

Brexit Implications – Education Scotland

Purpose and background

1. To consider what, if any, implications Brexit will have on ES and its work. This information is part of wider work being undertaken across the Scottish Government by the Constitution and Europe Programme Office.

Finance and Governance Arrangements

2. There may be areas in the SPFM, and its underpinning legislation the PFA Act, that would need to be considered e.g. in relation to those qualified to be appointed as auditors, where we rely on the standard used across the EU. These finance and accountability issues would not be for Scottish Ministers alone and would lead to UK wide discussions before any standard was put in the PFA Act or guidance was altered in the SPFM. This would also be an issue across Scottish public bodies.

3. There are also risks to be considered across the public sector, such as potential reductions in budget and workforce/study implications of the loss of freedom of movement. It is too early to consider these areas in detail.

Further and Higher Education

4. We will need to be aware of changes to funding programmes and their impact across education e.g. continued eligibility to participate in programmes such as Horizon 2020.

Erasmus+

5. Specifically, Education Scotland has taken part in Erasmus+ projects where there is a strong benefit to its work in specific areas, for example in identifying and sharing good practice from other countries in aspects such as literacy, assessment or young person's voice in their learning.

6. In working with practitioners in all education sectors across Early Years, schools, CLD and colleges, Education Scotland notes the professional learning opportunities that practitioners gain from involvement in Erasmus+ projects. This builds the capacity of practitioners to improve the experiences of learners. For example, the youth sector in Scotland has been increasingly successful in utilising Erasmus + funding in recent years.

7. We cannot speculate on any possible future scenarios following the UK's exit from the EU, but we note the Government position is that UK participation in some EU programmes may continue subject to the negotiation.

Conclusion

8. **We note the potential issues highlighted above and commit to undertaking more detailed examination of these areas towards 29 March 2019.**

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