

ISSUE: Through the Education (Scotland) Bill, the Scottish Government will reform the education system to drive improvement and enable us to realise our ambition of excellence and equity for all.

- The report *Improving Schools in Scotland: An OECD Perspective* (Dec 2015) endorsed our curriculum approach and recommended we strengthen and support educational leadership.
- PISA and SSLN results have shown a decline in performance in some key subjects and a continuing gap in attainment between children from more and less deprived backgrounds.
- Education Scotland's report *Quality and Improvement in Scottish education 2012-2016* noted that "the quality of education children and young people experience within and across sectors is still too variable".
- We have consulted on reforms to education governance and published broad proposals.

- Our *Education Review: Next Steps* paper (15 June 2017) set out reforms that will create a **school and teacher-led system, centred around the child**. Decisions that shape the education of our young people will be made in classrooms, schools and establishments by people working directly with those young people, their parents and communities.
- This is a vision of empowerment and devolution – devolution from local authorities to schools – to include teachers, headteachers, parents and communities – and devolution from a national to a local or a regional level.
- The Deputy First Minister has been clear that "*the status quo is not an option.*"

We will ensure that our school leaders have the autonomy to be leaders of learning within a clear national policy framework.

- We will **work closely with the profession** and professional associations to establish a Headteachers' Charter, which sets out the new powers and responsibilities for headteachers, including raising attainment, choosing and managing the teachers and staff in their school and developing and leading school improvement.
- We will **distribute school leadership** to ensure headteachers are supported by peer networks, Regional Improvement Collaboratives, local authority employers and the wider school community including pupil and parent councils.

The Bill will reform the system to support a culture of collaboration between teachers, schools and regions

- We will establish **Regional Improvement Collaboratives** to ensure consistent, high quality support and improvement services to our schools, headteachers and teachers.
- **Local Authorities** will have a new **duty to collaborate** with other local authorities and national agencies to support improvement on a regional basis. They will provide staff (including headteachers and teachers) to work within the Regional Improvement Collaboratives.
- **Local authorities** will continue to be the employer of the education workforce. They will be **required to support their headteachers' duties** to raise attainment and close the poverty-related attainment gap, and to support the empowerment of headteachers and teachers as leaders of learning in their schools.
- We are committed to working in partnership with Local Authorities, Education Scotland, and others, to ensure that the **Regional Improvement Collaboratives** are responsive to the needs of schools in their area.

We recognise that participation of parents and children in schools, and the wider education system, is key to driving improvement

- The Bill will expand and improve parental involvement in response to the National Parent Forum of Scotland's review of the Scottish Schools Parental Involvement Act 2006.
- We will strengthen the voice of children and young people by requiring all schools to promote and support pupil participation.

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