

SCOTTISH EDUCATION COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATION POLICY AND IMPROVEMENT

Background

1. The Scottish Government's National Improvement Framework sets out a clear vision for Scottish education. This is supported by the Government's reform agenda – education which is led by teachers and schools, where collaboration is key to driving improvement and all children and young people are able to reach their potential. In thinking about and developing proposals for reform, it provides the opportunity to review and rationalise the existing structures and arrangements for the governance and oversight of Scottish education policy.

New arrangements

2. The Scottish Education Council is being established as the key forum for oversight of improvement activity in Scotland as defined by the National Improvement Framework and to ensure a system-wide focus on improvement can be delivered. The Council will be chaired by the Deputy First Minister and will involve those who can directly deliver improvements in education. The proposed remit and membership of the Council is set out in **Annex A**.

3. The establishment of the Scottish Education Council will see the disbanding of the Curriculum for Excellence Management Board and its supporting structures i.e. the CfE Implementation Group and Assessment and National Qualifications Group; as well as the National Improvement Framework Strategic Group and the Scottish Attainment Challenge Advisory Group. In their place, the tier beneath the Council will now comprise the new Curriculum and Assessment Board and the existing Strategic Board for Teacher Education. The proposed remit and membership for both of these boards are set out in **Annex B** and **Annex C** respectively.

Accountability arrangements

4. The Scottish Education Council will be accountable to Ministers. It will have strong links to both the Curriculum and Assessment Board and the Strategic Board for Teacher Education. It is expected that the Council will have a standing agenda item to consider issues being discussed by the Boards and may (when requested by the Boards) provide input and advice to Board papers. The Council may also seek the advice of either Board on particular issues of interest. The Boards will not however be accountable to the Council – they will be directly accountable to Ministers.

Internal governance

5. In addition to these external governance bodies, the Scottish Government will maintain appropriate internal governance arrangements to help ensure effective delivery of key programmes of work including the National Improvement Framework and the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

FOR INFORMATION**Education Leaders' Forum**

6. Membership of the Scottish Education Council, the Curriculum and Assessment Board and the Strategic Board for Teacher Education will be kept deliberately tight to help ensure they operate effectively. An Education Leaders' Forum will also be established to gather the views of wider stakeholders on development of the Scottish education system, and to inform the work of the Council and the two Boards.

7. While the focus of the Council and Boards will be on delivery, the Forum will be a large gathering, along the lines of last year's Education Summit, and will give all those with an interest the chance to discuss current issues and to ensure that their voice is being heard by Ministers. This biannual Forum will meet for the first time early in the new year and will include representatives from professional associations, third sector and voluntary organisations, parental organisations, academics and other partners, and will help to demonstrate the value placed on the contribution of wider stakeholders to the development of the Scottish education system.

**Scottish Education Council Secretariat
December 2017**

Scottish Education Council

Draft remit

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;
- 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 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 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.

Method of working

- The group will be chaired by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.
- Membership will be individual – no substitutes will be allowed to attend.
- The Council will meet every two months.
- A minimum of 50% of the members including the Chair, is required at every meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

- The Scottish Government will provide secretariat support to the group by arranging meetings, collating, preparing and circulating papers in advance and noting the outcomes of the groups deliberations.

Membership

Name	Role
John Swinney MSP	Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Chair)
Cllr Stephen McCabe	Children and Young People Spokesperson, COSLA
tbc	2 x young people representatives
Janet Brown	Chief Executive SQA
Sheena Devlin	Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead, Tayside Collaborative
Larry Flanagan	General Secretary, The Educational Institute of Scotland
Gayle Gorman	Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead, The Northern Alliance
Douglas Hutchison	Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead, South West Collaborative
Carrie Lindsay	Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead, South East Collaborative
Graeme Logan	interim HM Chief Inspector and Chief Education Adviser
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Maureen McKenna	President, ADES
Ken Muir	Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland
Joanna Murphy	Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland
Robert Naylor	Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead, Forth Valley and West Lothian Collaborative
Morag Redford	Chair, Scottish Council of Deans of Education
Fiona Robertson	Scottish Government, Director for Learning
Mhairi Shaw	Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead, The West Partnership
Jim Thewliss	General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland

Secretariat: National Improvement Framework Unit, Scottish Government

Young people

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring formal representation from young people on the Council. This is particularly important as pupil participation is a key feature within the Scottish Government's education reforms and education is a key theme within the Year of Young People 2018.

With support from Young Scot, the Scottish Government's Year of Young People partner, two young people, one from S1-S3 and one from S4-S6, have volunteered to become formal members of the Council. The young people will be provided with additional support from Young Scot and Scottish Government to ensure that they can contribute to the work of the Council.

FOR INFORMATION

From summer 2018 onwards, the young people attendees will be drawn from a broader Scottish Learner Panel. The panel will be a cross regional panel of young people covering the 3-18 curriculum. Similar to the Teacher Panel, its role will be to act as a sounding board for perspectives on national policy, and a route for young people to influence the priorities. As part of its work, the Panel have a key role in providing a contribution to the work of the Scottish Education Council as well as the Curriculum and Assessment Board and Strategic Board for Education. A detailed timetable and milestones for the creation of the Panel will be developed in the coming months.

The Council will also consider further options to ensure meaningful engagement with young people as part of its work.

Curriculum and Assessment Board

The Board will meet on a quarterly basis, starting in December 2017. It will be jointly chaired by the Scottish Government Director of Learning and HM Chief Inspector of Education.

Remit

- To consider the existing curriculum and assessment policy framework and make recommendations to Ministers on the best means of supporting improvement of the policy framework, including improvements relating to the nature of teaching, learning, building curricula, qualifications and assessment.
- To identify issues which need to be addressed nationally to fulfil the intention that Curriculum for Excellence be a truly school, practitioner and teacher-led curriculum, in partnership with other education providers, and recommend action to address such issues to Ministers.

Terms of Reference and a draft Programme of Work for the Board will be drawn up for discussion at its first meeting which will take place on 6 December 2017. Priority work at that first meeting will be for the Board to consider outstanding items of work from the Assessment and National Qualifications Group – most notably the review of the National 4 qualification. The Terms of Reference will make clear the connections with Developing the Young Workforce and the Learner Journey review.

Membership

Association of Directors of Education
 Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland
 Care Inspectorate
 College Development Network
 Colleges Scotland
 Community Learning and Development Manager Group
 Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
 Early Years Scotland
 The Educational Institute of Scotland
 Education Scotland
 Louise Hayward, University of Glasgow
 Mark Priestley, University of Stirling
 National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers
 National Parent Forum of Scotland
 Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead
 School Leaders Scotland
 Scottish Council of Independent Schools
 Scottish Government
 Scottish Secondary Teachers Association
 Scottish Qualifications Authority
 Skills Development Scotland
 Universities Scotland

FOR INFORMATION

Secretariat: Curriculum Unit, Scottish Government

Method of working

- The group will be jointly chaired by the Director of Learning and HM Chief Inspector of Education
- With one exception as detailed above, membership will be by organisation. The nominated Board member from each organisation will be expected to attend all meetings, although substitutes will be allowed.
- The Board will meet every three months and we will endeavour to hold meetings in a school setting.
- The Board will work closely with the Scottish Education Council and may be asked to provide guidance and advice to the Council on specific issues.
- The Board will be accountable directly to Ministers.
- The Scottish Government will provide secretariat support to the group by arranging meetings, collating, preparing and circulating papers in advance and noting the outcomes of the groups deliberations.

As noted re the Scottish Education Council, we will scope and agree the most effective way of involving young people in the Board.

Strategic Board for Teacher Education

The Board has now been in place for nearly two years, dealing with a range of workforce issues. It will retain its existing responsibilities and membership, with the addition of input from young people. It will continue to meet quarterly and to be chaired by Deputy Director People and Infrastructure, Learning Directorate, Scottish Government.

Remit

The Board will:

- Provide oversight of key elements of Teaching Scotland's Future such as local authority/university partnerships and continue to support on-going projects started by the NIB;
- Communicate with teachers about ongoing changes to teacher education. As part of this the Board will consider the coherence of messages across partner organisations;
- Consider equality issues in the teaching profession both in terms of access to professional learning but also in terms of the make-up of the profession itself;
- Develop a coherent national policy on SCQF Level 11 learning for teachers drawing together related work on the Masters Framework, the Framework for Educational Leadership, the new Qualification for Headship and projects funded by the Scottish Government;
- Develop a coherent national strategy in relation to educational research in Scotland;
- Consider the implications for the schools workforce of the OECD 'Improving Schools in Scotland' Report.
- Introduce and monitor quality indicators for Teacher Education;
- Provide an effective link between teacher education/professional learning and other key areas of national policy such as tackling inequality, raising attainment, Early Years, Developing the Young Workforce and CfE; and
- Agree recommendations to ensure that teacher workforce planning can be enhanced and become more responsive to local needs.

Method of working

- The group will be chaired by the Deputy Director People and Infrastructure
- Membership will be by organisation. The nominated Board member from each organisation will be expected to attend all meetings, although substitutes will be allowed.
- The Board will meet every three months.
- The Board will work closely with the Scottish Education Council and may be asked to provide guidance and advice to the Council on specific issues.
- The Board will be accountable directly to Ministers.
- The Scottish Government will provide secretariat support to the group by arranging meetings, collating, preparing and circulating papers in advance and noting the outcomes of the groups deliberations.

FOR INFORMATION**Membership**

Association of Directors of Education – Michael Wood
Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland – Tim Wallace
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities – Kathy Cameron
The Educational Institute of Scotland – Susan Quinn
Education Scotland – Alan Armstrong
General Teaching Council Scotland - Ken Muir
National Parent Forum of Scotland – Barrie Sheppard
Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead - tbc
Scottish College for Educational Leadership – Gillian Hamilton
Scottish Council of Independent Schools – Margaret Lannon
School Leaders Scotland – Jim Thewliss
Scottish Catholic Education Service – Barbara Coupar
Scottish Secondary Teachers Association – Seamus Searson
Scottish Teacher Education Committee – Morag Redford

Secretariat: People and Leadership Unit, Scottish Government

As noted re the Scottish Education Council, we will scope and agree the most effective way of involving young people in the Board.