

Scottish Government's Consultation: Education Governance Review – Fair Funding to achieve Excellence and Equity in Education**Report by Grace Vickers, Head of Education, Education, Communities & Economy****1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to draw Cabinet's attention to the Scottish Government's consultation entitled Education Governance Review – Fair funding to achieve excellence and equity in education. The consultation was launched in June 2017 and closes on 13 October 2017.

2. Background

On 13 September 2016, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on Education Governance called *Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review*. The consultation closed on 6 January 2017 and a full copy of the Midlothian Council response was approved by Council on 20 December 2016.

In June 2017, the Scottish Government published the outcome of this national consultation in their report entitled Education Governance: Next Steps. In the same month the Scottish Government also launched the fair funding consultation and a copy of this is filed in appendix 1.

This consultation invites views on: the way school education is currently funded in Scotland, including early year's provision within school settings; the purpose of developing a new, more consistent approach to school funding; and the principles that should underpin any changes. It also sets out and seeks views on possible future funding approaches to support our vision of excellence and equity for all children and young people across Scottish education.

The Scottish Government are inviting responses to this consultation by **Friday 13 October 2017**. Individuals can respond using the Scottish Government's consultation platform, Citizen Space. You can view and respond to the consultation online at:

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/education-governance-fair-funding>.

Following consultation with stakeholders in Midlothian, a further report will be brought back to Cabinet in September 2017 prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

3. Report Implications

3.1 Resource

The launch of the Fair Funding Review in June 2017 alongside this Education Governance report will examine the system changes required to deliver future funding to empower schools, decentralise management and the support through the encouragement of school clusters and creation of new educational regions and will implement any proposals arising from the Governance and Parental Involvement reviews at the earliest opportunity. In particular the Scottish Government will support the development and expansion of school clusters and increased regional working throughout 2017-18.

3.2 Risk

The previous Cabinet report dated 11 October 2016, highlighted the following risks: we welcome the relentless focus on closing the attainment gap in Education but we recognise that this requires a total Midlothian approach; although the delivery plan clearly states in the opening ambition statement that in order to close the attainment gap “our efforts must also extend beyond the classroom and across our communities and wider public services if we are to succeed in our ambition” (2016: 4); the delivery plan then continues with a narrow focus on the school level leavers without recognition of the critical role that other services including the Community Planning Partnerships and the third sector play in supporting education to close the poverty related attainment gap.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

The ambition in the delivery plan is already clearly embedded in the Single Midlothian Plan – reducing inequalities. Last year the transformation project on Early Years was concluded in order to ensure that we have a strong foundation from which to plan for the delivery of 1140 hours by 2020. Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

GIRFEC 5: Our people will be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

To close the gap by improving ‘attainment versus deprivation’ and ‘attainment for all’ outcomes for children and young people.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

This report aims to take preventative action in order to close the attainment versus deprivation gap by implementing key policies and programmes which are designed to target support to children and young people from disadvantaged communities.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

This report presents the Scottish Government's response to the national consultation on educational governance.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

The recommendations in this report should continue to promote equity of attainment for disadvantaged children and support the steps being taken towards narrowing the attainment gap by imposing duties on education authorities and the Scottish Ministers in relation to reducing pupils' inequalities of educational outcome together with a duty to report on progress.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no impacts arising directly from this report.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues to consider within this report

4 Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to:

- Note the launch of the Scottish Government's Consultation entitled Education Governance Review – Fair funding to achieve excellence and equity in education.
- Note that a further report outlining the Midlothian response to this consultation will be brought back to Cabinet in September 2017.

Supporting Papers for on-going reviews in Scottish Education:

Standards in Scotland's Schools Act (2000):

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2000/6/pdfs/asp_20000006_en.pdf

Statutory Guidance: Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000: Scottish

Government Consultation: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-performance-unit/statutory-guidance>

Education (Scotland) Act 2016:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/8/pdfs/asp_20160008_en.pdf

Updated guidance on Chapter 3 of the Standards in Scotland Schools Act, August 2016: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/08/5386/4>

Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 by the National Parent Forum of Scotland: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/148166/0039411.pdf>

Financial Review of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland: the current landscape (Scottish Government; September 2016):

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00506148.pdf>

Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

25 July 2017

Report Contact:

Name: Dr Grace Vickers, Head of Education Tel No 0131 271 3719

julie.currie@midlothian.gov.uk