

LEARNING DIRECTORATE

2 For information

Teach First

Officials met representatives of Teach First on Wednesday 16 May, the morning after they had hosted a reception in the Parliament. We understand that Mr Russell attended the reception. They spoke very persuasively to us about the success of Teach First, not only in England but in 22 countries around the world.

Teach First know that if they are to launch in Scotland they need to persuade the GTCS that their model of teacher education meets the relevant requirements to gain GTCS accreditation. Teach First suggested that they are addressing GTCS's concerns about their model through ongoing dialogue and a potential partnership with the University of Glasgow which might deliver the academic rigour GTCS would demand in a Scottish pilot. They have undertaken to work with GTCS to develop a proposal for a pilot that GTCS are prepared to accredit. Thereafter they will come forward with a costed proposal for our consideration.

In the meantime we will discuss with our counterparts in Wales their plans to start a Teach First project in academic year 2013/14. We will also keep in touch with GTCS about whether Teach First are realistically getting close to satisfying their accreditation requirement and, if the prospects are good we will have exploratory discussions with local authorities that might be interested in partaking in a pilot - we understand Edinburgh City Council are interested in the concept although Glasgow City Council would be Teach First's preferred partner. We will also consider the feasibility of using a rural authority given that rurality rather than deprivation is our biggest problem as far as getting teachers into schools is concerned. We understand that the Welsh pilot is based in rural rather than urban settings.

The Cabinet Secretary is invited to note that Teach First plan to develop a proposal that is acceptable to the GTCS and that if the prospects are good we will have tentative discussions with local authorities that may be interested in being involved in a future pilot project. We envisage that agreement between GTCS and Teach First is some way off and, given that selection of Teach First cohorts takes place a year ahead recruitment to the project, we are probably looking at a pilot in academic year 2014/15 at the earliest.

Contact	Noted / Approved	Further Info required (phone call/mtg/written)	Any additional comments from Cabinet Secretary/Ministers
John Gunstone X40998	Noted		Mr Russell would like to be kept closely informed of developments, and still has concerns about the application of the scheme in Scotland.