

**CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE
MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING**

22 September 2014

Forth Valley College, Stirling Campus

NOTE OF MEETING

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES

Board Members

Name	Organisation
Janet Brown	SQA
Mike Corbett	NASUWT
Nicola Dudley	SCIS
Iain Ellis	National Parent Forum of Scotland
Grant Jarvie	Universities Scotland
Alan Johnston	Scottish Government
Terry Lanagan	ADES
Mhairi Laughlin	College Development Network Scotland
Graeme Logan	Education Scotland
Bill Maxwell	Education Scotland
Ken Muir	GTCS
Ann McIntosh	AHDS
Susan Quinn	EIS
Fiona Robertson	Scottish Government (Chair)
Andy Smith	SLS

Officials

Denise Brock	Education Scotland
Tara Clark	Scottish Government (Secretariat)
Kate Cunningham	Scottish Government
Murray McVicar	Scottish Government

Apologies

John Edward	SCIS
Ann MacDonald	STEC
Bill Miller	CLDMS
Robert Nicol	COSLA
Andrew Sutherland	ADES
Damian Yeates	SDS

1. Welcome & apologies

1.1 Fiona Robertson (FR) welcomed Board members and thanked Ken Thomson, Principal of Forth Valley College for hosting the meeting.

1.2 FR introduced Nicola Dudley (ND), who would be representing Scottish Council of Independent Schools in place of John Edward at this meeting of the CfE Management Board. She also welcomed Murray McVicar from Assessment & Qualifications Unit and Kate Cunningham, who would be attending the meeting as observers.

1.3 Apologies were received from John Edward, SCIS, Ann MacDonald, STEC, Bill Miller, Stirling Council, Robert Nicol, COSLA, Andrew Sutherland, ADES and Damien Yeates, SDS.

1.4 FR noted that the Board last met in June, shortly after the exam diet concluded and thanked members for the collaborative effort across Scottish education to ensure the successful delivery of the new National Qualifications.

2. Note and actions from the last meeting

2.1 MB members agreed the note of the meeting on 17 June 2014 and to the online publication of the papers from that meeting.

2.2 Alan Johnston (AJ) provided an update on the actions from the June meeting, noting that most would be addressed later on the agenda. On the action point relating to the GTCS magazine, Ken Muir highlighted the GTCS magazine as a method of widespread communication across the system.

3. CfE Implementation progress

3.1 FR invited Bill Maxwell (BM) to provide an update on progress with implementation.

3.2 BM explained that the membership of the Implementation Group had been expanded to include SDS and SFC. This marked a welcome expansion beyond schools, particularly noting the emphasis on pathways during the Senior Phase, highlighted through the work of the Commission on Developing Scotland's Young Workforce. Other key stakeholders, such as the NPFS and professional associations would be invited to meet the group, when relevant agenda items were discussed.

3.3 BM talked through paper 3.1 noting that delivery of the programme was on track and that increased integration at a national and local level has strongly supported the delivery of the exam diet. He highlighted the following key developments since the Board met in June:

- addendum to the CfE Implementation Plan had been developed in response to the work of the Reflections Group and would be shared with the Board, prior to publication in October 2014. The addendum would outline what actions were being taken across education, to take forward the commitments made during the report.
- curriculum development resources 'Opening up Great Learning' were being published, building on the principles and practice papers for each curriculum area.

The papers were also designed as a starting point for the new Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment (CLTA) Forums established to discuss subject-specific issues and support.

- Education Scotland in (partnership with ADES, AHDS and the EIS) were organising a series of conferences for Primary leaders. Five conferences are planned, to which 40% of all primary schools had been invited. A toolkit designed to evaluate and improve the primary curriculum would be shared at the conferences.
- Insight had gone live, with the CfE Implementation Group encouraged by the strong focus being placed on providing CPD and support for schools in its effective use. The Group would monitor the use of statistics on attainment and achievement.
- Parentzone Scotland was under development, due to be launched later this year, following engagement with the NPFS and other key stakeholders to reflect the views of parents. It was important that the resource reflected the newly emerging ways of presenting school performance data developed through Insight.
- The Implementation Group noted the significance of the work of the Commission on Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYW). This had wide ranging implications for both the Broad General Education and Senior Phases, relevant to implementation of Curriculum for Excellence across schools, Colleges and CLD providers.

3.4 FR thanked BM for his update. Members expressed support for the direction of travel that Insight was taking, but highlighted that it was a work in progress, with issues arising around functionality, speed and labelling. It was agreed that AJ would feed back to the Insight Project Board and highlight the need for messages to users that it is a work in progress and issues are being investigated.

3.5 Members also welcomed the report from the Reflections Group, which signalled a number of positive messages across education. There was an important role for communications in the year ahead, to ensure the distinctive responsibilities for all parts of the system are taken forward.

3.6 Graeme Logan (GL) provided an update on the CLTA Forums. Four Forums had been established – National Digital, Expressive Arts, Middle Years and Numeracy and Maths. A new online section was being created on the Education Scotland website to support the transparency of the Forums. GL agreed to develop a paper for the next meeting.

3.7 Denise Brock (DB) noted the following key points on communications:

- Collaborative effort between policy, communications and partners contributed to the success of Results Day, including months of engagement with journalists and wide ranging stakeholder engagement.
- This approach will continue to support the implementation of the new Highers, DYW agenda and promotion of Curriculum for Excellence.
- Further "Route Maps" through assessment were produced and publicised in this period, with on-going promotion through our various communications channels.
- Concerted communications would be issued in the coming months focussing on the benefits of Curriculum for Excellence within the Broad General Education. This included the publication of a new corporate magazine which is currently in the development stages.
- The new Parent Connect area at this year's Scottish Learning Festival would be hosted by the National Parent Forum of Scotland and the Scottish Parent Teacher Council, and supported by Education Scotland.
- Comms teams in partner organisations were in negotiations with partners to support a national project with the Herald and Evening Times around promoting a focus on careers to S1 pupils. This project would extend across the next 5 months, and would also target and incorporate employers.

3.8 The Board highlighted the positive publicity around the new National Qualifications, which included a focus beyond National 5 and Highers and views from parents. Momentum and communication needed to be sustained, with messages to parents and other key stakeholders focusing on the totality of experiences starting in primary schools, and identifying meaningful pathways for all learners across the breadth of available awards. This included work on DYW, supporting the opportunities and partnerships that it advocates.

3.9 In terms of next steps, FR noted the many ways to highlight the breadth of achievement across a range of platforms, and welcomed members' continued collaborative approach.

4. Key issues for 2014/15

4.1 FR invited Janet Brown (JB) to provide an update on 2014 National Qualification results:

- Certification day was 5 August, where more than 146,000 learners received their results. There were 173,131 passes at National 5 (81.1%) and 114,173 passes at National 4 (93%).
- Differences in presentation pattern were noted, making comparisons with previous years very difficult. This was likely to continue to for 2014/15.
- A significant number of National 4 candidates were also entered for National 5, but figures may reduce in future years due to bypassing.
- There was noticeable variation between Authorities in the number of National 5 candidates who were presented for the National 4 Added Value Unit.
- The vast majority of calls to the Helpline related to queries relating to grades. There were a number of calls from parents, who received conflicting information from schools and SQA, which will be investigated.
- Evaluation of the process had begun, with key lessons learnt including support for understanding the standards. Real exemplar materials were to be developed for the 2015/16 sitting, and SQA would offer to train nominees across local authorities as a local resource to address issues around confidence and time.

4.2 FR invited Ken Muir (KM) to provide an update on the Reflections Working Group Report:

- Members of the Working Group were thanked and the feedback from many across education was that the report has been helpful.
- The Group were keen for a consensus, with three main reflections emerging:
 - The newness of the qualifications and assessment proved an issue;
 - The Three phases of the verification process contributed to late assessment in some cases;
 - The need to support teachers with readily available, up-to-date materials and guidance.
- A key recommendation throughout the report related to the original aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence, and how its distinctive features to create a coherent, progressive 3-18 curriculum were realised in practice.
- Partners were taking forward respective actions with progress monitored through the Curriculum for Excellence Implementation Plan.

4.2 FR thanked KM and the members of the Working Group on behalf of Ministers and the Board in taking forward this important agenda, broadly achieving a consensus within challenging circumstances.

4.3 FR invited AJ to provide an outline of the key issues for 2014/15 for Management Board attention. The context within which the proposal is set includes the review of Curriculum for Excellence by the OECD, the original aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence and the need to capture the views and experiences of learners, teachers, parents and leaders.

4.4 Key topics to be discussed at future meetings are:

- Broad General Education and the transition to Senior Phase, including assessment arrangements;
- Curricular models within the Senior Phase, supporting the DYW agenda;
- Qualifications, particularly arrangements for Highers.

4.5 Each of these could be considered from a variety of perspectives or lenses:

- Evaluation of the outcomes being achieved by Curriculum for Excellence, including the forthcoming OECD evaluation
- The original aspirations of CfE, and the extent to which these were being delivered
- The experiences and views of learners and others involved.

4.6 The board agreed these broad proposals, which would be reflected in the development of agendas for forthcoming board meetings.

5. Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYW)

5.1 FR highlighted the extensive reach of the DYW agenda, noting that Sir Ian Wood is addressing practitioners and parents at the Scottish Learning Festival and the National Parent Forum of Scotland's Annual Conference in forthcoming weeks.

5.2 FR invited AJ to update Board members on the work to date and next steps:

- The governance structure was in the process of being established, overseen by the National Advisory Group, which is jointly chaired by Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Training, Women and Employment and Cllr Chapman, COSLA Spokesperson for Education, Children and Young People.
- The agenda called for a full expression of the original aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence around skills for learning, life and work and consistent and meaningful engagement with employers. There was a continuous role for the Board regarding the aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence and ensuring DYW reflected this.
- Whilst the Board had an interest across all 5 Change Themes, it is most closely linked to themes one and two, which focus on:
 - A more intensive industry influenced focus on employability within the Broad General Education;
 - Clearer Vocational Pathways, starting in the Senior Phase which lead to industry recognised qualifications.
- Nationally, this could lead to a stronger entitlement for all children and young people aged 3 to 18 to develop skills for (learning, life and) work and to develop a good understanding of the world of work. It also reflects an entitlement for every young person to a senior phase that gives a wide range of work related opportunities, including the option of acquiring industry recognised qualifications.
- Locally, this agenda would feature as a key priority in local outcome agreements and local funding arrangements and promote a cross-sector/partnership approach to planning and delivering learning in the senior phase.

- Next steps included detailed planning and engagement with partners and stakeholders. The DYW Programme Board would sign-off plans in October, with the intention of publishing Implementation Plans in November 2014. Communications and engagement plans are being developed.
- The Management Board had a clear role in shaping the work of DYW and in ensuring it fully supports the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

5.3 There was a high level of understanding within the system that DYW is the next step for Curriculum for Excellence. However, the agenda was set within the context of workloads and with teachers requiring support to take this forward. Increased awareness and support among practitioners is a key feature of immediate plans, with Education Scotland recruiting five Development Officers. Members suggested the role of early adopters in monitoring and tracking progress, highlighting schools that are at different points within the journey.

5.4 Feedback from recent engagement with a large employer was that they were unaware of the work around DYW. A challenge was to secure the significant level of buy-in across industry required for the programme to succeed, including increased awareness among employers. AJ agreed to feed these points back to the DYW Programme Board.

6. AOB

6.1 FR concluded by thanking members for their time and contributions and asking Tara Clark (TC) to send a post meeting summary of the agreed actions/note.

7. Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 3 December – 14:00 – 16:00, Bearsden Academy, East Dunbartonshire
 Wednesday 4 March – 10:00 – 12:00
 Tuesday 16 June – 14:00 – 16:00

CLOSE 16:00