

**CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE
MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
30 SEPTEMBER 2015
HER MAJESTY'S YOUNG OFFENDERS INSTITUTION POLMONT**

NOTE OF MEETING

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES

Management Board Members

Alan Armstrong	Education Scotland
Alan Johnston	Scottish Government (Substitute Chair)
Andy Smith	School Leaders Scotland (SLS)
Andrew Sutherland	Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)
Bill Maxwell	Education Scotland
Bill Miller	Community Learning and Development Manager Group
Gill Stewart	SQA
Graeme Logan	Education Scotland
Janet Brown	Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
John Edward	Scottish Council of Independent Schools
Seamus Searson	Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association (SSTA)
Susan Quinn	Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)
Mike Callaghan (on behalf of Robert Nicol)	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
Mike Corbett	National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Neville Prentice (on behalf of Damien Yeates)	Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
Robert Hair (on behalf of Ann McIntosh)	Association of Headteachers & Deputies in Scotland (AHDS)
Terry Lanagan	ADES
Mhairi Harrington	College Development Network

Additional Attendees

Denise Brock	Education Scotland
Donna Bell	Scottish Government
Craig Flunkert	Scottish Government
Murray McVicar	Scottish Government
Natasha Black	Scottish Government

Apologies

Ann MacDonald	Scottish Teacher Education Committee
Ann McIntosh	Association of Headteachers & Deputies in Scotland
Damien Yeates	Skills Development Scotland
Fiona Robertson	Scottish Government
Iain Ellis	National Parent Forum of Scotland
Ken Muir	General Teaching Council for Scotland
Robert Nicol	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

1. Welcome

1.1 Sue Brooks welcomed the Management Board and provided an Introductory Presentation on the work of HMYOI.

1.2 The Board then discussed the work of Polmont. This included the following key points:

- the importance of IT access, and the potential benefits if Polmont was able to access Glow in a restricted environment.
- the Governor would be happy to consider invites to speak to Head-teachers about the work that Polmont does, the links to Curriculum for Excellence and the opportunities for further prevention work with schools.
- the challenges that Polmont faces with a rapid turnover in young offenders – and the steps that are taken to ensure that the best quality learning and development opportunities are made available.

1.3 Alan Johnston thanks Sue Brooks for her presentation. The Board noted the plans to tour the learning facilities during the course of the day.

2. Apologies & Note and actions from the last meeting

2.1 Apologies were noted from Ann MacDonald (Scottish Teacher Education Committee), Ann McIntosh (AHDS), Damien Yeates (SDS), Fiona Robertson (SG), Grant Jarvie (Universities Scotland), Iain Ellis (NPFS), Ken Muir (GTCS), Robert Nicol (COSLA)

2.2 It was confirmed that Mike Callaghan would attend on behalf of COSLA, Neville Prentice would attend on behalf of SDS and Robert Hair would attend on behalf of Ann McIntosh.

June minutes:

2.3 The minutes were approved.

2.4 Craig Flunkert (CF) provided a summary of progress against all other actions from the June minute.

3. National Improvement Framework

3.1 Donna Bell introduced the paper on the draft National Improvement Framework (NIF). DB stated that the two key themes for the NIF will be Excellence and Equity.

3.2 DB confirmed that the NIF will bring together key performance information in one place, ensuring appropriate information to inform decision making at every level. The Board noted that the NIF team is considering a range of international examples, focusing in particular on the OECD 'synergies for better learning'. The Board noted that a series of discussion events have been held, with further events due to take place before the end of December. The Board noted that the Management Board meeting presents the first opportunity for the NIF team to engage with one single grouping of senior leaders and representatives. DB informed the Board that a range of very helpful suggestions were emerging from the consultation period.

3.3 Graeme Logan provided a further presentation on the NIF proposals. The following key points were noted by the Management Board:

- The NIF proposals aim to focus on key priorities only, and to build on existing best practice
- Data will need to support local improvement as well as providing national assurance
- The Framework identifies a number of drivers of improvement
- The NIF will aim to provide a 'clear line of sight' between children, parents, school, local and national levels
- The top level priorities will be refreshed on a yearly basis.

3.4. GL noted that, for the most part, discussion on the NIF had been dominated by the drivers relating to the "assessment of children's progress". It will be important for the Management Board to consider all of the other drivers to ensure that there is a thorough approach to *all drivers* within the framework. Key priorities for the remaining drivers will be the following:

- School Improvement – better alignment in school improvement information
- School Leadership – improving the quality of the evidence available on the quality of leadership
- Teacher Professionalism – how we can evaluate the quality of teacher professional learning, and provide further support for teachers around literacy and numeracy
- Assessment of children's progress – the quality of teacher professional assessment; how to provide greater clarity in relation to the range of evidence that is used; how to reduce the volume of assessment where appropriate
- Parental involvement – improving the quality and range of evidence available, for example through a new parental questionnaire
- Performance information – how to ensure a balanced set of measures.

3.5 The Board discussed the proposals on assessment of pupils progress via national standardised assessment. It was confirmed that a decision will be made later in 2015 as to the level of information that will be published. It was confirmed that the aim is to retain the broad curriculum as per the aims and objective for Curriculum for Excellence. The discussion in the current phase of consultation will focus on what the NIF “dashboard” should contain, with the opportunity to develop one single system of measurement and greater consistency. It was confirmed that Scottish Government is working with a range of stakeholders to develop a specification for the standardised assessments and the overall dashboard.

3.6 The following comments were provided by Board members:

- It would be important to ensure that the dashboard contains a fair mix of measures with an equal “space” for the bundles of measures beyond the assessment of pupil progress.
- There is a need to ensure that early years and the GIRFEC principles are properly reflected and presented in a more prominent and explicit way – i.e. that the framework is broad and child-centred, with the baskets being “verbs” and properly capturing the health and wellbeing aspect.
- There is a need for greater clarity on the role of the Curriculum, Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Support Forums (CLTAS) forums in the context of the NIF.
- There is a feeling amongst a number of union members – reported via the press – that a new set of national standardised assessments are not necessary.
- Potential benefits will arise when we move to a situation where the various levels in the system are measuring broadly the same things.
- It would be important to have a clear policy and approach regarding reporting, publication, Freedom of Information legislation and its application across the various levels of data.
- In relation to standardised assessment data, teacher judgement remains vital – the NIF framework should reflect this fully.
- Much of the attainment outcomes measured by the NIF will be delivered with third sector input, and sometimes with third sector lead – and the Framework should reflect this in an even more prominent way via the measurements included in the Framework and via the text that surrounds the framework.

3.7 In conclusion, GL and DB confirmed that Scottish Government and Education Scotland were considering how to streamline and reduce any burden and duplication in performance reporting. The NIF Team will consider the information provided in the initial NIF performance report in December.

3.8 Janet Brown (JB) suggested that the NIF Team and/or Management Board should invite a colleague from England to contribute to the plans.

3.9 GL confirmed that the Chairs of the various CLTAS forums will receive a briefing on the NIF for discussion with their forums.

3.10 Susan Quinn (SQ) asked if a further interim discussion could be held with Management Board prior to its next formal meeting in December.

Action: Management Board Secretariat to organise a further interim workshop session prior to the next Management Board meeting in Dec 2015.

4. CfE Implementation Update

4.1 Bill Maxwell introduced the CfE Implementation Update, giving a brief summary of progress. BM confirmed that the Implementation Group was becoming much more directly engaged in the detail of DYW implementation, with Skills Development Scotland now fully engaged in role of the Implementation Group.

4.2 The Board noted the following as key priorities for the Implementation Group:

- Streamlining planning and assessment
- Tackling Bureaucracy
- Taking full advantages of the potential for innovation within CfE
- Senior Phase and DYW – developing the full potential of the Broad General Education and the Senior Phase

4.3 Denise Brock provided an update on communications. The following key points were noted by the Board:

- The 2015 Diet saw a record number of higher passes and there had been a strong level of media coverage of results day with some focus on Higher Maths and the higher pass rate overall
- There is the potential to share further case studies via online advertising and Social Media
- The key focus for this year's Scottish Learning Festival was attainment
- The SLF had been successful, with the SLF hashtag trending nationally and various resources having been launched there.

4.4 The Board discussed the future CfE governance/management landscape. Terry Lanagan (TL) commented that a major milestone will be the final year of qualifications in place, and therefore it may be helpful to consider now what the future lifespan of the two groups might look like. The Board noted that a national group will be necessary to oversee strategic thinking on education, but it may look slightly different to the current CfE Management Board in terms of membership, title and remit. AJ asked for any further thoughts to be submitted to himself and Fiona Robertson, with the potential to take some further time to discuss the future landscape at a further meeting.

5. Reflections on the 2015 Qualification diet

5.1 Janet Brown and Gill Stewart provided a presentation on the 2015 Qualifications Diet. The following key points were noted:

- SQA introduced 234 new qualifications, with the vast majority having been implemented well, and 2015 will be the final year of dual running
- Improvements have been made in proportion of schools being accepted at verification, with continuing variations across local authorities

- SQA will work with local authorities to reflect and learn from verification process. In general there is much better use within local authorities of all SQA nominees
- It was identified that there are different educational pathways to Higher with some pathways working better than others
- There had been an increase in the number of pupils undertaking Highers as well as in the number of vocational Qualifications on offer
- Greater attainment was seen in the higher levels of English
- A range of quality assurance steps have been put in place for Higher Maths for 2016.

5.2 The Board noted that a series of SQA events will run from November 2015 to January 2016 on understanding standards. It was noted that further work was needed on sharing good practice.

5.3 Board members noted the importance of teacher continuing professional development, with the key challenge being to ensure good CPD and support to teachers in practical subjects .

5.4 Mike Corbett asked about internal assessment and recommended a voluntary approach to verification. GS confirmed that SQA will be undertaking a thematic review late 2015, early 2016, with an opportunity to look at changes. GS confirmed that there are National Assessment Qualification Teams for every area, and that SQA will look at the approach being taken in order to limit assessment.

5.5 Susan Quinn (SQ) asked if the Board/SQA can consider the requests coming from a number of teachers to undertake a more in-depth review of the role of internal assessment within Curriculum for Excellence.

5.6 AJ then provided the following update on the detail from the 'Reflections' group, in the absence of its Chair, Ken Muir:

- The Group has met twice and has made significant progress.
- The Group's Chair is considering what can be brought back to the Management Board in the form of detailed recommendations.
- The proposal for a broader interim review is still to be discussed by the group – but will be discussed at its next meeting
- Detailed recommendations will be presented to the Management Board prior to its December meeting.

5.6 The Board noted that the Reflections Group will wish to conclude its work swiftly in order that Recommendations can be considered by the Board and taken forward in 2016.

Action: AJ and Ken Muir to provide a report from the Qualifications Reflections Group along with key recommendations as soon as possible, and in advance of the next meeting of the CfE Management Board (Dec 2015)
--

6. Developing the Young Workforce
--

6.1 AJ provided a short DYW update and undertook to consider how best we members could be kept up to date between meetings.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 MC asked that the Secretariat send electronic copies of the additional papers provided at the meeting.

Action: Board Secretariat to send electronic copies of the SQA slide set, DYW slide set and NIF slide set to all Board members prior to the next meeting in December.

8. Close and next meeting

8.1 The Board noted that the next meeting is scheduled for 2 December 2015.

Learning Directorate
Scottish Government
September 2015