

Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Foghlam agus Sgilean
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Education and Skills



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

John Swinney BPA/MSP
F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: dfmcse@gov.scot

Clare Adamson MSP
Convenor
Education And Skills Committee
T3.40, Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: A31268610

23 December 2020

Dear Clare

Thank you for your letter of 15 December 2020 seeking an update for the Committee on progress with the PSE Review recommendations.

The Scottish Government welcomed the review of PSE as another critical measure towards our vision of an education system that delivers excellence and equity for all children and young people. It is essential we equip our children and young people with the skills and understanding to enable them to deal with the fast changing culture and society we live in. That is why we remain committed to delivering and implementing the recommendations of the review as PSE offers us an opportunity to ensure children and young people are prepared for the issues and challenges life may bring.

Since the return of schools in August 2020, the focus has been on a period of recovery, while ensuring the appropriate mitigations are in place to keep schools safe, open and welcoming. This recovery phase has included a strong focus on pupil health and wellbeing, including mental health and resilience, alongside both literacy and numeracy. This focus was based on a key recognition that, amongst other things, good health and wellbeing is fundamental to ensuring children and young people can engage effectively in their learning.

In parallel, and in conjunction with Education Scotland, the Scottish Government has made significant progress on the delivery of the recommendations of the PSE review. Much of this is due to the early work undertaken by the PSE Lead Officer Network who have progressed work in areas such as sexual harassment; monitoring and tracking health and wellbeing; resources and a PSE toolkit; and, raising the profile of PSE.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020



However, as a result of ongoing work to respond to the pandemic, progress has been delayed while Education Scotland, schools and other key stakeholders support education recovery measures. There remains key strands of work which require to be developed in partnership with stakeholders who were not in a position to prioritise this work. As a result of this it has been proposed that full implementation of the recommendations now be delayed until March 2022, and I am minded to accept this proposal. In the meantime, I have set out in the table attached in the Annex to this letter, current progress made towards delivering the recommendations.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had drawn together the membership of the Delivery and Implementation Group, who would oversee delivery of the recommendations. Unfortunately, that has also had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. However, a detailed paper on raising the profile of PSE learning has been prepared, containing several suggestions on improving the place and prominence of PSE in the school timetable. This paper will be put to the Delivery and Implementation Group at their first meeting to help focus their work to implement the recommendations. Similar to the work of the LGBT inclusive education groups, the Scottish Government will ensure the papers and minutes are made available online.

I hope the Committee finds this letter helpful.

Yours Sincerely

JOHN SWINNEY

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020



ACTION	PROGRESS
Co-produce a new toolkit to enhance delivery of PSE at all stages (Rec 4)	<p>The PSE Lead Officer Network set up a sub group to consider resources currently available and built a repository of resources of effective practice currently in use across Scotland from Early Level to Senior Phase.</p> <p>The repository currently contains resources for every level using Google classroom.</p> <p>In addition, Education Scotland published a series of Wakelets over the Summer:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing - Wakelet Inclusion, Wellbeing & Equalities - Wakelet RMPS - Wakelet</p> <p>Further progress on this recommendation has been put on hold for the remainder of the recovery year with a view to re-starting in April 2021.</p> <p>This is tied in with Recommendation 8.</p>
Advice and guidance on approaches to monitoring pupil progression in PSE (Rec 5):	<p>PSE Lead Officer Network have reviewed approaches and considered three specific examples of effective practice of health and wellbeing delivery. A draft paper has been prepared on Monitoring and Tracking containing exemplars of practice. However, the time lapse due to the pandemic means these will need to be updated.</p> <p>Further progress on this recommendation has been put on hold for the remainder of the recovery year with a view to re-starting in April 2021.</p>
Guidance and support to schools on the spectrum of mental health and wellbeing services to meet the needs of staff and pupils (Rec 6):	<p>A resource and guidance document was published on the National Improvement Hub in June 2020. This resource provides a comprehensive package of information, resources and organisations which are freely available to support primary and secondary school staff to support mental wellbeing.</p> <p>To complement this a Framework of Whole School Approaches to support mental wellbeing will be published in Spring 2021.</p>
Review the RSHP teaching guidance (Rec 7)	<p>This work has been underway for some time and officials shared a draft of the revised guidance with stakeholders at the end of October 2020. Comments received will be used to inform the final draft of the guidance which will be sent for Ministerial clearance prior to being put out for public consultation.</p>

ACTION	PROGRESS
Empower young people's participation in the design and delivery of PSE (Rec 8)	<p>Learner participation training has been developed for school staff, which encourages involving children in leading their own learning – this can now be delivered remotely.</p> <p>Education Scotland commissioned the Children's Parliament and the Scottish Youth Parliament to explore approaches whereby learner engagement and co-design of Health and Wellbeing programmes is strengthened.</p> <p>The Children's Parliament Report was launched in December 2020 and the Scottish Youth Parliament Report is expected in Spring 2021.</p> <p>This is tied in with Recommendation 4.</p>

ACTION	PROGRESS
<p>Peer review of effective curricular materials to support learning on protected characteristics and for learners requiring additional support needs (Rec 9)</p>	<p>Prior to the pandemic, existing LGBT 3 -18 curriculum resources were peer reviewed, quality assured and gaps were identified. Collaborative work with the LGBT Inclusive Education Implementation Group will plan next steps to provide schools and local authorities with a suite of LGBT resources across all levels within the curriculum, which will be made available on the National improvement Hub.</p> <p>As part of their Professional Learning offer, Education Scotland has been working with experts in race equality to update their educational leadership and professional learning programmes. They are developing an online resource with content and learning activities that help teachers, at all levels, develop an understanding on equality, anti-racist education and culturally-responsive pedagogy.</p> <p>A complementary resource, specifically exploring how to support race equality through all stages of the curriculum and across the four contexts for learning, is also being co-created with relevant partners including SAMEE, the Anti-Racist Educator and Intercultural Youth Scotland. Close partnership working with Glasgow City Council will support this development.</p> <p>A separate resource which supports a whole school approach to race equality has been created with CRER and BEMIS for practitioners.</p> <p>Resources already collated include: equality advice for schools understanding racism; race equality organisations; curriculum ideas; support for different ethnic minority groups; intersectionality; and prejudice-based bullying and hate crime which can be accessed at https://wakelet.com/wake/EKpqdexEpY3JoNdrIjP36.</p>

ACTION	PROGRESS
<p>Working with specialist in Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL), develop learning resources to support HWB/PSE that are accessible to all teachers and school staff in Scotland (Rec 10)</p>	<p>The PSE Lead Officers Network are building a repository of resources of effective practice currently in use across Scotland from Early Level to Senior Phase.</p> <p>The 3-18 National Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) resource launched at the Scottish Learning Festival on 25 September 2019 represents a watershed in Scottish education; a progressive and coherent, age and stage appropriate resource in this key aspect of HWB. This resource includes learning activities around consent.</p> <p>A number of RSHP CLPL session both face to face (pre-pandemic) and online webinars have taken place this year for practitioners across all sectors of education.</p> <p>The resource is targeted at mainstream children and young people as well as those with mild to moderate additional support needs. A procurement exercise went live in December 2020 on Public Contracts Scotland to build a 3-18 RSHP resource for children and young people with severe and complex additional support needs.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Wakelet will also be an important source of information for teachers.</p>
<p>GTCS standards for professional learning to be updated as appropriate (Rec 11)</p>	<p>Education Scotland provided a response to the GTCS on draft Standards for Registration.</p> <p>Initial contact has been made with GTCS to discuss appetite for a PSE qualification; more discussion will take place in due course.</p> <p>Further progress on this recommendation has been put on hold for the remainder of the recovery year with a view to re-starting in April 2021.</p>

ACTION	PROGRESS
<p>PSE Toolkit builds on actions of DYW Strategy and Learner Journey Review to include clear direction for teachers to support senior phase pupils preparing for life after school (Rec 12)</p>	<p>CES resource 7 was published in October 2019, and focuses on strategies to support young people with protected characteristics Career Education Standards 3-18: Learning Resource 7.</p>
<p>Build on Learner Journey Review by establishing a senior phase mentoring programme to enable pupils to design and delivery aspects of PSE while working towards an award (Rec 13)</p>	<p>Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) provision delivered by SDS is increasing embedded within schools with a targeted approach to support young people as and when they require interventions and information.</p> <p>Evolving school-employer partnerships guidance/support published has increased awareness amongst teachers about careers and progression pathways.</p> <p>DYW Employer groups and newly appointed DYW School Coordinators are reinforcing connections and are providing pathways opportunities in the senior phase. Young Person's Guarantee is taking this forward now.</p> <p>Education Scotland produced a resource on Personal Learning and Achievement (https://education.gov.scot/media/0ugppfxi/learning-resource-8.pdf) highlighting opportunities to engage in and gain accreditation through volunteering, youth work, and community engagement.</p> <p>Further progress on these recommendation has been put on hold for the remainder of the recovery year with a view to re-starting in April 2021.</p>
<p>Take steps to ensure the role of PSE/guidance teacher is recognised and promoted in the implementation of new career pathways for teachers (Rec 15)</p>	<p>The PSE Lead Officer Network have set up a sub group to consider how to raise the profile of PSE teaching.</p> <p>The paper on Raising the Profile will be a key element of the work progressed under this recommendation.</p> <p>Further progress on this recommendation has been put on hold for the remainder of the recovery year with a view to re-starting in April 2021.</p>