

Teach the Future Scotland

Summary and Recommendations

This report introduces a presentation from Teach the Future Scotland and provides a brief overview of COSLA's engagement with the group and with Scottish Government in relation to their asks.

This paper invites the Children and Young People Board to:

- i. note and consider the presentation from Teach the Future.

References

Previous reports on Learning for Sustainability:

- 19-05-10 Learning for Sustainability Vision 2030+ Action Plan

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February 2021

Teach the Future Scotland

Purpose

1. This report introduces a presentation from Teach the Future Scotland, a student-led climate activist group which was formed following the school climate strikes in 2018/19. Their aim is to include education related to climate change in the Scottish curriculum and raise awareness of global ecological issues.

Current COSLA Position

2. Board Members indicated its support for the Learning for Sustainability Vision 2030+ Action Plan in 2019, following a report from the National Implementation Group on which COSLA were represented. This action formalised some of the work already taking place on Learning for Sustainability and committed to engagement between Scottish Government, COSLA and ADES.
3. In addition, it was agreed in 2019 that tackling the Climate Emergency would be one of COSLA's key priorities and the role of Local Government is being considered in response to that.

What is changing?

4. Teach the Future approached Cllr McCabe in October 2020, outlining their asks of the Scottish Government and seeking support from Local Government for their campaign. They indicated that they had also approached senior Cabinet Ministers to discuss their campaign and were keen for more young people to engage with Local Government to push for climate-related education within the curriculum.
5. COSLA officers met with Scottish Government colleagues to discuss their engagement with the group and how their asks relate to the existing framework of the Curriculum for Excellence. They indicated that the Deputy First Minister (DFM) is keen to engage with the group as much as possible, while acknowledging that the flexibility within the curriculum could allow teachers to provide climate change-related education locally.
6. Scottish Government officials have prepared further advice for the DFM which addresses the group's asks and it is anticipated that a further meeting will be set up in the coming months.
7. Cllr McCabe then met with some members of Teach the Future in December 2020, who were able to provide details of their own experiences of climate change education in schools. It was noted by the group that while climate change is a live issue to many young people in schools, teachers have reported that they lack confidence in delivering classes on this topic.

Proposed COSLA Position

8. Board Members are asked to note the presentation from Teach the Future and are welcome to share any examples of similar work in their areas. Feedback from local authorities who are already engaging with the group would also be welcome.

Next Steps

9. Depending on views provided by Board Members, COSLA Officers will continue to engage with Teach the Future and other relevant partners and will provide a further update to the Board as appropriate. Any further engagement with the group could be tied to work and activity in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow, currently scheduled for November 2021.

February 2021