

THIS PAPER IS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION ADVISERS****NATIONAL DISCUSSION - PROGRESS REPORT****PAPER BY THE CO-FACILITATORS****Introduction**

1. 'Let's talk Scottish Education' – our National Discussion was launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills at the Scottish Learning Festival on 21 September.
2. Since the launch, significant work has been underway to generate widespread responses from all sections of Scottish society to the National Discussion, but with a particular focus on children and young people, parents and carers, teachers and practitioners, and those who are seldom asked or seldom listened to. This aligns with the recommendations set out in the Muir Report.
3. The National Discussion combines its overall strategic direction and resources to deliver engagement through a grass roots and invitational approach, and as a result is organic in nature.
4. The National Discussion is a national listening exercise and the focus of our work – for both the Scottish Government officials supporting us, and as co-facilitators, has been on ensuring that we reach right across Scotland and engage and listen to those who are seldom listened to. To support this progress paper, we have included details of the confirmed, planned and scoped engagement opportunities that are underway during October and November (**Annex A**).

Engagement

5. The National Discussion Team are meeting regularly with senior leaders in children's rights organisations, equality groups and education leaders. This engagement has resulted in firm commitments from a range of influential stakeholders to hold discussions, and to promote the National Discussion. These include Young Scot, the Children's Parliament, Connect, NPFS, Youthlink, LGBT Scotland, Enable, the RNIB Scotland, local government children's networks and island networks.
6. As co-facilitators, we focused on high level strategic engagement, where we have been able to generate significant enthusiasm and goodwill. Thus far, this has been demonstrated to be highly effective in generating support for the National Discussion across the education system in Scotland and a commitment to hosting discussions from key stakeholders. This includes a commitment from the main teaching unions EIS and NASUWT, as well as AHDS and ADES.

7. As co-facilitators, we have written to all Head Teachers, through the Directors of Education in Scotland, to promote and empower teachers and practitioners to engage in the National Discussion with their children and young people, and as a profession. The National Discussion Team is monitoring uptake levels in schools and we are already aware of a strong roll-out in a number of Local Authority areas.
8. As mentioned earlier, we are seeking to maximise engagement at grassroots level. As co-facilitators, we have engaged with more than a hundred early learning, children and young people's organisations and parent groups, many of which have agreed to host events. The National Discussion team will keep in close contact with all organisations which have offered to support this work to ensure there is follow through and that we are obtaining all the relevant data from these engagements.
9. The National Discussion Team have also engaged directly with a number of Local Authorities resulting in positive responses. For example, South Lanarkshire Council has agreed to hold several National Discussion groups focussing on young people who have found it difficult to thrive in the school environment. South Ayrshire children's rights officials plan to hold an event with seldom-asked children and young people in their local authority and to disseminate information about the National Discussion through the national children's rights officer network.

Online presence

10. We have a team in place, that is collating evidence of engagement levels through our landing page for the National Discussion, which hosts our survey, discussion guides, videos and additional resources and information. By Wednesday 12th October, the online survey had been accessed by 773 people with 369 complete responses received to date.
11. The National Discussion Team are tracking engagement activity being carried out by individual organisations and groups on social media platforms.
12. **The Council is asked to note progress in respect of the National Discussion and consider:**
 - **How to ensure that the ND reaches those who are rarely part of any national consultation or discussion?**
 - **How to ensure that the views of *all* learners remain central to the National Discussion, along with those who care for them and educate them?**

Professor Carol Campbell and Professor Alma Harris
October 2022

A timetable of planned activity**Completed Events as of 5 October 2022**

| Event | Date |
|--|-------------|
| SOLACE conference | Sep-22 |
| Scottish Learning Festival | 21/09/2022 |
| SG/CoSLA event with Parliamentary spokespeople | 22/09/2022 |
| meeting with EIS | 22/09/2022 |
| Race Equality and Anti-Racism in Education Programme Steering Group briefing | 28/09/2022 |
| Curriculum Advisory Board | 28/09/2022 |

Confirmed Events/activity as of 5 October 2022

| Event | Date from | Date to | Time | Location | Attendance agreed Y/N |
|---|------------------|----------------|---------------|---|------------------------------|
| Learning for Sustainability and Putting Young People at the Centre 'round table' | 05/10/2022 | 05/10/2022 | 16:00 – 17:00 | Virtual | Y |
| Meeting with Khadija Mohammed, Chair of the Scottish Association of Minority Ethnic Educator) | 10/10/22 | 10/10/22 | 15:30-16:30 | Virtual | Y |
| Care Inspectorate ELC providers | 14/10/2022 | 14/10/2022 | N/A | Form of email | N |
| DYW (Developing Young Workforce) Leads event | 26/10/2022 | 26/10/2022 | 15:30-17:00 | Online - format to be agreed (Fran leading) | Y |
| Focus groups 1 of 8 with Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 27/10/2022 | 27/10/2022 | 15:00-16:30 | Online | Y Alma |
| AHDS conference | 03/11/2022 | 03/11/2022 | 13:15 – 15:45 | Radisson Blu, Glasgow | Y Carol |
| ADES conference | 04/11/2022 | 04/11/2022 | TBC | Cumbernauld | Y Carol |
| Teachers Panel | 11/11/2022 | 11/11/2022 | 14:00 | In person | Y |
| Children's Parliament | 11/11/2022 | 11/11/2022 | 11:00 | Edinburgh | Y Carol and Alma |
| EIS conference on National Discussion | 12/11/2022 | 12/11/2022 | TBC | Glasgow | Y Carol and Alma |

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| Focus groups 2 of 8 with Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 14/11/2022 | 14/11/2022 | 15:30 - 17:00 | Online | Y Alma |
| Focus groups 3 of 8 Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 15/11/2022 | 15/11/2022 | 15:30 - 17:00 | Online | Y Alma |
| Focus groups 4 of 8 with Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 18/11/2022 | 18/11/2022 | 15:30 - 17:00 | Online | Y Carol |
| Focus groups 5 of 8 with Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 21/11/2022 | 21/11/2022 | 15:30 - 17:00 | Online | Y Carol |
| Focus groups 6 of 8 RESERVE with Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 23/11/2022 | 23/11/2022 | 16:00 - 17:30pm | Online | Y Carol |
| Focus groups 7 of 8 RESERVE with Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 25/11/2022 | 25/11/2022 | 10:00 - 11:30am | Online | Y Alma |
| Focus groups 8 of 8 RESERVE with Child Rights and Inclusion organisations. (110 listed) | 28/11/2022 | 28/11/2022 | 15:30 - 17:00 | Online | Y Alma |

To be confirmed in coming days

| Event | Potential Date |
|--|------------------------|
| Children in Scotland Conference | 09/11/2022 |
| Children's panel event | 10/11/2022 |
| Sight Scotland and RNIB Scotland (Event on the future of Education for those with a sight impairment) | 10/11/2022 |
| Lochgilphead Academy visit | 11/11/2022 |
| Engagement with BAME educators and young people (initial call) Khadija Mohammed (Chair of the Scottish Association of Minority Ethnic Educators) | TBC |
| SQA learner panel | TBC - could be 9th Nov |

Scoping Events, attendance and dates to be confirmed

| Event | Date from |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Connect and NPFS focus group | TBC |
| Sight Scotland | TBC |
| Includem | TBC |
| Donaldson's Trust | TBC |
| Close the Gap | TBC |
| LGBT Scotland | TBC |
| Young Scot | TBC |
| RNIB Scotland | TBC |
| UNCRE network | TBC |

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| SG Early Years Reform - visit to ELC | TBC |
| Glasgow School of Education 1 of 2 events | 01/11/2022 |
| Glasgow School of Education 2 of 2 events | 02/11/2022 |
| National Youth Link Conference | 08/11/2022 |
| Engagement with BAME educators and young people - visit to school | 10/11/2022 |