

ROLE AND REMIT OF THE CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT BOARD

Role

1. The Curriculum and Assessment Board will be the key forum for oversight of curriculum and assessment activity in Scotland. The role of the Board will be to provide leadership and oversight of the curriculum and assessment policy framework in Scottish education. The Board will consider the actions which are needed to ensure Curriculum for Excellence fully delivers for all children and young people.

2. The Board will support the work of the Scottish Education Council, which will provide leadership and oversight of improvement in Scottish education. It is expected that the Board will have a standing agenda item to consider relevant issues being discussed by the Council and may (when requested by the Council) provide input and advice to Council papers. The Council may also seek the advice of the Board on particular issues of interest relating to curriculum and assessment. The Board will not however be accountable to the Council – the Board is directly accountable to Scottish Ministers. The Board's accountability to Scottish Ministers does not impact on organisations' own internal accountability arrangements.

Relationship with Regional Improvement Collaboratives

3. The Joint Steering Group comprising Scottish Government, Education Scotland and Local Government agreed that every Regional Improvement Collaborative would ensure and enhance subject-specific support and advice across all eight curriculum areas, with a clear focus on literacy and numeracy and the areas of improvement identified for that region, and their contribution to attainment.

4. Regional Plans for each Collaborative will set out how the Collaborative intends to support continuous improvement in curriculum design and development, including in relation to national priorities. As such, the Board will work closely with the Regional Improvement Collaboratives to oversee progress towards delivery of national and regional curricular improvement priorities and outcomes.

Remit

5. The remit of the Curriculum and Assessment Board is:

5.1 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 at all levels of the system.

5.2 to identify issues which need to be addressed nationally and regionally 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.

5.3 to maintain an overview of both research on curriculum and assessment policy and practice, and international developments in relation to curriculum and assessment policy.

Chair and Membership

6. The Board will be chaired jointly by the Director of Learning, Scottish Government and the Chief Inspector of Education and Chief Executive of Education Scotland.

7. The members of the Board are:

- Association of Directors of Education
- Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland
- 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
- Professor Mark Priestley, University of Stirling
- Professor Louise Hayward, University of Glasgow
- National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers
- National Parent Forum of Scotland
- School Leaders Scotland
- Scottish Council of Independent Schools
- Scottish Funding Council
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Secondary Teachers Association
- Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Sheena Devlin, Regional Improvement Lead for the Tayside Collaborative
- Skills Development Scotland
- Universities Scotland

8. The nominated Board member from each organisation will be expected to attend all meetings, although substitutes are allowed.

Meetings

9. The Board will meet every three months and we will endeavour to hold meetings in a school setting.

10. Secretariat support will be provided by the Curriculum Unit in Learning Directorate.

Young People

11. The Board will ensure it involves and engages with young people as it carries forward its work programme. Scottish Government will provide support to ensure this is done effectively and coherently across all education governance structures.

Summary

12. The Board is invited to:

12.1 Offer comment on the role, remit and arrangements for the Board as set out in this paper;and

12.2 Agree the role and remit for the Board.