



F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: dfmcse@gov.scot

Local Authority Chief Executives

CC: Directors of Education

03 October 2017

Dear Chief Executive,

EDUCATION REFORM: REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVES

Following the announcement of the agreed position on implementing Regional Improvement Collaboratives on Friday 28th September, we would like to set out the process for progressing with the operation of each collaborative.

Both the Scottish Government and local government have shaped the development of the Regional Improvement Collaboratives, working to ensure improved outcomes for children are at the heart of this work.

As you know, the guiding principles which will underpin the development of the Regional Improvement Collaboratives, and the next steps to put them in place, have been developed through a Steering Group co-chaired by Scottish Government and SOLACE and are supported by both Scottish Ministers and COSLA Leaders. The report of the Joint Steering Group is Annexed to this letter for your information.

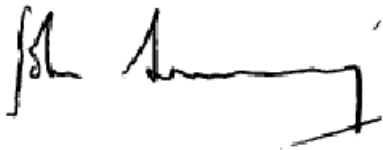
The immediate next steps agreed are around the leadership and formation of the Improvement Collaboratives with a Regional Improvement Lead to be identified by 31 October 2017; and the development of both an Improvement Plan and a Workforce Plan for each collaborative by 31 January 2018. These appointments and plans will be agreed and approved by the Chief Executives of the local authorities within the collaborative and with the Scottish Government, as advised by the Chief Inspector of Education Scotland. The improvement plans should flow from the priorities identified in school plans under the National Improvement Framework process and the timescale is intended to allow sufficient time to consult with schools.



The report recognises the need for bespoke models, within a nationally agreed set of core functions, to be developed to reflect each region's particular context. Education Scotland has also announced that most of their education staff will be contributing to the collaboratives, working alongside staff from local authorities and schools to support and drive improvement. Discussions should now to be taken forward in regions in the first instance, including officials from both Education Scotland and the Scottish Government so that work can continue in close partnership. You are asked to confirm to the Scottish Government the Chief Executive lead contact for each Improvement Collaborative, to facilitate those discussions.

We look forward to working in partnership as we take forward this important first step in implementing the education reform agenda.

Yours faithfully,



**JOHN SWINNEY, MSP
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**



**COUNCILLOR STEPHEN McCABE
COSLA**