

SCOTTISH EDUCATION COUNCIL

ROLE, REMIT AND VISION OF EDUCATION SCOTLAND

1. Education Scotland's transition plans, started following the Next Steps announcement, have been developed further following the appointment of Gayle Gorman as Chief Inspector of Education/Chief Executive in December 2017. The organisation is moving forward with a clear focus and vision of building an organisation that is '*for Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators*'.

2. Education Scotland is currently working on its new Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2021, which will detail how it fulfils its newly defined role, for example through:

- A strong focus on learning, teaching and leadership
- National collaborative professional learning networks
- Getting it Right for Every Child
- Best use of high quality evidence
- Effective partnerships

3. Education Scotland will deploy most of its education staff to work alongside leaders and other frontline practitioners through the Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs), motivating change and providing specialist support. ES is moving to a regional delivery model, with a collective and collaborative approach at national, regional and local levels.

4. Full-time Regional Advisors have been deployed for each of the six RICs. These Advisors are working alongside Regional Improvement Leads to develop planning, and to broker support. They are coordinating an early support offer and will play a central role in leading regional support teams going forward.

5. Each RIC submitted a Phase one plan in January 2018. Each of these has been reviewed by the Chief Inspector. Phase two plans are due to be submitted in September 2018. In the interim, the Chief Inspector is meeting with each of the Regional Improvement Leads to discuss the review of phase one plans and clarify expected next steps/support.

6. Education Scotland's Regional Advisors will broker any short term support required from the agency up until new plans are submitted in September 2018.

7. Staff across Education Scotland are currently developing a generic offer of support for the RICs. The offer includes elements from a broad range of our current provision. This offer will develop and evolve over time as new staff are recruited and the organisation has increased capacity to deliver its enhanced role and remit.

8. Regional Advisors are working in close partnership with Regional Improvement Leads to ensure that Education Scotland provides bespoke areas of support, for example around capacity building for improvement and effective use of data.

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9. Education Scotland has published a new Standards and Evaluation Framework which sets out the way in which inspection supports improvement.
10. Since August 2016 HM Inspectors have evaluated a new quality indicator 'Learning, Teaching and Assessment' as part of a sample of inspection which contributes evidence to the National Improvement Framework evidence report. Education Scotland will continue to ensure its approaches to inspection focus on children's and young people's learning experiences within and beyond the classroom.
11. In April, Education Scotland launched 'How Good is OUR school?' - a framework to support children and young people's participation in their learning and school life.
12. Joint planning with the Care Inspectorate on a revised joint Early Years Inspection framework is nearing completion.
13. The Scottish approach to bringing about improvement is based on providers evaluating their own work and then taking action to plan for any necessary improvements. Education Scotland staff use evidence, gathered through a wide range of evaluative activity and partnership working to promote improvement at a local and national level.
14. Education Scotland staff provide Scottish Ministers and their officials with evidence-based advice to help inform policy development and encourage improvement throughout the Scottish education system. Through observing learning, teaching and assessment, staff are very well-informed to comment on the effectiveness of implementation of national policy and programmes, such as the focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.
15. A scoping exercise gathering the views of teachers and stakeholders to better define professional learning at a national level and help identify priorities for curriculum support at a local level is now complete. This work will contribute to the development of agreed national guidance on professional learning as part of the work of the Strategic Board of Teacher Education.
16. The transfer of the Scottish College for Education Leadership (SCEL) to Education Scotland is now complete. SCEL's existing suite of leadership programmes have been transferred and work is already underway to enhance this offer.
17. Reflecting its enhanced remit, it has been agreed that Education Scotland recruit for a significant increase in staff. A major recruitment campaign is now underway for curriculum specialists, attainment advisors and HM Inspectors of Education.
18. The organisation is about to undergo a restructure to move to clear specific core areas for improvement. A review of the current programmes of work is

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complete and exit strategies are being deployed to ensure staff are freed up to re-focus on new priorities.

Conclusion

19. The Council is asked to note the contents of this paper and to offer any observations or suggestions for further changes or enhancements.

Education Scotland
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