

School Empowerment Steering Group: Update

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the actions of the School Empowerment Steering Group including the co-production of empowering schools guidance and a headteachers' charter.

Background

2. The Education Reform Joint Agreement between the Scottish Government and Local Government published in June 2018 recognises that establishing an empowered system, which includes schools, teachers, pupils and parents, is crucial in improving the life chances of our children and young people.
3. The School Empowerment Steering Group, chaired by Gayle Gorman as Chief Inspector of Education, is tasked with taking this work forward and ensuring that empowerment takes place at all levels of our system. A broad range of bodies are engaged in developing the school empowerment agenda through their representation on the Steering Group. They include national and local government, professional associations, Education Scotland, ADES and other key stakeholders.

Progress

4. Education Scotland has published the first of three national thematic inspections that will gather evidence on school empowerment. The first thematic inspection took place in the Autumn term 2018 and the 'Readiness for Empowerment' thematic report was published in December 2018. The thematic inspection of curriculum leadership is currently underway.
5. An overarching 'Empowered System' diagram has been developed which identifies key contributors in an empowered system (annex 1). The diagram will be supported by guidance on what an empowered system means for each of the following 8 contributors:
 - School leaders
 - Teachers and practitioners
 - Support staff
 - Parents and carers
 - Learners
 - Partners
 - Local Authority and Regional Improvement Collaborative
 - Scottish Government and national organisations

The School Empowerment Steering Group signed off the empowered system diagram, the Headteachers' Charter and School Leaders guidance as agreed drafts in January 2018. These were published on Education Scotland's National Improvement Hub on 7 February 2018 [<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/an-empowered-system>]. A letter was sent out to all teachers in Scotland from Gayle

Gorman to inform them of this publication and to encourage them to engage with the school empowerment work.

Next Steps

6. The third thematic inspection with a focus on parent and pupil participation will be carried out in the Summer term 2019.
7. Agreement has been reached at the School Empowerment Steering Group as to how the additional school empowerment guidance will be developed in partnership with relevant stakeholders. Guidance for each of the additional contributors identified in the empowered system diagram will be developed and published as agreed drafts with a full suite of guidance published by the end of June 2019.

ANNEX 1 – An empowered system diagram

AN EMPOWERED SYSTEM

An empowered system grows stronger and more confident, working in partnership to lead learning and teaching that achieves excellence and equity for all learners. Empowerment and collaboration for improvement happen at all levels of the system.

