

Supporting Learners in an Empowered System

Steering Group Terms of Reference

Background

The report *Supporting Learners in an Empowered System* was presented to the Education Operational Delivery Committee (EODC) on 12 November 2019 following a request, from said committee, in January 2019 about how effectively schools can meet the needs of those with Additional Support Needs (ASN). The report is based on staff survey activity, which subsequently took place. The report recommends that EOOD:

- A. Note the consultation undertaken with staff and the broad messages fed back as part of this consultation exercise and instruct the Chief Operating Officer to work with staff in schools and Trade Unions to address the key themes emerging from the consultation in order to build a stronger universal, targeted and specialist provision; and
- B. As part of the above engagement with colleagues, instruct the Chief Operating Officer to review the current provision of targeted and specialist support to ensure that it is reshaped to meet current and future demand; and report on progress at the March meeting of this Committee

In addition, in May 2019, the EIS surveyed its members about their experiences of violent and aggressive behaviour in schools. The survey came as a result of increased member contact from those experiencing such behaviour from children and young people in the workplace.

Role

It is the responsibility of the group to collaborate in order to provide evidence of improvement in terms of the recommendations as set out in the aforementioned report to EOOD.

The group have a responsibility to support statutory planning, provision and reporting in keeping with the following legislation and guidance:

- Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended);
- All relevant Aberdeen City Council policies;
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014;
- Equality Act 2010;
- General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) Standards for Full Registration and Career Long Professional Learning (2012);
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974);
- Included, Engaged & Involved: Part 1 - Attendance in Scottish Schools; Part 2 - A Positive Approach to Managing School Exclusions (2017);
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999);
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR) (1995);
- Supporting Children's Learning: Statutory Guidance on the ASL (Scotland) Act 2004 – Code of Practice (3rd Edition, 2017);
- The Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations (1977).

Remit

In order to fulfil these roles, the Supporting Learners Steering Group will work collegiately (in partnership with our children, young people and their carers) to:

- Ascertain compliance with local policy and implementation across the Education service;
- Undertake data analysis in order to build an accurate and holistic picture of need (both in terms of learners' and staff professional learning) across the Authority;

- Ascertain and quantify the demand on provision/services across the city and consider how we are best-placed to support the full range of additional support needs, thus maximising and strengthening capacity to ensure we are fulfilling our legal obligation to children and young people;
- Act as an advisory board with regards to the Supporting Learners workstream;
- Generate a proposal that can be presented to the EODC, which incorporates an offer of professional learning.

Ways of Working

- The group will be Chaired by Craig McDermott (Programme Manager - Supporting Learners). The Vice Chair is Ron Constable (EIS).
- An action log of each meeting will be taken on a rotational basis and circulated within 1 week of the meeting.
- Papers will be issued by the Chair a week in advance of each meeting.
- Meetings will take place every four weeks (one per calendar month) and will last no longer than one hour.
- A Microsoft Team will be used to support information sharing and maximise collaboration.

Representation

- 1) Eleanor Sheppard: Chief Education Officer
- 2) Shona Milne: Quality Improvement Manager
- 3) Craig McDermott: Programme Manager - Supporting Learners
- 4) Ron Constable: EIS Union Representative
- 5) Thomas Whyte: SSTA Union Representative
- 6) David Willis: GMB Union Representative
- 7) TBC: UNITE Union Representative
- 8) Kenny Luke: UNISON Union Representative
- 9) Joanne Hesford: Secondary Head Teacher
- 10) TBC: Secondary Head Teacher
- 11) Aileen McNair: Primary Depute Head Teacher
- 12) Mark Evans: Primary Head Teacher
- 13) Alison Price: Head Teacher (ASN Head Teachers' Association)
- 14) Fiona Nicol/Melissa Whiston: Educational Psychologist