

## Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar:

### Next steps for improving educational outcomes in Scotland: leadership, teaching and assessment

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Venue: Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW



SCOTLAND POLICY  
CONFERENCES

Agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

#### 9.00 - 9.05 Chair's opening remarks

**Jackie Brock**, Chief Executive Officer, Children in Scotland

#### 9.05 - 9.45 Improving educational outcomes and closing the attainment gap

**Jackie Brock**, Chief Executive Officer, Children in Scotland

**Daniel Murphy**, Senior Teaching Fellow, Education, Teaching and Leadership, University of Edinburgh

Questions and comments from the floor

#### 9.45 - 11.00 Reducing inequality in attainment: early intervention, standardised assessment and the developing role of the educational community

*What innovative new approaches - beyond proven techniques such as peer mentoring, nurture groups and cooperative learning - might the educational community take in tackling inequalities that are linked to pupil's socio-economic background? What more can be done to realise the benefits from early intervention - particularly at a pre-school level? With new standardised testing being proposed at primary and secondary school level, how can schools most effectively use the data collected in order to close the attainment gap? In light of concerns that the proposed standardised testing is too similar to previous testing methods, how can the new system be developed so that the focus remains on understanding differences in attainment between students rather than comparisons between schools and teachers? What impact will standardised assessment have on the development of Curriculum for Excellence, which has been moving away from formal testing, and stressing the importance of flexibility? What should be the priorities for further involving those in the community not directly working with schools day-to-day - including local authorities - to help close the attainment gap?*

**Sue Palmer**, Chair, Upstart Scotland

**George Gilchrist**, Headteacher, Parkside and Ancrum Primary Schools, Scottish Borders

**Aqeel Ahmed**, Convener, Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, Scottish Youth Parliament and Pupil, Rosshall Academy, Glasgow

**Derek Brown**, Head of Education and Children's Services (Senior Phase and Employability), Fife Council

**Dr Paul Thomson**, Rector, Jordanhill School, Glasgow

Questions and comments from the floor

#### 11.00 - 11.05 Chair's closing remarks

**Jackie Brock**, Chief Executive Officer, Children in Scotland

11.05 - 11.35 Coffee

#### 11.35 - 11.40 Chair's opening remarks

**Iain Gray MSP**, Spokesperson for Opportunity, Scottish Labour Party

#### 11.40 - 11.50 Teaching, leadership and raising attainment

**Stephen Miller**, Vice President, School Leaders Scotland and Rector, Denny High School, Falkirk

#### 11.50 - 12.00 Priorities for parents

**Eileen Prior**, Executive Director, Scottish Parent Teacher Council

#### 12.00 - 12.10 "Equity and Excellence - raising attainment"

**Donna Bell**, Deputy Director for Strategy and Performance Division, The Scottish Government

#### 12.10 - 12.20 Priorities for teachers

**Larry Flanagan**, General Secretary, Educational Institute of Scotland

12.20 - 12.55 Questions and comments from the floor

#### 12.55 - 13.00 Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks

**Iain Gray MSP**, Spokesperson for Opportunity, Scottish Labour Party

**Michael Ryan**, Deputy Editor, Scotland Policy Conferences