

Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar: Next steps for Curriculum for Excellence - future direction, improving attainment and supporting classroom teaching

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 13th March 2018

Venue: Central Edinburgh



SCOTLAND POLICY
CONFERENCES

Draft agenda subject to change

- 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
Senior representative, workforce
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Elizabeth Smith MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Ross Greer MSP, Member, Education and Skills Committee
- 11.05 - 11.55 **Tackling the attainment gap: regional collaboration and educational leadership**
With the Scottish Government's Regional Collaboratives expected to have drafted a detailed improvement plan by the end of January 2018, 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 Headteacher's 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
Senior speaker confirmed from **The Northern Alliance**
Senior representative, leadership
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 - 12.35 **Supporting classroom teaching: resources, workload and assessment**
What are the potential benefits for the performance of CfE in relation to the Scottish Government's initiatives to open up alternative routes into teaching, and are sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that such an approach will not have a negative effect on teaching standards? How can the Scottish Government support existing classroom teachers to improve methods and practices of teaching, particularly in subjects such as literacy and numeracy? With the Scottish Government expected to publish a new school funding formula in June 2018, what is needed to ensure that teachers have the resources they need to 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?
Jane Peckham, National Official, Scotland, NASUWT
Reuben Moore, Director of Leadership, Teach First
Dr Paul Thomson, Rector, Jordanhill School, Glasgow
Eileen Prior, Executive Director, Scottish Parent Teacher Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 - 12.55 **Next steps for Curriculum for Excellence**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 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