

Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs)

Purpose

1. To provide the Teacher Panel with up to date information on progress on the development of Regional Improvement Collaboratives for Education. This is to inform focussed discussion on the role of RICs in facilitating collaboration and the sharing of learning and best practice across Scotland's schools, including supporting practitioners to benefit from research-based improvement approaches and methodologies.

Background – RICs

2. In September 2017, the Scottish Government and Local Government agreed a framework for the establishment and operation of regional improvement collaboratives for education across Scotland. This includes an expectation that, when fully operational, and in addition to strengthening subject and sector-specific support, each RIC will:
 - support schools to interpret and implement key educational developments and insights gained from research;
 - build capacity in improvement methodology, through review, collaboration and shared approaches. This will include working with local authorities to ensure appropriate support is in place for schools to 'manage change' successfully through training, support, peer review and challenge; and
 - will work with local authorities and other partners to support wider collaborative working across the 'system', including education, social work, health, Community Planning Partnerships.
3. The full RIC framework report has been forwarded to all members of the Teacher Panel as background. A number of the 6 RICs build on existing alliances or partnerships and the appointment of Regional Improvement Leads to drive their implementation further was secured in October 2017. In January 2018, the RICs submitted their initial regional improvement plans to the Chief Inspector of Education, who has reviewed each plan and provided constructive feedback to the Regional Improvement Collaborative Leads. Work will continue on the further development of the regional improvement plans and associated work and resourcing plans throughout 2018. The Chief Inspector of Education has set a deadline of September 2018 for the RICs to deliver the next iteration of their regional plans.
4. The Teacher Panel discussion provides an opportunity to inform that further development and to identify areas where the RICs, their members and partners, including the Scottish Government, could focus efforts to better develop, identify, support and share learning on evidence and research-based improvements that have a positive impact in the classroom.

Discussion Questions

5. It would be helpful if the Teacher Panel could consider:

- What support at local, RIC and national levels would most assist schools and practitioners in identifying and benefitting from evidence and research-based improvement?
- How can we more widely share and apply the learning from existing examples of good research or evidence-based practice, including through the RICs?
- What targeted (subject or sector) or universal research-based improvement approaches have proved successful in improving outcomes – why did they work and why did other approaches fail?
- Are there areas where further focussed research and/or the availability of improvement methodology toolkit/s would support practitioners in considering and applying potential improvement approaches to their own context?

**Learning Directorate
March 2018**