

**Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar: Next steps for Curriculum for Excellence - supporting teachers, tackling the attainment gap and priorities for the Education Bill**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Venue: Royal Society Edinburgh, 22-26 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ

Agenda subject to change



**SCOTLAND POLICY  
CONFERENCES**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Elizabeth Smith MSP**, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Curriculum for Excellence in context**  
**Professor Graham Donaldson**, Consultant and Member, International Council of Education Advisors  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.25 **The future direction of Curriculum for Excellence**  
*Are the principles of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), first laid out in 2004, still fit for purpose in ensuring that Scotland's education system meets the needs of pupils, teachers from early years, primary and secondary education, as well as wider society? What should be the future direction of CfE? How can the education system best balance the core principles of a broad, flexible curriculum and whole child approach with the need for measuring performance, for instance through standardised assessment?*  
**Neil McLennan**, Director of Leadership Programmes and Senior Lecturer, School of Education, University of Aberdeen  
**Rod Grant**, Headmaster, Clifton Hall School, Edinburgh  
**Mark Stewart MSYP**, Convener, Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, Scottish Youth Parliament  
**Jean Carwood-Edwards**, Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland  
**George Gilchrist**, Educational Writer and Commentator and former Headteacher, Parkside and Ancrum Primary Schools, Scottish Borders  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.45 **Priorities for the Scottish curriculum: a learned society perspective**  
**Keir Bloomer**, Convener, Education Committee, The Royal Society of Edinburgh  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Elizabeth Smith MSP**, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 10.50 - 11.20 Coffee
- 11.20 - 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Ross Greer MSP**, Member, Education and Skills Committee
- 11.25 - 12.05 **Curriculum for Excellence and the forthcoming Education Bill: Regional Improvement Collaboratives and the Headteachers' Charter**  
*Following the publication of the Scottish Government's 2018 national improvement framework and improvement plan, what lessons can be learnt from existing regional collaborations, both in Scotland and further afield, on best practice in this area? With the Scottish Government aiming to devolve significant powers to headteachers as part of its proposed Headteachers' Charter, including greater freedom over the curriculum, what is needed to ensure that headteachers have the necessary support systems, including those needed to drive innovative approaches to learning within schools?*  
**Arwyn Thomas**, Managing Director, GwE  
**Laurence Findlay**, Corporate Director, Education and Social Care, Moray Council and Regional Improvement Lead, Northern Alliance  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.45 **Supporting teachers and tackling the attainment gap: CPD, new routes into the profession, and reducing bureaucracy**  
*What impact on reducing the attainment gap is likely from the Scottish Government's initiatives to open up alternative routes into teaching, and what safeguards are needed to guard against any negative effect on teaching standards? With the Scottish Government continuing to implement the Pupil Equity Funding scheme, what more can be done to ensure that teachers have the resources they need to help improve attainment? How effective have the Scottish Government's attempts been to reduce bureaucracy faced by classroom teachers, and what further measures could be introduced to give teachers greater time and space for professional development and improve the performance of CfE? How can the sector better engage with parents and encourage them to support teachers in the delivery of CfE and reducing the attainment gap?*  
**Jane Peckham**, National Official, Scotland, NASUWT  
**Dr Paul Thomson**, Rector, Jordanhill School, Glasgow  
**Eileen Prior**, Executive Director, Connect  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 - 12.55 **Concluding remarks**  
**Professor Graham Donaldson**, Consultant and Member, International Council of Education Advisors
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**  
**Ross Greer MSP**, Member, Education and Skills Committee  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Scotland Policy Conferences