
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK – EDUCATION

Service Director Children and Young People

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17 January 2017

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 The report presents the Quality Improvement Framework for Education (Appendix 1) which sets out:

- (a) A quality improvement infrastructure which embeds national policy and guidance developments into practice in all education provisions;**
- (b) An approach to quality improvement focused on raising standards in all education provisions;**
- (c) The collaboration taking place with regards to quality improvement at all levels within education provisions in the Scottish Borders and with a range of partners locally and nationally.**

1.2 The report highlights the impact of the Quality Improvement Framework to date.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Education Themed Executive Committee acknowledge the place of the Quality Improvement Framework in securing continuous improvement in Scottish Borders Council education provisions.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scottish Borders Council is ambitious to have an Education Service that is excellent and views an unrelenting focus on quality improvement as the key driver in achieving this ambition.
- 3.2 In Education a Quality Improvement Framework (QIF) has been devised to focus all staff at all levels in raising standards through a focus on continuous improvement. There are three strands within the QIF:
- (i) Interpretation, analysis and cascading of national and international policy and guidance into daily practice in education settings;
 - (ii) Improving performance across the range of quality practice standards and indicators through a range self-evaluation activities and processes;
 - (iii) Identifying and sharing of best practice through local and national collaborative professional learning activities within and across education provisions and local authorities.
- 3.3 The Children and Young People's Department is currently looking to pull together Quality Improvement Frameworks for all service areas: Education, Community Learning and Development and Children and Families Social Work, which will ensure a holistic approach to a child's learning and service improvement. There is also work being developed within the People Department to develop a full partnership approach to quality improvement with the full range of children's service partners. For the purpose of this report, the focus is on presenting the work that has been developed so far in Education. The QIF (Appendix 1) is an evolving approach and will continue to be developed to further improve the impact services can have on improving the outcomes and life chances for all children and young people in the Scottish Borders.

4 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The implementation of the QIF set out in Appendix 1 has resulted in the following progress being achieved:
- (a) Significant improvement in performance of the quality indicators in all Early Learning and Childcare settings in the Scottish Borders;
 - (b) Early intervention and targeted support in a range of schools raising the performance of quality indicators to satisfactory level and above;
 - (c) Good practice in schools and early years settings being identified and shared with local and national practitioners;
 - (d) A focus on 'closing the gap' and raising attainment for key groups of learners;
 - (e) A strong and robust focus on quality improvement across all education settings;
 - (f) A key commitment to 'looking inwards', 'looking outwards' and 'looking forwards' in all education provisions;

- (g) A significant number of schools participating in national improvement activities;
 - (h) Greater collaboration locally and nationally by lead officers and Headteachers;
 - (i) Improvement in the quality of moderation and attainment levels in the National Improvement Framework;
 - (j) Improved quality of leadership across all education provisions.
- 4.2 The QIF is the key driver in raising standards and improving outcomes for learners in the Scottish Borders. There is substantial evidence of the positive and sustained impact the focus on quality improvement is having in the performance of the range of national quality indicators and professional standards in all nurseries, schools and education provisions. The Council has made a considerable investment in the QIF and it is recommended that the place of the QIF be recognised as fundamental in striving towards the ambition for Scottish Borders to become an excellent Education Service.

5 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Financial**

There are no financial implications within this report.

5.2 **Risk and Mitigations**

The Quality Improvement Framework enables Scottish Borders Council to drive continuous improvement and ensure the successful implementation of national policy developments into practice. The Quality Improvement Framework also ensures strong education provision performance in national inspections and national improvement framework assessments.

5.3 **Equalities**

Equalities is a key focus area within all quality improvement work. It is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications as a result of this report.

5.4 **Acting Sustainably**

There are no significant effects on acting sustainability arising from this report.

5.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from this report.

5.6 **Rural Proofing**

There are no significant effects on rural proofing arising from this report.

5.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration

or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received will be reported at the Executive Committee Meeting.

Approved by

Donna Manson

Service Director Children & Young People

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Donna Manson	Service Director Children & Young People (01835 826742)

Appendix 1: Ensuring Quality: The Improvement Framework

Background papers: Improving Schools In Scotland: An OECD Perspective

Previous Minute Reference: Not applicable

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Donna Manson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.