

SCOTTISH EDUCATION COUNCIL

ROLE AND REMIT OF THE SCOTTISH EDUCATION COUNCIL

Background

1. The Scottish Education Council will be the key forum for oversight of improvement in education in Scotland, as defined by the National Improvement Framework. Its role will be to work collaboratively to ensure that there is a system-wide focus on improvement and to agree priorities for improvement activity and delivery.

2. The National Improvement Framework (NIF) brings together what we know about how the system is performing and details the improvement activity the Scottish Government and partners will be taking forward in the year ahead. This activity complements the ongoing delivery of Getting It Right For Every Child, Curriculum for Excellence and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) to help support delivery of the Scottish Government's vision for education in Scotland, which is to achieve:

- **Excellence** through raising attainment: ensuring that every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, set out within Curriculum for Excellence levels, and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed; and
- **Equity**: ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap. We need Scottish education to deliver both excellence in terms of ensuring children and young people acquire a broad range of skills and capacities at the highest levels, whilst also delivering equity so that every child and young person should thrive and have the best opportunity to succeed regardless of their social circumstances or additional needs.

3. The National Improvement Framework is designed to help us deliver that vision; galvanising efforts and aligning our collective improvement activities across all partners in the education system to address our key priorities:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children;
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing; and
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people.

Role

4. The Council will be chaired by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. It will have enhanced local government input from across the Regional Improvement Collaboratives, reflecting the key role of local partners in the delivery of system-wide improvement as well as the need to have joint responsibility for the delivery of improvement and increased transparency of decision making.

5. The role of the Council will be to provide system leadership. It will have strong links to both the Curriculum and Assessment Board and the Strategic Board for Teacher Education. The Council's work will be informed by input from both the International Council of Education Advisers and the Education Leaders Forum.

Remit

6. The Council will:

- Bring together the main decision makers and key influencers with a strong focus on excellence and equity for all and be a forum for frank and open discussion about what is working and what and where more improvement is required;
- Provide leadership and advice to Ministers in developing the strategic approach and vision for improvement across Scottish education, as defined by the National Improvement Framework;
- Have a primary focus on issues related to the school years, but have the ability to focus on wider education issues as and when required, in particular early years, Getting it right for every child, Developing the Young Workforce and Community Learning and Development;
- Provide guidance and advice at all levels of the system, working across organisational and structural boundaries to support the development of key improvement priorities for Scottish education and ensuring those priorities are reflected in national, local and regional planning;
- Drawing on these local and regional plans and priorities, work with the Scottish Government to deliver the annual review of the National Improvement Framework and the National Improvement Plan;
- Work closely with Regional Improvement Collaboratives via locally agreed governance arrangements to oversee progress towards delivery of those national, regional and local improvement priorities and outcomes, drawing on available evidence via the National Improvement Framework and local tracking and monitoring systems;
- Provide comment and professional advice on the strategic direction, vision and outcomes of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Funding;

- Consider and provide advice on any proposed changes in Scottish education strategy, taking into account the advice offered by the International Council of Education Advisors and the Education Leaders Forum; and
- Take account of advice offered by, the Curriculum and Assessment Board and the Strategic Board for Teacher Education.

Children and Young People

7. The Council will ensure that the views of children and young people will shape and inform its work programme going forward.

**Scottish Education Council Secretariat
December 2017**