

LNCT Statement

Implementation of New CfE Highers

At the meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council Education Children and Families Committee on Dec 10th 2013, a report was approved, along with various amendments, regarding Secondary Schools' decisions around implementing the New CfE Highers from session 2014-15 and by session 2015-16. In line with one of the approved amendments to the report, discussions have been held at the LNCT regarding the drafting of a clear statement about the factors to be taken into account by Head Teachers, Curriculum leaders and teachers when providing a sound rationale for seeking a delay of one year in implementing any subject's New CfE Higher.

It is the purpose of this communication to make that clear statement.

Rationale for additional flexibility

The introduction of new Higher courses following on from the implementation of National Qualifications for the current S4 is encouraged on the principle that this aims to provide coherence for the S5 learner.

It is recognised, however, that concerns have been raised and we have agreed a position of additional flexibility in the context of ensuring that we deliver the best possible outcomes for young people.

The following professional issues are areas which could be considered appropriate in terms of a rationale for additional flexibility.

- Concerns about SQA (specific concerns should be explained).
- Capacity within the department and/or school.
- Resources e.g. course materials, practice assessment materials for staff and pupil familiarisation.

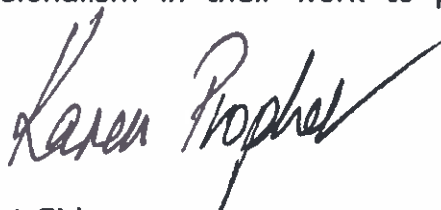
Staff should note that, although initial indications may already have been given regarding a department's intentions, discussions will continue between now and the end of March as further information/support become available. By the February holiday, details of the planned city wide implementation of new Highers will inform a report to be taken to the Education, Children & Families Committee in March 2014. Final decisions taken by schools will be agreed with the authority by the end of March.

Support

- SQA - Significant additional support is being provided by SQA in response to issues raised: <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/implementing-national-qualifications-additional-support-for-teachers/2013/29/11/acce0a86-00f2-42cf-8eed-a29100a6686d>
- Further National support materials.
- Funding from Scottish Government to support the introduction of new qualifications including Nationals and new Highers (£64K to Edinburgh which will all be distributed to all secondary presenting centres).
- Funding from the City of Edinburgh to support the introduction of new Highers (£64K directly to all secondary presenting centres).
- Additional funding of £36K from the City of Edinburgh to produce curriculum and assessment resources across all subject areas.

The members of the LNCT wish to thank all staff for their ongoing commitment and professionalism in their work to provide the best experiences for their learners.

Signed:



Management Side

Signed:



Teachers' Side

22 January 2014