



**COSLA**

EC&YP Executive Group Item 3

## **Education, Children and Young People Strategic Plan – September 2016**

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 March 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' position on early years policy.	See agenda item for on Early Learning and Childcare.	Medium	Green (No change)
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 Delivery Plan.  A request has been made to Mr Swinney following the Leaders Meeting on 26 August 2016 to allow for a joint approach to the governance review. We await a decision from Scottish Government.	High	New

	<p>We will support and co-chair with the Minister for Learning and Skills the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools (SAGRABIS).</p>	<p>John Swinney the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills will co-chair SAGRABIS with Councillor Primrose. The next meeting will take place on 18 October 2016. The refresh of the bullying guidance "A National Approach" which will give a greater emphasis to the protected characteristics has not been published as yet due to issues over the Named Person role.</p> <p>The 3 yearly Behaviour in Schools research project is underway with quantitative returns from all schools already in and qualitative research in a number of schools due to take place in October. The final report is likely to be published in early February 2017.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Green (No Change)</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>In previous years additional funding has been provided by Scottish Government to local authorities to promote the 1 + 2 languages policy. The quantum of this funding was previously announced around November. There was no announcement last November and we have been chasing this up on a regular basis. On 11 August 2016 we received notification that for this current financial year 2016/17 £5m funding would be provided. This is a reduction from the £7.2m provided in 2015/16. A letter to Directors of Education indicating individual allocations has been sent, distribution is based on the 2015 pupil census.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Amber (No Change)</p>
	<p>We will attend the strategic board for teacher education and ensure that its work consistently supports delivery of wider education policy.</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Strategic Board takes place at the end of October. The Board has agreed previously that the workforce planning process should be strengthened in two key ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firstly, the statistical model which projects student intake levels will now be supported by additional vacancies data supplied by local authorities (see item</li> <li>• Secondly, that there should be earlier meetings of Teacher Workforce Planning Advisory Group in advance of a final meeting in December. Final analysis will continue to be undertaken directly after the census results are published December. However, the</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Green (No Change)</p>

		SBTE has agreed that revisiting the previous year's teacher census results will now act to guide the forthcoming planning process.		
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 areas of deprivation.	See agenda item on Early Learning and Childcare	High	Green (No Change)
	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	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.  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.	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.	See agenda item on the Delivery Plan	High	Green (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.	See agenda item on child poverty	High	Green (No change)
3. Local government is in a good position to support young people into sustained, quality employment	We work with Government and SLAED on Scottish Employer Recruitment Incentive	Implementation of SERI is now an operational matter for local authorities following a pause on this at the end of last year. As such, the initiative started again from 1 April 2016 to 31 January 2017 and 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.  We have been working with Government on some legacy issues stemming from the former Youth Employment Scotland fund, and we would expect to discuss employability with relevant new Ministers at some point in the near future. This work stream is also related to agenda item 5 on the Developing the Young Workforce Programme and the UK Government's Apprenticeship Levy.	High	Green (No change)
	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	See agenda item on Developing the Young Workforce -Apprenticeship Levy.	High	Green (No change)

	lobby on the apprenticeship levy by the UK Government.			
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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
1. New, improved and sustainable models for children's services are developed and commissioned in line with local government's focus on outcomes	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.	The National Project to review Secure Care is progressing with a first initial draft report produced by the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice at Strathclyde University. In addition, interviews are being conducted with local authority Chief Social Work Officers. The final recommendations from the national review will be available in spring, 2017 that should inform the development of future contracts for secure care. The new framework for the National Foster Care Contract tender documentation is expected to be published September/early October 2016 to enable the award of the new framework by March 2017. The Children's Residential Framework Contract that was established in August 2014 will run until March 2018.	Medium	Green (No change)
	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.	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: <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497314.pdf">http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497314.pdf</a>  Work on national commissioning for children with complex support needs (Doran review) continues although as we reported in June pace of work is slower than hoped.  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.	Medium	Green (No change)
	COSLA will work with Social Work Scotland and Scottish Government	SG has begun the first meetings to discuss the Child Protection Improvement Programme as well as take forward actions on informing the	High	Green (No change)

	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).	Scottish Government's Review of the Formal Child Protection System, to be chaired by Catherine Dyer. COSLA officers will be involved in this work and the COSLA spokesperson Cllr Primrose will be involved in the External Reference Group. Reports on this work will be brought to future meetings of the Executive Group		
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.	We will work closely with SWS in order to formulate a response to the new Scottish Government's manifesto commitments on policy relating to looked after children especially in relation to potential resource pressures for councils.	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 Board and the wider youth justice agenda.	We will attend the next meeting of the Youth Justice Board on 15 September 2016. We should also update the Executive Group on the outcome of the Scottish Government's consultation on raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.	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	A Government led group looking at issues relating to the instruction of the Level 9 qualification is due to begin meeting in May. Currently discussions relating to this work are focused on communications and workforce planning. COSLA's Employers team will also be involved in these discussion.	Medium	Green (No change)



## 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

### Children and Young People Team Members

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