

From: Alan Armstrong
Education Scotland
24 August 2017

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

SCOTTISH LEARNING FESTIVAL 2017: 20-21 SEPTEMBER, SECC GLASGOW

Purpose

1. To provide the Deputy First Minister with an outline of the focus for the Scottish Learning Festival (SLF) 2017 and key activities for involvement, and a request to consider a recipient for the Robert Owen Award 2017.

Priority

2. Routine.

Background

[REDACTED TEXT]

Robert Owen Award

10. The Robert Owen Award for an Inspirational Educator is a Scottish Government award, presented at SLF by the Deputy First Minister, to renowned educationalists whose work has had significant international impact and has resulted in substantial education improvement in Scotland. Last year the Deputy First Minister presented the award to Andy Hargreaves.

11. The Deputy First Minister is invited to consider if he wishes to present a Robert Owen Award in 2017. You would present the award to the recipient after your keynote speech at SLF, in person if the recipient is available or by video link. Suggestions for a potential recipient, together with a recommendation, can be found in Annex A.

Conclusion

12. **The Deputy First Minister is asked to:**

- REDACTED TEXT
- consider if a Robert Owen Award should be presented in 2017, and if so to whom.

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24 August 2017

Scottish Learning Festival - Robert Owen Award

The Robert Owen Award for an Inspirational Educator is a Scottish Government Award, which is presented at SLF by the Deputy First Minister, to renowned educationalists whose work has had significant international impact and has resulted in substantial education improvement in Scotland.

In 2013, the then Cabinet Secretary expressed a desire to present an award during the Scottish Learning Festival to Dr Avis Glaze, one of the keynote speakers that year, in recognition of her inspirational influence on improving the quality of education at an international level and her contribution to inspiring education improvements in Scotland.

The award has developed beyond a one-off presentation to an annual award presented at SLF by the Cabinet Secretary for Education. Recipients should have demonstrated a significant positive influence on international thinking about how to improve practice in education, for example by:

- stimulating awareness of significant pedagogical advances and their effective application; and
- encouraging excellence and innovation which impacts positively on the quality of the learning experience of Scotland's learners.

The first award was presented in September 2013 to Dr Avis Glaze, Edu-Quest International Inc. and former Chief Student Achievement Officer of Ontario. In September 2014 the award was presented to Dr Pasi Sahlberg, visiting Professor of Practice at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. In 2015 the award was presented to Professor Graham Donaldson, Professor at the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change. Andy Hargreaves received the award in 2016. The award is an engraved crystal plaque and certificate.

It is envisaged that recipients of the Robert Owen Award will become members of the International Council of Education Advisers.

Potential recipient for 2017 Award

In past years, recipients of the Robert Owen Award have reflected figures of well-known international standing, such as researchers and advisers. For 2017 we recommend that the award is presented to a Scottish headteacher, nearing the end of their career, who has demonstrated significant impact in improving children's experiences, attainment and life-chances. This approach would also reflect the Governance Review next steps, especially through the greater emphasis on the important role and empowerment of headteachers.

The following list of headteachers as potential recipients of the award takes into account the need for nominees to have demonstrated a breadth of achievements and to have led outstanding improvements in learning over a notable period of time. This also enables impact in closing the poverty-related attainment gap to be taken into consideration. For these reasons, the nominees for 2017 are from the primary sector, reflecting the first

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phase of the Scottish Attainment Challenge. All of the headteachers below have made significant progress in reducing the attainment gap within the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Lindsey Watt

Lindsey Watt has been the headteacher of Castleview Primary School, Edinburgh, since 2005. She has provided outstanding and inspirational leadership for learning. Her passion, energy and commitment to helping children to achieve has impacted very strongly on improving the school significantly over time. Through her culture of leadership, all teachers take on clear leadership roles with a focus on improving an aspect of the school.

In the inspection in 2013, the school achieved excellent evaluations for meeting learners' need and for the curriculum, with all other evaluations rated as very good. During session 2014-15, Lindsey held the additional responsibility as a seconded headteacher for Broad General Education at Castlebrae Community High School, Edinburgh, promoting effective education across the heart at the community.

[REDACTED TEXT]

[REDACTED TEXT]

Recommendation: Education Scotland advise that Lindsey Watt would be a very worthy recipient of the award. The current session will be her last before retirement.