
NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTTISH EDUCATION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The First Minister announced the publication of a first draft of the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education on 1st September 2015. The publication of the framework will be followed by an extensive period of consultation by the Scottish Government to help refine its contents and focus to ensure it helps meet the key strategic drivers of raising attainment and addressing educational inequalities.
- 1.2 The draft strategy and anticipated consultation timeline is presented for the information of the Community Services Committee – due to the timeline for publishing papers for the committee meeting on 10th September 2015, there has been limited time to consider the framework in any detail. The Education Service will attend the various engagement events planned by the Scottish Government and draw together a draft response for council consideration prior to the final publication of the framework anticipated in December 2015.

1.3 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- a) Note the publication of the draft national improvement framework for Scottish education by the Scottish Government.
- b) Note the programme of engagement events planned by the Scottish Government to consult on the draft framework
- c) Agree the Education Service will develop a draft response to the consultation for consideration by council to align with the September to November consultation period.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The First Minister announced the publication of a first draft of the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education on 1st September 2015. The publication of the framework will be followed by an extensive period of consultation by the Scottish Government to help refine its contents and focus to ensure it helps meet the key strategic drivers of raising attainment and addressing educational inequalities.
- 2.2 The draft strategy and anticipated consultation timeline is presented for the information of the Community Services Committee – due to the timeline for publishing papers for the committee meeting on 10th September 2015, there has been limited time to consider the framework in any detail. The Education Service will attend the various engagement events planned by the Scottish Government and draw together a draft response for council consideration prior to the final publication of the framework anticipated in December 2015.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- a) Note the publication of the draft national improvement framework for Scottish education by the Scottish Government.
 - b) Note the programme of engagement events planned by the Scottish Government to consult on the draft framework
 - c) Agree the Education Service will develop a draft response to the consultation for consideration by council to align with the September to November consultation period.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The Scottish Government is committed to developing an outcomes based framework for improving and reporting on the progress of Scottish Education and to provide a more sophisticated assessment than the reliance on senior phase SCQF qualifications attainment or input measures such as teacher numbers or pupil: teacher ratios in isolation. In support of this work, the Scottish Government has worked closely with CoSLA and the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) amongst other contributors. The framework is designed to build on the development of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

4.2 The draft framework contributes to the Scottish Government's vision for education:

- **Excellence through raising attainment:** ensuring every child achieves the highest standard in literacy and numeracy and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed; and
- **Achieving equity:** ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed.

4.3 The Scottish Government's key priorities are indicated as:

- Improvement in attainment, specifically in reading, writing and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Improvements in sustained school leaver destinations for all young people

4.4 The framework will bring together key information to evaluate performance and will use that data and evidence to plan improvements for children. There are key features that are summarised below:

- New national standardised assessments at P1, P4, P7 and S3 which will focus on progress on literacies and numeracy
- Greater focus on progress in relation to children's health and wellbeing
- From the above, improved understanding for pupils of their progress in learning and for parents about their child's progress
- An outline of the key drivers of improvement including school improvement, school leadership, teacher professionalism, assessment of children's progress, parental involvement and performance information.
- An outline of roles and responsibilities for teachers, head teachers, parents, local authorities, the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and other partner agencies such as Universities/ Colleges, the National Parent Forum, ADES, CoSLA, and the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)

4.5 The implementation of the framework is scheduled into stage 1 activities (2015-17) and stage 2 (2017 onwards).

4.6 The Scottish Government have indicated a series of regional engagement workshop events for education authorities complemented by the planned Scottish Government/ ADES/ CoSLA round table event and Directors of Education meetings throughout October and November.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The first draft of the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education was published on 1st September 2015 and outlines its support for the Scottish Government's vision and priorities for education. The draft framework will be consulted on between September and November 2015 and the Education Services will develop a draft response for consideration by council following participation in a series of engagement events.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – The development of the national framework for Scottish education supports the central purpose of the Scottish Government and the delivery on the national outcomes. The framework would support delivery on the SOA Outcomes 1 and 3.
- 6.2 Financial – No implications arising directly from this report
- 6.3 Legal – No implications arising directly from this report
- 6.4 HR – No implications arising directly from this report
- 6.5 Equalities – one of the two main tenets of the Scottish Government's vision for education is to address educational inequalities
- 6.6 Risk – No implications arising directly from this report
- 6.7 Customer Service – No implications arising directly from this report

Cleland Sneddon
Executive Director of Community Services

Councillor Rory Colville
Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning

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For further information contact:
Ann Marie Knowles, Head of Education,
Tel: 01369 708474,
email: annmarie.knowles@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Creating a Smarter Scotland: A draft national improvement framework for Scottish Education