

STATUTORY GUIDANCE: STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS ETC. ACT 2000

Why are we getting in touch?

New statutory guidance has been published by the Scottish Government on 27 March 2017. It has been produced to support local authorities and schools with new legal duties introduced by recent amendments to the 2000 Act. These will come into force on 1 August 2017. These duties mainly relate to planning and reporting on the National Improvement Framework (NIF).

Who does this apply to?

This communication is aimed at:

- those in local authorities who have responsibility for planning and reporting with an education focus, and;
- Headteachers who will have responsibility for school improvement planning and reporting delegated to them by the local authority.

What's changing as a result of the new duties and statutory guidance?

The good news is: not much. Many local authorities and schools are already using the NIF as a basis for their planning and reporting. The guidance and new duties have been developed to allow existing processes/timelines to continue to be used.

Local authorities: must prepare and publish annual plans (first in August 2017) and reports (first from September 2018), describing the steps they intend to take during the planning period, and report against those plans after the planning period:

- to reduce inequalities of outcome experienced by pupils as a result of socio-economic disadvantage;
- to consult certain people about decisions of a strategic nature relating to school education;
- in pursuance of the NIF for Scottish education, and;
- setting out any educational benefits the authorities consider will result from taking all of these steps.

For Headteachers and deputes: responsibility delegated by the local authority to schools to produce school improvement plans and reports. In developing school improvement plans, Headteachers should put into practice recommendations from the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence Working Group on Tackling Bureaucracy. The plans and reports must take into account:

- the local authority's strategy for parental involvement, and;
- the local authority's plans and reports.

What do you have to do now?

Please take the time from now to August and beyond to familiarise yourselves with the guidance and new duties to ensure the transition to the new requirements is as straight forward and effective as possible. This is a link to the guidance which contains timelines and a helpful planning/reporting model at annex C:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/4559>

