

## SIAA Response

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### Empowering Schools: A Consultation on the Provisions of The Education (Scotland) Bill

January 2018

1. The Headteachers' Charter will empower headteachers as the leaders of learning and teaching and as the lead decision maker in how the curriculum is designed and provided in their schools. What further improvements would you suggest to enable headteachers to fulfil this empowered role?

Unsure

2. The Headteachers' Charter will empower headteachers to develop their school improvement plans collaboratively with their school community. What improvements could be made to this approach?

Unsure

3. The Charter will set out the primacy of the school improvement plan. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?

Unsure

4. The Headteachers' Charter will set out the freedoms which headteachers should have in relation to staffing decisions.

- a) What are the advantages and disadvantages of headteachers' being able to have greater input into recruitment exercises and processes adopted by their local authority?

- b) What are the advantages and disadvantages of headteachers' ability to choose their teams and decide on the promoted post structure within their schools?

Unsure

5. Should headteachers be able to decide how the funding allocated to their schools for the delivery of school education is spent? If so, what is the best way of doing this?

Yes/No/Don't know

6. How could local authorities increase transparency and best involve headteachers and school communities in education spending decisions?

Local authorities could refer to the Community Empowerment Act for examples of how to engage, involve and empower communities which could subsequently be applied to school community (e.g. participatory budgeting).

**7. What types of support and professional learning would be valuable to headteachers in preparing to take up the new powers and duties to be set out in the Headteachers' Charter?**

It would be useful for Headteachers to have a range of skills, training and a strong working knowledge of additional support needs, equality and diversity, the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, the UN convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Equality Act and the Human Rights Act.

**8. Are the broad areas for reform to the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 correct? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

In order to improve personal and educational outcomes for children, it is essential that professionals work in collaboration with parents, promoting active involvement in their child's education. We believe that it is imperative to have a clear, transparent and accessible definition of 'parental involvement' and we would like to have clarification about what support will be put in place in order to ensure parents are able to fully participate.

**9. How should the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 be enhanced to ensure meaningful consultation by headteachers with parents on substantive matters of school policy, improvement planning and curricula design?**

Unsure

**10. Should the duties and powers in relation to parental involvement apply to publicly funded early learning and childcare settings? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Parental involvement within education should be encouraged from the early years onwards. It would be useful however to have greater clarity over what is defined as 'publicly funded' early learning and childcare settings as the duties and powers may differ in private settings, out of school care and childminders.

**11. Should the Bill include a requirement that all schools in Scotland pursue the principles of pupil participation set out in Chapter 3? Should this be included in the Headteachers Charter?**

Yes/No/Don't know

**Should this be included in the Headteachers' Charter? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Children have the right to be involved in decision-making about things that will impact them. However, this

should be integrated in all practice carried out by all people working with children and young people rather than the responsibility of just one person.

**12. What are your thoughts on the proposal to create a general duty to support pupil participation, rather than specific duties to create Pupil Councils, committees etc?**

We believe that it is crucial that specific duties are created rather than general duties.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the fact that what works in one environment will not necessarily transfer to another. The ways in which children's rights are upheld and supported will heavily depend on the individual staff, individual children and the environment involved.

**13. Should the Bill include provisions requiring each local authority to collaborate with partner councils and with Education Scotland in a Regional Improvement Collaborative? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

**14. Should the Bill require each Regional Improvement Collaborative to maintain and to publish annually its Regional Improvement Plan? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

**15. If we require Regional Improvement Collaboratives to report on their achievements (replacing individual local authority reports), should they be required to report annually?**

Yes/No/Don't know

**Would less frequent reporting (e.g. every two years) be a more practical and effective approach? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

**16. In making changes to the existing planning and reporting cycle, should we consider reducing the frequency of national improvement planning and the requirement on Ministers to review the National Improvement Framework? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

**17. Are the proposed purpose and aims of the Education Workforce Council for Scotland appropriate? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

It is essential that there is a cohesive, collaborative and consistent approach to improving standards throughout the sector and the Education Workforce Council appears to support that.

**18. What other purpose and aims might you suggest for the proposed Education Workforce Council for Scotland?**

Unsure

**19. Are the proposed functions of the Education Workforce Council for Scotland appropriate? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

It would appear that the functions of the Education Workforce Council fully support the professional development of those involved in children's education. However we believe that there needs to be greater clarity around professional learning and standards for those children with additional support needs.

**20. What other functions might you suggest for the proposed Education Workforce Council for Scotland?**

Unsure

**21. Which education professionals should be subject to mandatory registration with the proposed Education Workforce Council for Scotland?**

The professionals that the consultation outlines should all be subject to mandatory registration with the proposed Education Workforce Council for Scotland.

**22. Should the Education Workforce Council for Scotland be required to consult on the fees it charges for registration? Please explain your answer?**

Yes/No/Don't know

In line with transparency, accountability and a rights based approach, a consultation on fees should be provided.

**23. Which principles should be used in the design of the governance arrangements for the proposed Education Workforce Council for Scotland?**

Unsure

**24. By what name should the proposed Education Workforce Council for Scotland be known?**

Unsure

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The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) is Scotland's national membership body for advocacy organisations. The SIAA promotes, supports and defends independent advocacy in Scotland. It aims to ensure that independent advocacy is available to any person who needs it in Scotland.

SIAA is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation Charity number SC033576

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