannot be in two places at once to pick them up, I'm good but not that good!

Currently all my children have an after school sport activity, which is held and run at the school on a Friday. I worry that these would be cancelled as Mon to Thurs are taken up with other activities.

The consequences on education, Friday will become a day on which very little is done!!

For the very young their days will be longer and for the older pupils, we are giving a message that Fridays are half days, which in most working environments it is not.

School Transport - if all schools start at the same time more bus/taxis will need to be funded.

The issues are that for bus children this equates to a very long day, even for those not very distant. Our 5 year old would start his day on the bus at 8am and not get home until 4pm.

Extra childcare costs are a concern.

Childcare - I really feel Peebles does not have enough child minders to be able to cope. Some sort of after school provision needs to be looked at to ease this.

As a teacher in the Scottish Borders I am extremely worried about finding child care.

School day - this is long enough for the children lower down the school.

The loss of Lunchtime clubs - an important part of the lives of some of our children.

Losing teachers - I am extremely worried that this is the first steps into losing our specialist teachers.

My main concern is whether the standards of teaching will still be met when teachers are being asked to teach longer days with no RICCT during the week. We are used to very high standards in our school and the teachers already work incredibly hard and I feel they will lose out on the time during the week. The younger children will also find it a long day and I wonder at the quality of learning in the last half hour of each long day. My other concern is that after school activities such as sports clubs will be affected by the late finish. Being in a rural area we have to travel to attend these clubs with our children. It means they will have to attend later sessions and in turn parents may decide that it is not feasible to travel later in the day. Not really helpful when we are trying to keep children active.

There is no provision for child care after school in St Boswells as it stands and no venue suitable to start one. It also adds yet more needless expense to already stretched finances for many people.

I think this new system is a complete waste of time and cause far too much disruption to the students' learning. Major change in a child's routine could be potentially devastating towards their upbringing.

none think its a good idea

My feeling is that this is more about cost cutting for SBC than any benefits to teachers or most importantly, pupils.

I work until 4pm on a Friday with no option to change my days/hours due to other team members not working that day. My son is currently in S1 so it too old fo

School transport - the pupils at senior school are disadvantaged as they have to wait for transport and this can often be in adverse weather

How can we possibly comment on changes when no-one from SBC can tell us what actual changes we are commenting on!! No definite details were given at a recent meeting I attended hosted by SBC staff. Only possibilities and quite a few challenges were mentioned!! work in a school and have no idea how these changes will affect me as we are also in the throws of the SJC reorganisation.

We should only be asked our views when all the exact details have been ironed out - otherwise it is just not fair and a complete waste of time.

Cost of transportation for the school, childcare, free school lunches

Extra costs.

Unsupervised primary children on the streets.

Reduced teaching time that will be more pressurised and less effective.

No registration time, therefore less time for pupil counselling and pupil well being

Added child care costs at Primary age

The availability of the technology to enable cross school working is not clearly covered. When questioned the Rector at Kelso could only suggest that it would be available in the new High School ie: 4 years away.

Out of school activities will only be available to rural children if parents can provide transport.

Costs are being transferred from the Education Dept to parents who will have to fund either childcare or activities.

Which day would be the shorter day. Any day other than Friday would be very difficult for us because of work. But I recognise this may be different for others.

None

I feel that an entire Friday afternoon is more productive than adding a few minutes here and there to the school day. This is being considered as a money saving exercise and is not in order to provide a better education model for the children. The motivation is flawed.

none

Reduction in teaching time.

Pupils will not have time to do lunchtime clubs.

Cannot see how this saves the Council money.

School transport

Childcare. My hours are arranged around my children and finishing early on a Friday is not an option.

No childminders or after school clubs that will accommodate an early finish on a Friday

I have tried to fill in this form 6 times. It has either crashed on the second page or timed out after the first. You really don't want to hear any comments I have, do you? Why does there need to be a time limit? The page should not be timing out!

Activities for the children on a Friday afternoon

My wife and I work full time Monday to Friday 9 til 5pm.

We live in a small village with no childcare. We have no family in the area.

There is a lack of childcare in Scottish borders

Less subjects to be studied by pupils at home

Childcare for youngest at primary school

How can money be saved if teachers are still working on a Friday afternoon

1. Childcare. Any families where both parents work or where there is a single parent working on the short day would need childcare. At the moment there is no provision around Chirnside for children older than 11; it is hardly acceptable to have these children - some with additional needs - left 'home alone' for long periods. Nor is the situation for younger children much better. The after school club at Chirnside primary is not set up to operate for long periods, and would need far more staff. However, it struggles to recruit suitable staff. It takes quite a long time for people to gain appropriate childcare qualifications - more than the time from now until August. This would be a major issue for parents. Even if childcare did become available, clearly the extra expense, which would not be small, would be a major problem for many, and particularly for the poorest people who most likely have the least secure, worst paid, least flexible jobs. One likely outcome is that some people will lose their jobs and thus become more dependent on the Council for housing benefit, council tax benefit, free school meals and so on. Thus there will be an extra cost to the Council, making the effective savings less, as well as harming people's livelihoods.

2. Transport. If all the schools start and finish at the same time then buses will need to be at all the schools at the same time. Are there enough buses to do this?

3. Supply teachers. I understand that some savings will be made due to a lower need for supply teachers. How has the saving been calculated? Presumably the

4. One key issue is that the detail of the proposed changes has not been spelled out. The focus has been entirely on the idea of an asymmetric week, as if that a

So, how are the £11m savings expected to be made? None of this is detailed. It makes this consultation a sham. To produce a figure of £11m, someone must

How have the savings been calculated? How many staff will be lost, and at what point? How will they be selected?

It maybe that I haven't understood how the savings will be made and that there won't be reductions in teaching staff numbers, and that the £11m savings are

5. Choices. Offering more choices to children (at secondary school) is a worthy aim. However, if the idea is that there will be joint classes, using IT networking to

6. Nothing has been said about the impact on children's learning. They get tired at the end of the day anyway, will they actually learn much in the last lesson? /

7. Realistically what joint working will actually be done. If schools finish at 1.15pm, by the time teachers have gathered together it's difficult to see how much time

8. Has this asymmetric week been successfully tried anywhere else similar in nature to the Scottish Borders ie. rural, large distances between schools, low population

For us this would be a complete nightmare, two working parents about to get our youngest of three children into primary 1 and no longer having childcare costs to now potentially have childcare costs for three children again on a Friday afternoon.

Doesn't seem to be a means of huge saving for the council from what I have read.

I am very concerned about the impact on parents, particularly those who are in work and especially those single parents who work. They will either have to find child care for the time when their children are not in school, or will have to give up work. Both will have a considerable cost to the families concerned. The former option is very difficult in the Borders. In my area (Chirnside) there is 1 child minder and an after school club. The after school club is struggling and may not be running by the end of the school year (I am on the committee so I know). The child minder will not have the capacity to take on a large number of additional children on a Friday afternoon. The length of time given by the Council before they propose to implement the changes is not long enough for additional child minders to register. There is no other child care available. The Council has not thought this through and is not supporting families to make credible arrangements for their children (assuming they can afford them).

The existing child care does not cover children over 12 years. I could not let my 13 year old, who has additional needs, be at home with his brother for the length of time required before I could get home from work in Edinburgh (I can't find a job in the Borders).

The latter option of changing or giving up work is also very difficult for families. There are very few jobs locally, even including Berwick or further over towards Galashiels. Most jobs are not flexible in their hours and taking every Friday afternoon off would not be an option. Even if it were, a reduction in hours would probably mean a drop in income and having to give up work definitely would. This would lead to more families receiving benefits including free school meals, a reduction in revenue from Council Tax and less money going into local economies. Any savings made by the council in their education costs would be partly offset by this reduction in income and increases in benefits.

The Council claimed in their statement that there would be benefits and a positive spin-off in terms of the quality and standard of education. When the Chief Education Officer was asked at the public meeting I attended, what evidence there was that a move to an asymmetric week raised educational standards, he admitted that there was none. This is therefore a false claim and should be pointed out to Councillors.

Greater co-operation with other schools is a laudable aim, but the teachers I have spoken to are doubtful that they will get any meaningful time to spend with their colleagues. By the time the children have left the premises, teachers have packed up and travelled to another school for a meeting, very little time will be factored in? Parents have not been given any evidence that there are other advantages to this arrangement, despite asking for it. The other local authorities will not do it. The welfare of the children has not been given any consideration in this proposal. In particular the primary age children have only been included in the plans for the secondary schools. The education department says that there will be no loss of teaching time, but they are not taking into account the useful teaching time in a day. Teachers' routine transport is clearly an issue in the rural Borders. Whilst I can see that this needs to be done as efficiently as possible, aligning all school timetables may actually do more harm than good.

I don't see how sacking teachers can improve the quality of my children's education. Has there been any studies to show that this would improve the learning capabilities of children or is this all about saving money? Will teachers have to travel between schools?

Why include primary schools when there is no gain to these children only disadvantages.

Why choose a Friday for the half day when this will only encourage children, parents and teachers to miss the Friday entirely and take a long weekend. The Wednesday makes much more sense and employers will look more favourably on allowing staff to work a half day on a Wed compared to a Fri.

Why is this even required when the teachers have a short enough week as it is with plenty of time to carry out preparation in the multiple breaks they have during every day and the 2 hours after every existing school day once the children have left.

I don't see any justification for this change and keeping the in-service days. These should be turned into normal school days therefore benefiting the children. I know this is part of the national agreement so lobby to get this changed prior to introducing this change.

If this is all about saving money by changing the school week to fit best with the teachers' contracts, surely a better option would be to impose changes on the teachers' contracts to fit in with the existing school week. There are far less teachers than there are parents and children, try putting the children first rather than the teachers.

The fact that no detail of any benefit to pupils had been outlined is disappointing. What are the expected benefits and value added to individuals and families? There is a complete lack of detail in this area?

I will now have to arrange Child care on a Friday afternoon and as a teacher who job shares a change to our alternate working day which was a Wednesday and would have to change to Friday.

Childcare !!

Not enough time at lunch for activities or to simply to buy your lunch!

I do not feel that enough will be achieved in a 50 minute lesson or lunchtime in terms of education or extra curricular clubs. We currently have a 54 minute lesson and for many of my subjects, practical in particular, almost an entire class full of students have had to return to their class at a lunchtime or after school to finish off tasks that were not physically possible to achieve in the time assigned. (eg. average cooking in home economics takes 10 minutes for a demonstration, 20 minutes to prepare the food, 10 minutes to wash up, 5 minutes to do the register, which leaves only 5 minutes for oven time. Nothing can cook in 5 minutes.)

I am also unhappy about the lunchtimes being shortened as I have had to stop attending clubs due to the lack of time in our current system, by the time it takes to eat your lunch and get changed for your sport/set up equipment there is only a quarter to a third of an hour left to do your desired activity. If you remove ten minutes from the lunchtime then that means average time for club activity is only ten minutes.

The removal of registration also will have negative effects on the pupils, as registration gives pupils time to get used to their surrounding and gives them a sec

I am also concerned about how their has only been a brief mention of a lesson of a cut of two subject choices!! The average person must take English, Maths,

There is also the extreme problem of a half day Friday which means that many pupils will have no where to go, it is not physically possible for every primary school Support centres and how the changes to the week might impact on the pupils and staff.

Managing ANA time may be challenging

pupils may have to start their journey to school very early in the morning and arrive home much later than at present.

Children with ASN may find the longer week more difficult to sustain.

Balancing time between mainstream school placements and support centres may be more difficult.

The 5 period day on a Friday is too long. A four period day with the additional period fitted in else where in the week would be best.

Also, 50 minutes is an extremely poor choice for the timings of the periods. Very little can be done in this time period for practical subjects and I seriously hope this is reconsidered.

None, other than if we do that Friday afternoon's will be used for meetings etc meaning that staff do not benefit from the early finish.

Length of school day. Children already get on the bus at 8 am and have a late return.

Quality of education if children are tired.

Length of time on Friday without lunch. Children expected to work until 1.15 pm when they had breakfast at 7 am.

Work crammed into 4.5 days/ more double periods in the timetable. Already hate them and cannot focus for 1 hour 40 minutes at a time. Research shows this is too long for children particularly S1 and S2.

More children being at home on Friday pm unsupervised - safety concerns.

Reduced use of specialist teachers in the Primary sector.

The key benefit will be that for many, teacher training, development sessions and cross-school working groups will be held during the pupil free afternoon.

End of school day for pupils 1.15pm

Lunch for staff until 2pm.

How can any effective training be fitted in, particularly if change of workplace is involved.

I have no issue- this sounds like an excellent proposal.

The needless Inconvenience to Parents and Transport Providers

In Winter months The Children will have to leave the house earlier and arrive home later, this flies in the face of all safety advice and makes a mockery of our daylight saving hour Time changes.

If it Cost the life of one single child due to going to or from School in the dark it will have been an easily avoidable tragedy.

As we live at such latitudes that result in very short days and long dark nights in winter then this would be shear madness.

I am concerned that these changes are being introduced to fit in with High Schools. It appears that changes in High Schools will bring benefits to pupils and also cost savings, but the asymmetric week being introduced in our Primary Schools is mainly about making the school buses fit in with the new High School hours. So it seems that changing the High School is the main objective and yet the primary school families will be the most adversely affected.

I have concerns that my five year old son will struggle to cope with the longer days and will essentially need the half day to sleep as he will be exhausted.

Childcare issues on the Friday afternoon.

Feel that the school day is long enough without adding extra time on the 4 days to reduce the 5th day to a half day.

Childcare for Langlee area.

I work four days a week (mon-thurs 9.00 - 15.00), if the half day was a Wednesday this would be an issue to find childcare as the school my daughter attends does not have an after school club. Not so easy to have a family member pick her up because they also work or have other things on.

After-school care on Fridays

COMMENTS**RESPONDENT**

Overall I think this is a policy that will impact the children most - particularly as it will not save money (as discussed at the consultation meeting). Put up our council tax or only give free school meals to those families who need and give the children shorter days with less stressed teachers

parent/carer - primary school

If this is the most painless way to save money then great.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

The reduced lunchtime is difficult for the smaller ones as the hour barely gives them time to eat and get fresh air in the lunch hour - anything less will prevent them getting the necessary break and fresh air they require

parent/carer - primary school

Also my children are tired when coming out of school - are they going to learn anything in this extra time in school each day or will it just be a time that kids get cranky and no learning happens??

parent/carer - primary school

Can't finish early on a Friday to collect child would have to pay a childminder

parent/carer - primary school

I am a parent of a primary school age child. After attending a Parent Council meeting at my child's school and one at Peebles High School my concern is that the Council have failed to make a convincing and compelling case to implement an asymmetric week in primary education (my comments do not refer to secondary education - I think the case is much stronger there).

There are three main reasons for my concern which are related to educational standards, cost savings and impact on parents and wider community:

Educational standards

Whilst the 'quantity' of hours spent in school would remain the same I am not convinced that 10 minutes topping and tailing on four days presents the same 'quality' of teaching opportunity as a whole afternoon in school. I can appreciate that alignment with secondary schools affords opportunities to collaborate together but I would question, in practice exactly how often this would happen and for how many staff. In my view, the loss of the dedicated half day out weighs this.

Cost savings

My understanding is that the main driver of change is the council need

Impact on parents and wider community

Parents have real concerns about implications regarding child care, tir care providers and suppliers of out of school activities. Whilst these is

I am open to change but it should be change where there is a convinc parent/carer - primary school

I dont think therr any benefits to havin n asymmetric week. parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Disappointed that this was the only option offered, feels very much like the decision has been made.

parent/carer - primary school

I would rather pay more council tax than see core services cut across the board.

parent/carer - primary school

Budgets are tight and I can see the benefits on paper

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I would actually embrace this proposed change as it would lengthen the weekend and as so many of our out of area friends and family are already on an asymmetric week would give the children a chance to get together and keep it off the already busy weekends.

parent/carer - primary school

Primary children would be at more risk during the darker winter nights. Is this not the reason we use dst clock changes in this country, so you are proposing to ignore this safety issue, so that budgets can be met. Surely one more child injured due to poor light outweighs budget restraints.

parent/carer - primary school

Do the schools plan on having activities/clubs on Friday afternoons so pupils can stay in school

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

I can see the reasoning behind the move as there is savings to be made, however, this is going to put the cost onto working parents which I find very unfair.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

To make such a change for the Primary Schools on the basis of 'protected time when primary and secondary schools COULD work together' and that this 'COULD improve the transition for P7 pupils' is not a compelling enough reason, for all other pupils and parents impacted and when child safety issues are to be considered. If there were clear, weighty and demonstrable cost savings then it would add weight to the SBC argument for such a change, but not at the expense of families from a cost, emotional and protection perspective.

Additionally, for our school, there is no shared transport for the primary and secondary school.

Will there be funding for child care?

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

The idea that there would be a broader range of lessons in secondary is rubbish. This is based on far superior broadband speeds than we have in the Borders.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - primary school

Less importance placed on Friday learning as "it's only half a day".
We moved from West Lothian in 2012 and whilst it took some time to become accustomed to the difference in the school week in the Borders we all much prefer it with the children having participated in many trips and events at schools on a Friday afternoon.

However it was nice to have the children home for lunch on a Friday, we have missed the extra lunchtime together, although I am unsure how Friday lunchtime will be scheduled in the new hours.

My son starts High School in August 2014 and we are less concerned with the change of school hours for him. My daughter will be in Primary 6 and will be walking to and from school earlier and later than she is currently and without the benefit of an older sibling to accompany her. I changed my working hours when I moved to the Borders but will have to change these again if the school hours change.

When we weigh up the pros and cons though, we are mostly in favour of the change as it makes sense especially when the children are at Secondary school.

parent/carer - primary school

Seeing the benefits of moving to the Borders from Edinburgh last year and one of the attractions was the fact that, unlike Edinburgh, SBC had a normal pattern for school days.

parent/carer - primary school

I believe the council will go ahead with this despite opposition and parental concerns.

If it does go ahead it should be on a trial only basis.

parent/carer - primary school

I have difficulty seeing any benefits for our children and their education. Having spoken to some teachers who work in Edinburgh I have learnt that they often still have meetings after school mid week and look at finishing early on Friday lunchtime. (Human Nature). Surely there are other ways to save and leave our schools alone with a system that we are used to and has worked for generations. Perhaps council houses don't need new state of the art double glazing!!!!

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I can see no benefits what so ever, unless you are a teacher.
Savings should be made on pensions and pay.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Very vague questions for a survey....

Do these long days add to the quality of education? I worry that the
last hours of the day will be less productive than they currently are.

I am a parent/carer - primary school, teacher - SBC

I am a parent/carer - primary school, teacher - SBC

Does this system really make such huge savings? It would be
helpful to see figures, teacher numbers and predicted savings - this
information should be available for all parents, teachers and school
staff so that we can make a response in the knowledge that we have
been given all the information.

I am a parent/carer - primary school, teacher - SBC

There is money to be saved in every department, rather than
replacing perfectly good street lamps or road surfaces or throwing
money at a Railway hardly anyone wants, perhaps spend it on
schools instead. Look at your procurement contracts as you are
getting poor pricing on anything not a core product in many areas.

parent/carer - primary school

parent/carer - secondary school

all kids in west lothain east lothain also edinbrugh get them so
our kids should think its a great idea

parent/carer - secondary school
parent/carer - secondary school

Is there an option to look at which day is chosen to be the shorter day? I have read that when schools have moved to an asymmetric week with Friday being the shorter day, the rate of truancy has increased. Why not have a long weekend? Would a midweek shorter day not seem more sensible? Our parent council have advised that there will be a loss of approximately 24 mins teaching time due to changing classes. We've been led to believe that there would be no change in the length of teaching time so this is a bit worrying.

I can see the benefit of the asymmetric week in terms of staff development time but I don't think this outweighs the other issues.

parent/carer - secondary school

parent/carer - secondary school

When will the questions raised at meetings help actually be addressed and passed back to those people who raised them? Hopefully before the end of the consultation period otherwise it is not a consultation!

parent/carer - secondary school -school support staff - SBC

parent/carer - secondary school -school support staff - SBC

How will SBC respond to unplanned absences from teachers, if there are fewer teachers?

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Teachers already have high amounts of Professional Development time/non-contact time/in service days and holidays compared to the private sector why not renegotiate their contracts in order to utilise some of their holidays as training time instead of putting more costs on us. Restrict them to the 25 days holiday a year like most workers get and the problem would be solved.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

No

Not beneficial in any way to the children purely motivated by cost. Education should be child centred. Many parents will struggle with child care. Losing an entire afternoon in the classroom will have a detrimental effect on learning. Perhaps I am cynical in believing this decision has probably been made already

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I applied to my employer to alter my hours within the last few months to enable me to be at home for my child coming off the school bus, given that there are no child care facilities in morebattle and I am not eligible to apply for further changed for 1 yr and because of this I won't have child care should this proposal go ahead

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

After a lot of thought, and time (wasted), preparing and typing in my concerns and comments I get nowhere. I don't have the time to do it all over again for the same result!

Usual Borders incompetence!

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

There is a backward step. The UK govt are now looking at a 9 hour day for schools to include wraparound care and extra curricular activities to bring them in line with independent schools.

I think there will be a lot more kids "home alone" once this is introduced. This feels like a done deal and not a consultation.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Why should working parents pea aliased

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I can see the benefit of all schools working to essentially the same timetable, to enable classes to be done at the same time. However, timetable harmonisation could just as easily be done under a five day week. The two issues have been conflated as if they are inextricably entwined. If all schools operating to the same timetable is so great, why not do it anyway, irrespective of the symmetry of the week?

I note that a new budget has just been proudly announced including Â£23m on a new build school in Kelso, Â£70m on supporting businesses and so on. It would be a shame if the new school doesn't have enough teachers. I would rather spend less on these and have fully staffed schools " with extra teachers even! More beneficial to Borders people in the long run. I realise that this capital budget may come direct from Holyrood, but surely some negotiations could take place?

What success criteria will you use to determine the impact of this change? Who is accountable for its success or failure? What plans are there to reverse it if it proves to result in lower attainment and achievement?

Why are nursery hours being increased, at some cost, when other ed parent/carer - primary & secondary school

No benefits for us

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

Having read the Council's plan for its spending over the coming years, I have a few comments.

There are plans to use fewer teaching staff, but the Council has a "no redundancy" policy. How will this be achieved, whilst maintaining the needed mix of subject teachers?

Have the fact that school nurseries will have to stay open for the full week been factored into the lower savings this will lead to (in terms of school heating bills, Janitor costs etc.)?

Why are some of the capital projects still going ahead, when to cut back on these could mean that teacher levels and therefore educational standards could be maintained?

How can IT possibly replace a teacher in the classroom? If video conferencing is to replace some teachers, who will supervise the children? What will happen if the IT isn't working that day? Is the (very overstretched) IT support department to be greatly increased in size and if so, has this cost been factored in?

Why is the Council maintaining its policy of no Council tax increases, when a small increase could mean that there would be no need for the

In summary, the evidence points to the proposed changes being contr

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

I would be quite happy to pay more council tax if this was all about sa

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

No benefits as far as I can see which couldn't be achieved by altering the teachers contracts instead.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

We will incur child are costs should our youngest child finish early Friday. We spent years paying nursery custs for three children and to go back to this would be financially detrimental and disappointing!

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

A longer day means some activities which my child goes to straight after school will have to stop or times will be changed as I won't have time to get there for a 3.30 start.

parent/carer - primary & secondary school - teacher - SBC

Very difficult to sort child care for half days etc

parent/carer - primary & secondary school

the majority of my class and i suspect my year would rather finish at 4 and have 15 minutes more lunch time

I am a school student

I am unhappy with the attitude towards the negative outcomes of the proposed timetable change as they are being mentioned as 'Issues' which implies that they are problems that have solutions, yet you have proposed no solution for many of them (eg. the fact that young children will not have parents at home to look after them, I understand that most parents in the borders are employed by NHS or SBC and therefore will be able to arrange their timings to correspond to this, but these corporations cannot allow every worker to do this as then there will be no workers on a Friday afternoon!!)

While I see that it is essential for your budgeting that a system like this goes ahead, it does not seem like this is the most ideal or sensible way to go about it.

I am a school student

during the development of the changes?

Would In-set days still exist?

Job shares/ part-time workers how does the week work?

Darkness hours in winter may be exacerbated

Will there be 9/10 openings for schools/

teacher currently employed - SBC

teacher currently employed - SBC

teacher currently employed - SBC

No

teacher currently employed - SBC

What evidence is there that this will actually improve education and life chances for my children?

Is this merely a cost cutting exercise?

Are teaching staff in favour of this change?

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

More time for teachers to plan interesting and challenging lessons and engage in professional dialogue with other departments.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

Experimental Twiddling brought about through deperation and just for the sake of it will save nothing, 30 hours will be 30 hours no matter how it's carved up, the Same number of Teachers will be required regardless.

the Cost of rearranging the Local bus services to suit will cost more and hurt those relying on them.

If you want to save money then cut back on all those other paid non teaching staff that are employed at our Schools and who do little else than divert money from paying for teachers.

I am a teacher currently employed in Scottish Borders

I am a employer operating in Scottish Borders

Let things remain as the are. You have already tried tinkering with the school day and it cost you more money, so much more that you had to revert to traditional school day times.

How can you reduce total teacher numbers over time when your only moving about the time of the school day about rather as lengthening it or shortening it?.

I am an employer operating in Scottish Borders, Other

The Scottish Government Policy of increasing nursery hours is in direct contradiction with the asymmetric week both in financial terms but also the ethos. On the one hand we have the Government telling us that we need to get back to work and we should have free pre-school childcare to enable us to do so, and on the other hand we have an asymmetric week being introduced where people's childcare arrangements are thrown into disarray and that is of no consequence to the school. We would benefit from more joined up thinking please! It is ludicrous to have overflowing resources that are ringfenced whilst slashing budgets just because they are 'different pots of money'. Increasing nursery hours is totally incompatible with the asymmetric week and will make life very difficult for me.

Other

I see no benefits to my child, family or my working life.
Fri for half day would be better as I would be at home anyway.
I would need to look into childcare who would do pick ups from school. I would believe that lots of mums will be worried about childcare for these half days.

Other

Other

Other