

EE34. 2017 National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing details of the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education which was published by the Scottish Government on 13 December 2016.

The aim of the NIF and the improvement plan is to provide clarity and explanation on how the Scottish Government will secure educational improvement for children and young people across Scotland, in one publication. The Scottish Government has confirmed that implementation of the NIF is to be phased in over a 3 year period. The NIF and Improvement plan, together with the 3 year implementation programme are appended to the report.

The report summarised the four key NIF priorities and the 6 key drivers identified as instrumental in achieving these. The drivers will be used to inform the evidence and data gathered at school, local and national level to help determine how well Scottish education is improving.

The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 places a statutory duty on local authorities to secure improvement in school education in a way which achieves the key priorities set out in the NIF. From 2017, there is a requirement to report on all aspects of the NIF at both school and local authority level. The Service had commenced a review on its approach to improvement planning and reporting to ensure the key NIF priorities are achieved in line with its statutory duty.

The report also referred to the Scottish Government's Interventions for Equity publication, which is the initial framework to support the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Attainment Advisors have been appointed by the Scottish Government to support local authorities in taking forward the raising attainment/closing the gap agenda. Falkirk has been allocated an Advisor for 70 days who will work with the Council's Attainment Challenge Schools, Langlees Primary and Falkirk High Schools. Children's Services will continue to evaluate the impact of this support and improvement strategies on raising attainment.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed -

- (1) to note the Education Division of Children's Services will review its approach to improvement planning and reporting to reflect the revised National Improvement Priorities and key drivers for improvements, as well as current local priorities, and**

- (2) that further reports be brought to the Education Executive as and when appropriate to update on progress made with the implementation of the revised National Improvement Framework.**