



COSLA

EC&YP Executive Group Item 5

Education, Children and Young People Strategic Plan – March 2017

The COSLA Constitution contains four key principles which are intended to enhance the status and position of local government as part of the governance of Scotland. The principles are as follows:

- **Local Democracy must be empowered**
Local government needs an unequivocal place in Scotland's constitutional future
- **Services should be integrated and not centralised**
Power must be brought closer to communities not centralised
- **There should be a focus on outcomes not inputs**
All parts of government must plan for and resource the outcomes that communities want
- **Local choice should be defended and local accountability strengthened**
Excellent public services must be connected to the daily lives of communities

The purpose of this strategic plan is to provide an opportunity for the Executive Group to scrutinise the work of COSLA to ensure that it is consistent with the above principles.

Key to the Plan

Amber – current progress

(Green) – progress at November 2016

(New) - workstream that has changed significantly or was not present in the last iteration of the plan

Complete – workstream this is complete and will be removed from the workplan

Strategic Objective 1 – Local service provision is strengthened, accountable to local people and improves outcomes for children				
Outcomes	Work streams	Update on work stream	Political Priority	Progress
1. Local authorities are in a position to modernise and maintain a high quality school and pre-school estate	We will through contact with local authorities, SG and SFT keep a watching brief on implementation of Schools for the Future Programme. We will also, with ADES, influence SFT's work on the early year's estate to ensure that it is consistent with local government's position on early years policy.	We are awaiting confirmation from the Care Inspectorate and SFT on the guidance for local authorities to plan for the EY estate. Meetings have been held with both organisations and we expect the guidance in April/May.	Medium	Amber
2. Local government's position on education service delivery is supported and strengthened, with national policy clearly reflecting the views of local authorities.	We will work to strengthen local government delivery of school and pre-school education. This will include work to positively state the benefits delivered by local government for education, but also to respond to Government policy. This work will include an ongoing response to the 2015 OECD report on the curriculum for excellence and the theme of a strengthened 'middle' to Scottish education. We will, after the election, work to establish a joint COSLA/Ministerial improvement board for education and will report to members on progress.	See agenda item on the Education Governance Review. We understand from the Scottish Government that no significant announcements will be made before or during the local government election period. COSLA officers will continue to work with SG officials during this time.	High	Amber

	We will support and co-chair with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools (SAGRABIS).	John Swinney the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills co-chairs SAGRABIS with Councillor Primrose. Councillor Primrose will Chair the next meeting which is scheduled for 9th March 2017. SAGRABIS manages the exclusion and bullying guidance which are noted in the General Update Report (Agenda Item no 15).	Medium	Green (No Change)
	We will ensure that local government's position on 1 + 2 language policy is taken on board and the policy is funded for future years.	COSLA Officers continue to participate in the Languages Strategic Implementation Group (SIG) whose membership includes unions, teacher education providers, Education Scotland, SCILT, ADES, Scottish Government and the GTCS. This group is looking at how it can offer further assistance to local authorities to facilitate full implementation of the policy by 2021. In previous years a survey has been conducted by Scottish Government and Education Scotland to gather information on the progress local authorities are making. COSLA Officers have input into this survey which will be issued shortly.	Medium	Amber (No Change)
	We will attend the strategic board for teacher education and ensure that its work consistently supports delivery of wider education policy.	Officers continue to engage in the Strategic Board. Progress to date includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement of the Innovative Routes to Teaching – various new models proposed by teaching universities to encourage more students and workforce in the private sector into teaching. • Into Headship Programme - issues around funding for Cohort 1 discussed. • Teacher recruitment campaign which was launched in early February. MyJobScotland is working with the Scottish Government to promote the marketing material. There will be a focus in first phase on STEM subjects and MyJobScotland also updating their site in relation to Education, to promote teaching as a career. 	Medium	Green (No Change)
4. Local government has a clear position on the future early years' policy, including any further expansion for early learning and childcare.	We will work to develop a policy position on the future expansion of early learning and childcare. We will also develop a response to Government's policy of 1140 hours and to other, allied initiatives, such as degree qualified staff in nurseries in	See agenda item on Early Learning and Childcare	High	Amber

	areas of deprivation.			
	We will monitor the percentage uptake up Free School meals provision for all P1-P3 pupils to ensure that LAs have sufficient resources to deliver the policy. We will also work with Scottish Government on future eligibility criteria for FSM in preparation for the introduction of Universal Credit	<p>The last monitoring undertaken on uptake by P1-3 pupils was in the latter half of 2015. At that time, returns did not indicate that overall there had been an increase beyond that estimated by SG.</p> <p>We have held initial meetings with SG on this matter as we understand that this beginning to be raised by parents in receipt of Universal Credit. Given changes in the arrangement on Universal Credit implemented recently, we have asked SG to prepare a brief advice note for councils on how to deal with enquiries by parents and we await sight of the draft guide. Colleagues dealing with Welfare Reform issues are in contact with SG to pursue this issue. At this time, we have not been provided with any sight of this draft guidance and will pursue with SG.</p>	Medium	Amber (No Change)

Strategic Objective 2 – Local government is supported by policy, legislation and resources to tackle inequality

Outcomes	Work streams	Update on work stream	Political Priority	Progress
1. Educational attainment and closing the gap in attainment between highest and lowest achievers is at the top of Government's agenda, and is improved by the coordinated work of local and Scottish Government.	We will work to establish more coordination on effort to improve attainment. This will include the development of data collection from the National Improvement Framework and ensuring that the attainment challenge develops in line with wishes of local government.	<p>Attainment challenge authorities continue to work with schools to improve the attainment gap. The SG proposal to amend the council tax charge for bands E-H was amended in December 2016 and local authorities have received ringfenced funding for each of their schools based on FSM entitlement. COSLA continue to lobby for the funds to be available to a wide scope of local authority services and are actively working with SG officials on the guidance issued to headteachers.</p> <p>The NIF was published in December 2016 and identified weak performance at Primary Level for literacy and numeracy. The number of young people receiving national qualifications continues to rise and the NIF highlights improvements for those young people living in deprivation.</p>	High	Amber (No Change)
2. Local and Scottish Government's collective response to child poverty is well coordinated and takes on board the wishes and expertise of local authorities	We will work to develop a coordinated local government response to child poverty and will ensure that this is taken on board by Government at the Ministerial Advisory Group.	<p>See agenda item on Child Poverty</p> <p>We will lobby the Scottish Government for additional resources to enable councils to credibly take forward a new Scottish approach to child poverty. We will also seek to influence the development of guidance to ensure other community planning partners make a contribution to the child poverty agenda.</p>	High	Green (No change)
3. Local government is in a good position to support young people into sustained, quality employment		<p>Implementation of SERI is now an operational matter for local authorities. The Scottish Government's budget provides for the same number of places in 2017/18 i.e. 550 places and the Living Wage supplement.</p> <p>The initiative has a much sharper focus on improving the job prospects of young people who face the greatest barriers to employment. There are no further updates at this stage.</p> <p>This work stream is also related to the agenda item on the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce.</p>	Medium	Green (No change)

	<p>We will work with Government and professional associations on the implementation of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce. This will include work to lobby on the apprenticeship levy by the UK Government.</p>	<p>See agenda item on Developing Scotland's Young Workforce</p> <p>Local authorities are continuing to work with the Scottish Government and other partners to implement the DYW Programme. The 2nd Annual DYW Progress Report was published in December last year. We also continue to work to reverse the decision by the Scottish Government on the Apprenticeship Levy in terms of reimbursing councils with their funding.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Green (No change)</p>
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Strategic Objective 3 – Local government is able to protect children, is a good corporate parent and provides high quality support for children with a disability or additional support need

Outcomes	Work streams	Update on work streams	Political Priority	Progress
<p>1. New, improved and sustainable models for children's services are developed and commissioned in line with local government's focus on outcomes</p>	<p>We will ensure that the Executive Group is informed on the operation and future of the national framework contracts for secure, residential and foster care.</p>	<p>The Scotland Excel Executive Sub Committee has approved the recommendation to award contracts to four secure care providers with fees agreed from 1 April 2017. The aims of the Secure Care National Project, which began in August 2015, are to ensure effective deliver of service to children in secure care, review current trends and risks and make recommendations to partners about the future of the secure care estate. It is expected that a full report will be published around March 2017.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Green (No change)</p>
	<p>We will work with Government to promote strategic commissioning at the local and national level, including in the implementation of the Doran review for children with complex additional support needs. We will also keep members updated as required on issues arising from ASL provision and on policy affecting young carers.</p>	<p>The final statutory annual report by Ministers on implementation of the ASL Act was published in March. This year the report considers implementation of the Act in relation to mental health in schools. As happens every year, Ministers are under a requirement to publish, as part of the report, information about expenditure on ASL provision. A copy of the report is available on the Scottish Government's website: http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497314.pdf</p> <p>Work on national commissioning for children with complex support needs (Doran review) continues. As we reported in September the pace of work is slower than hoped, though it is anticipated that the 10 year commissioning strategy for national services for children and young people with complex additional support needs will be published for consultation from May 2017 and close at the end of August 2017.</p> <p>In addition to consultation on this strategy, officers have also been involved in the development on updated guidance on the presumption of mainstreaming, which is due to be published for consultation in the same timeframe.</p> <p>We are also keeping a watching brief on developments on Government's work on realigning children's services. We hope to be able to say more about this at a future meeting.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Green (No change)</p>

	COSLA will work with Social Work Scotland and Scottish Government to raise awareness and promote the protection of children. We will work with partners on the establishment of a new child protection improvement service within centre for excellence for looked after children (CELCIS).	COSLA Officers continue to attend and engage in the External Advisory Group and System Review Group, both with a focus on Child Protection. The Report of the Systems Review Group was put forward the Deputy First Minister in late Dec ember and it is anticipated that an announcement about implementation will be made in early March. It is expected that COSLA will be invited to be part of the implementation process. Officers also continue to engage in the National Strategic implementation Group on GIRFEC and Named Person.	High	Green (No change)
2. Local and national policy for looked after children and youth justice continue to improve and deliver benefits for children and young people.	We will work with Government and SWS on policy related to looked after children. This will include monitoring of resource implication, corporate parenting and working on implementing changes to aftercare and continuing care.	Following the announcement of a review of care by the First Minister in October, we have had a first initial meeting with SG officers. They advised that this was a long term piece of work but that COSLA would be key partners in this matter going forwards.	Medium	Green (No change)
	We will work with Government and Social Work Scotland to ensure the successful implementation of our agreement on kinship care allowances and that we develop a sustainable longer term position which responds to the introduction of universal credit.	We will work with the Scottish Government and SWS to develop a new model for kinship care over the forthcoming months that is satisfactory from a local government perspective.	High	Green (No change)
	We will work to ensure that local government influences the work and considerations of the new Youth Justice Improvement Board and the wider youth justice agenda.	We will be attend a meeting of the Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB) on 22 March. We will also participate in appropriate sub groups that report to the YJIB.	Medium	Green (No change)

	We will work to ensure that practical issues identified by local authorities are taken on board by SSSC and SG during implementation of Level 9 qualifications for all residential care staff	Following an initial meeting in May, there has been no activity from SG to consider a change in the qualifications for residential staff. It is unlikely to be progressed until the review of care has been undertaken.	Medium	Amber
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Key to the Plan

Amber – current progress

(Green) – progress at November 2015

New) - workstream that has changed significantly or was not present in the last iteration of the plan

Complete – workstream this is complete and will be removed from the workplan

- **Low** No contention over the issue
No negative media risks

- **Medium** Low level tension in national/local positions
There are potential consequences for the public reputation of Local Government
There is potential for negative media coverage of the issue
There is a potential but manageable conflict of interests between Councils
There are financial implications for Local Government

- **High** There are divergent/polarised positions between the Scottish Government and Local Government
There is a substantial risk to the relationship between the Scottish Government and Local Government
There is an imminent risk to Local Government's reputation
There are substantial financial implications for Local Government
There is strong internal conflict between Councils over the issue

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