



The Educational  
Institute of Scotland

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **EIS & SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT JOIN UP TO TACKLE POVERTY-RELATED INEQUITY IN EDUCATION**

The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), the country's largest teaching union, is joining with the Scottish Government on a new project that aims to reduce the impact of poverty on education. The innovative project will be developed by the EIS, with funding support from the Scottish Government, and the expertise of an advisory board drawn from across the Scottish education and anti-poverty campaigning communities.

The project will involve the development of a customised professional learning package for teachers and headteachers, addressing the impact of poverty, and comprising a blend of online resources and tutorials, paper-based learning materials and school-based inset workshops, underpinned by research, though with a strongly practical focus. Once complete, the package will be rolled out to schools across Scotland.

Commenting, EIS General Secretary Larry Flanagan said, "The EIS is pleased to be working with the Scottish Government on this important project, which continues our shared commitment to tackling poverty however its effects manifest themselves in education. This builds on our ongoing work in this area, which has previously included the provision of [guidance to schools](#) on 'poverty-proofing' education provision. This work is more important than ever, as was confirmed in the recent report of the [United Nations Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Report](#) which highlighted deeply troubling rates of child poverty in the UK as a result of low rates of pay and cuts to social security provision, and acknowledged the ongoing work in Scotland to mitigate these factors and to tackle poverty more widely. ."

Gillian Hamilton, Strategic Director at Education Scotland, and Chair of the Advisory Board said: "This partnership approach to the development and delivery of professional learning for teachers and head teachers, focusing on addressing the effects of poverty in education, has the potential to make a significant difference to the lives of many young people in Scotland. There is a strong commitment from the EIS to ensure that practising teachers are actively engaged in the design and continued delivery of the learning. This will be an important factor in the sustainability of the project."

The project has been funded until late 2020, with a £250,000 commitment from the Scottish Government. Two project co-leaders have been appointed by the EIS to take the project forward.

**A copy of the draft Advisory Board Terms of Reference are attached, for information.**

**(ENDS)**

Further information: EIS Communications Department on 0131 225 6244