EDUCATION CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

14th Meeting, 2000

Wednesday 26th April 2000

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Festival Theatre, 13/29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh

1. **Standards in Scotland’s Schools etc. Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 2).

2. **Update on Committee business:** The Committee will be updated on business in its current work programme.

3. **Negative Instruments:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

   The National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (Amendment of Section 23)(Scotland) Order 2000 (SSI 2000/78)

4. **Sport 21 Review Group:** The Committee will consider a request from sportscotland to nominate a representative to join the *Sports 21* Review Group.

Gillian Baxendale
Clerk to the Committee
Room 2.7 Committee Chambers
Ext. 85204

Email gillian.baxendine@scottish.parliament.uk
The following papers are attached for this meeting—

The National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (Amendment of Section 23) (Scotland) Order 2000 (SSI 2000/78)
Note by the Clerk on SSI 2000/78

Invitation from sportscotland to nominate representative for *Sports 21* Review Group

Executive response to national companies report

The following papers are issued for information—

Evidence to the Local Government Committee from Scottish Council for Single Homeless on Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Bill

Raising Standards – Setting Targets (Newsletter 6) produced by HM Inspectors of Schools
**Papers circulated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note By the Clerk on above SSI (Agenda item 3)</td>
<td>ED/00/14/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation from sportscotland to nominate representative for <strong>Sports 21</strong> Review Group (Agenda item 4)</td>
<td>Not available in electronic format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive response to national companies report</td>
<td>Not available in electronic format</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (Amendment of Section 23) (Scotland) Order 2000 (SSI 2000/78)

1. The Committee is asked to consider this instrument which is subject to the negative procedure. The procedures are in Rule 10.4 of Standing Orders. A background note from the Executive is attached.

Purpose

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable Scottish Screen to provide strategic direction for the distribution of lottery funds related to film production.

General Procedure

3. The Committee has been allocated the lead responsibility for this SSI. The instrument has been laid under negative procedure, which means that the Parliament has the power to annul the order within 40 days of the instrument being laid before Parliament.

4. Any MSP may by motion propose to the lead committee that the Committee recommend that nothing further be done under the instrument. No motion has been lodged. The Committee is still required to report to the Parliament on this SSI but, in the absence of a motion to annul, cannot recommend annulment at the meeting.

Timescales

5. The timescale for an SSI is worked out from the day when it was laid before the Parliament. Once the instrument has been laid, the Parliament has 40 days in which to annul it. For this instrument, the 40 days ends on 11 May.

Consideration by the Subordinate Legislation Committee

6. The Subordinate Legislation Committee will always consider the technical aspects of every instrument laid before the Parliament. In this case, it considered these regulations on 28 March and saw no reason to draw them to the attention of the Parliament.

Conclusion

7. The Committee is invited to consider whether it wishes to make any recommendations to the Parliament in respect of this SSI.

Gillian Baxendale
Clerk to the Committee
April 2000
EXECUTIVE NOTE

The National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (Amendment of Section 23) Order 2000
S.S.I. 2000/78

The above instrument was made by the Scottish Ministers in agreement with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and in exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the National Lottery etc. Act 1993. The instrument is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

Powers to make the Order under the National Lottery legislation were transferred to the Scottish Ministers, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, by virtue of the Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/1750).

Policy Objectives

Scottish Screen is the public body for film, television and related media in Scotland. The purpose of the Order is to enable Scottish Screen to provide strategic direction for the distribution of National Lottery funds related to film production.

The instrument adds Scottish Screen to the list of National Lottery distributing bodies and amends the allocations to the distributing bodies to reflect this. The instrument provides that Scottish Screen will hold for distribution 1.16 per cent of the sums paid into the National Lottery Distribution Fund and allocated for expenditure on or connected with the arts, and that the share of the Scottish Arts Council is correspondingly reduced.

Consultation

The following bodies have been consulted during the preparation of this instrument:

- The Scottish Arts Council
- Scottish Screen

Financial Effects

The instrument transfers financial responsibility for Lottery funding relating to film production from one non-departmental public body (the Scottish Arts Council) to another (Scottish Screen). The effects on the Scottish Executive and on other public bodies are expected to be minor.

Scottish Executive Education Department
17 March 2000
29 March 2000

Mrs Mary Mullen MSP
Convener
Education, Culture and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
King George IV Bridge
EDINBURGH
EH9 2SP

Dear Mary,

Sport 21 Review Group

In April 1998, Sam Galbraith MP (the then Minister for Sport) launched the new national strategy for Scottish sport - Sport 21: Nothing Left to Chance. The strategy emerged out of an extensive consultation exercise and its development was guided at every stage by the Sport 21 Advisory Group which brought together the key agencies in Scottish sport and Scottish life. As you know, we have been reviewing Scotland’s progress in implementing Sport 21 over the past 3-4 months and we are now in a position to report the conclusions from this review process.

Accordingly, we will now be establishing a Sport 21 Review Group which will be chaired by Rhona Brankin MSP, Depute Minister for Culture and Sport, and I am writing to invite the Committee to nominate a representative to join the Review Group which will meet for the first time on Tuesday 2 May 2000 at 1000 hours here in Calton House.

It would be helpful if you could let me know who will represent the Committee on the Review Group by Friday 14 April 2000 in order that we can provide them with sufficient time to view the various review papers in advance of the meeting.

In the interim, I enclose some background information on the Sport 21 Review Process and details of the proposed membership of the Sport 21 Review Group. I do hope that you will able to accept this invitation to become involved in the work of this important forum.

Allan Alstead
Chief Executive
Introduction

1. The Sport 21 Implementation and Review process is now entering the final stages of its work. The five Implementation Forums have now met on three occasions and have completed their review discussions. Initial drafts of Review Statements from each of the Forums are now being developed and will be available shortly.

2. Given the progress made by the Sport 21 Forums, it is now appropriate to establish the Sport 21 Review Group. Members will be aware that the Deputy Minister for Culture and Sport, Rhona Brankin MSP, has expressed a willingness to chair the Sport 21 Review Group.

Purpose

3. This paper sets out recommendations for the membership of the Sport 21 Review Group for members’ approval.

Scope

4. The paper concerns itself solely with the membership of the Sport 21 Review Group and explains the rationale for membership of the Review Group. The detail of the various Review Statements presently being developed in consultation with the Sport 21 Forums will come before members shortly.

Rationale

5. In addition to acknowledging and accepting the willingness of the Deputy Minister to chair the Sport 21 Review Group, members will recall that the chairmen of five Sport 21 Implementation and Review Forums have also been identified and agreed as members of the Sport 21 Review Group. The involvement of the Forum chairs will ensure continuity between the work of the Forums and the work of the Sport 21 Review Group. It will also afford credibility to the Review Statements, and the overall review process, to have the Forum chairs involved in the work of the higher level Sport 21 Review Group.
The recommended membership of the Sport 21 Review Group seeks to establish a balance between our established key partners in Scottish sport and the wider Scottish community represented by key national agencies. The need to strike a balance about debating sport for sport’s sake and positioning sport as intrinsic to Scottish life is reflected in the range of agencies and individuals proposed.

Members will want to seek the approval of the Deputy Minister for the recommended membership of the Review Group. It will be appropriate also to be guided by the Deputy Minister on the issue of involving a representative of the Scottish Parliament’s Education, Culture and Sport Committee.

Conclusion

The Sport 21 Implementation and Review process sought to ensure that greater ownership of Scotland’s national sports strategy was taken by sportscotland partners in Scottish sport. It is already clear that this objective has been achieved as the debates and discussions within the five Forums have been extremely well informed and focused on reviewing the targets of Sport 21. The establishment of the Sport 21 Review Group, chaired by the Deputy Minister, presents an opportunity to develop the ownership of Sport 21 by the Scottish Parliament beyond its welcome acknowledgement within the Partnership for Scotland document.

Recommendation

Members are invited to consider and endorse the membership of the Sport 21 Review Group as outlined in Appendix I of this paper.

January 2000

Appendix I - Recommended Membership

Contact Name: Eddie McConnell
sportscotland
Strategy/Policy Report : January 2000
Sport 21 Review Group
Recommended Membership

The following are proposed as members of the Review Group.

- Rhona Brankin MSP - Deputy Minister for Culture and Sport (Chair of the Group).
- Alastair Dempster - Chairman of sportscotland (Vice Chair of the Group)
- Brian Porteous - Glasgow City Council (Chair of the Sport 21 Facilities for Sport Forum).
- Jane Sanderson (Chair of the Sport 21 Elite Level Sport Forum).
- Michael O’Neill - North Lanarkshire Council (Chair of the Sport 21 Sport and Schools Forum).
- Fred Coalter - Centre for Leisure Research, University of Edinburgh (Chair of the Sport 21 Sport and Social Inclusion Forum).
- Millar Stoddart - Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils (Chair of the Sport 21 Sport and the Voluntary Sector Forum).
- Alan Grosset - Vice Chairman of sportscotland
- a representative from the Scottish Sports Association.
- a representative from the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils.
- a representative from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.
- a representative from the Scottish Institute of Sport.
- a representative from the Health Education Board for Scotland.
- a representative from Scottish Natural Heritage.
- a representative from Scottish Enterprise.
- a representative from the Scottish Tourist Board.
- a representative from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
- a representative from the Further and Higher Education sector.
- a representative from the Social Inclusion Partnership Network in Scotland.
- a representative from The Scottish Parliament's Education, Culture and Sport Committee.
Scottish Sports Council

Sport 21 Implementation and Review Forums

Background Briefing Notes (August 1999)

Introduction

1. The Scottish Sports Council has agreed that the implementation and review of Sport 21 should be taken forward through the establishment of a series of Implementation and Review Forums.

2. Members of the Forums will have a significant role in assessing the progress made in implementing Sport 21 and assisting Scottish sport in its pursuit of the goals contained in the strategy.

How the Forums were Identified

3. Scottish Sports Council officers completed an exercise which plotted the targets and challenges of Sport 21 in a matrix against all the agencies and bodies which contribute to the development of sport in Scotland. After plotting which agencies should lead on each target/challenge and which agencies only require some involvement in each of the targets/challenges, it becomes apparent that there are a series of generic topics which are cross sectorial in nature and which extend, in the main, across the three visions of Sport 21. It is proposed to establish an Implementation and Review Forum for each of these topic areas.

4. From the matrix exercise it is also clear that there is a requirement to secure local authority and national governing body representation on each Forum.

The Work of the Forums

5. The following forums are being established:

5.1 A voluntary sector Forum.

5.2 A schools sport Forum.

5.3 A facilities for sport Forum.

5.4 A social inclusion and sport Forum.

5.5 An elite sport Forum.
It is recognised that there will likely be some areas of useful overlap between each of the forums. It is also clear that there may be a requirement to establish one-off focus groups which might consider very specific topics which would inform the work of the Implementation Forums.

The Council will be seeking to appoint between six and ten people to each Forum, including a Chairperson.

The remit of each forum would be tightly focused on commenting on the relevant targets of Sport 21 with a view to identifying Scotland’s current position in relation to the relevant targets. The forums would have 3 specific tasks to complete in the build up to the first review of Sport 21:

8.1 To provide expert comment on Scotland’s position/progress on the targets of Sport 21 identified within the forum’s remit.

8.2 To identify any constraints/barriers which are slowing or impeding progress.

8.3 To generate expert recommendations on how progress towards achieving the targets of Sport 21 by 2003 might happen.

A detailed brief for each Forum will be prepared by officers in line with the remit outlined in paragraph 8. The Forums will have the support of appropriate Council Officer(s), who will service each of the forums, and provide them with the information and advice they need.

One Member of the Scottish Sports Council will also join each Forum in order to feedback to the Council and provide further advice and assistance to the work of the forums.

An Open, Inclusive Approach

By widening the Sport 21 implementation and review process in this way the Council has attempted to ensure that the ownership of Sport 21 is held widely by all the agencies and sectors involved in Scottish sporting life. As Sport 21 is ‘Scotland’s National Strategy’ it is vital that Scotland as a nation, as far as is possible, becomes engaged in the implementation and review process.

It is clear that throughout Scotland there are many ‘expert advisors’ who could be encouraged to actively participate in this process. The Council acknowledges that it cannot possibly have a monopoly on expert knowledge and advice. The involvement of expert advisors will add credence to the outcome of Sport 21’s first major review.
Timetable

13. The process which the Council will lead to establish the forums and conduct the first review of Sport 21 will proceed as follows:


13.2 Membership of Implementation Forums agreed (early September 1999).

13.3 First meetings of Implementation and Review Forums to receive briefing from Council and identify initial issues (October 1999).

13.4 Second meetings of Implementation and Review Forums (November 1999).

13.5 Forum Reports available for First Review of Sport 21 (January 2000).

Conclusion

14. The implementation of Sport 21 presents an opportunity to engage Scotland’s sporting public and Scotland’s sporting agencies in a very dynamic and cohesive way. The Council believes that this approach presents no less an opportunity than ‘moving the nation’. Everyone who becomes a member of the Implementation and Review Forums will play a critical part in the pursuit of the goals outlined in Sport 21.

15. The approach that the Council is taking is highly reflective of the direction in which Scottish Public and Civic Life is moving as Scotland’s first Parliament in 300 years seeks to bring about democratic renewal across Scotland. It is a new and innovative approach for the Council but is also entirely compatible with the Council’s four stated values: ‘enabling, integrity, dynamic and excellence.’

16. To nominate either yourself or someone else to be a member of an Implementation and Review Forum please simply fill in the nomination form enclosed with this briefing and return it to Dawn Blackman, Scottish Sports Council, Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh EH12 9DQ.

Contact Name: Eddie McConnell
EDUCATION CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Executive response to national companies report

I enclose a copy of the Executive’s response to the Committee’s report on the national arts companies.

If any Member wishes to discuss this at Committee, it can be raised under the update on current business and, if necessary, scheduled as a substantive item at a later meeting.

Gillian Baxendine
Clerk to the Committee

6 April 2000
I am pleased to inform you that the Scottish Executive has completed its consideration of the Report published in February this year of the Committee’s Inquiry into the National Arts Companies, and I am enclosing a copy of our response to the report.

I am also sending a copy to the Presiding Officer and to the Clerk to the Committee.

SAM GALBRAITH
RESPONSE TO THE REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO THE NATIONAL ARTS COMPANIES BY THE EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE (FIRST REPORT 2000)

1. The Scottish Executive have considered carefully the Report by the Committee on the Inquiry into the national arts companies. It has also had the benefit of the report by the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) on financial monitoring of the national companies, which included:

- proposals by Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet for changes in their budgetary control and reporting systems designed to prevent a recurrence of the financial difficulties experienced during the current financial year, which was based upon a 'due diligence' review of two companies commissioned from an independent firm of accountants by the new Chairman shortly after his appointment; and

- a report by an independent firm of consultants on financial monitoring and assessment of the national arts companies by the SAC which has been commissioned by the Council.

The report from SAC had been commissioned by the Minister for Children and Education on the day of his statement to the Scottish Parliament on 8 November 1999, as a condition of providing additional funding of £2.1 million for Scottish Opera. It was submitted on 9 February 2000 and has already been made available to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee.

2. The Scottish Executive welcome the endorsement by the Committee of the view expressed by the Minister for Children and Education in his statement to the Scottish Parliament on 8 November 1999 that avoidance of future financial difficulties for Scottish Opera requires the pursuit of excellence to be balanced against financial procedures and appropriate financial control. The Executive agree that the national companies should continue to aspire to produce work of artistic excellence and that they should find the correct balance between excellence and innovation in their work and probity in their financial accounting.

3. The Scottish Executive welcome the Committee’s conclusion that the ability of SAC to offer 3 year funding to Scottish Ballet/Scottish Opera can be a key factor in reducing financial instability for the joint company. The Executive have made clear to the joint company that it is expected in future to at least balance income and expenditure over any 3 year period.

4. The Executive believe that the proposals by the joint company for changes in their budgetary controls and reporting systems included in the SAC report of 9 February 2000 and the proposal by SAC in that report for improved monitoring processes should help ensure that there is no failure to adhere to that requirement. The Scottish Executive Education Department is continuing to discuss with SAC some aspects of the proposals for future monitoring arrangements by SAC, particularly the attendance by SAC representatives at Board meetings of the companies. The Executive consider it important that there is no lack of clarity about the different roles of SAC, the Executive and the Companies. The Executive agree that the relationships between SAC, the Executive and the National Companies falls to be considered as part of the work on development of the National Cultural Strategy; but
discussions with SAC on future monitoring of the National Arts Companies are predicated on a continuation of the broad pattern of existing relationships.

5. The Executive welcome the endorsement by the Committee of the need for greater emphasis on outreach and educational work by the National Companies. This is consistent with the strategic guidance given to SAC by the Executive. The Executive consider that there is scope for development of the financial relationship between the local authorities and the national companies and agree that service level agreements may have a useful role to play in underpinning those relationships.

6. The Executive welcome the Committee’s recognition that one of the purposes of the National Cultural Strategy will be to provide a framework for continuing consideration of the overall level of expenditure to be devoted to the arts in Scotland and on the pattern of funding decisions within available expenditure. The Committee’s views on the importance of the national companies in terms of artistic excellence, international perceptions and arts employment are a useful contribution to the work of the Executive on the development of the National Cultural Strategy.

7. The merger of Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet under a joint Board took place in December 1999. The Executive shares the Committee’s view that the objective must be that both companies should benefit from the merger and be able to maintain their artistic identities. The Executive notes the additional views of the Committee on matters which are for the Board of the joint company to consider.

8. The Executive share the view of the Committee that the proposal for establishment of a national theatre company should be addressed within the context of work on the National Cultural Strategy and welcomes the very useful work by the Committee on identification of a number of areas which require consideration in relation to this proposal.
3rd April 2000

Gillian Boxendine
Room 2.7
Clerk to the Committee
Education, Culture and Sport Committee
Committee Chambers
Scottish Parliament
George IV Bridge
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Dear Gillian,

Please find enclosed a copy of the evidence given by Mr Robert Aldridge and Mr John Dickie to the Local Government Committee on 7th March 2000.

It is requested that this is circulated to all members of your committee for their information. If any member requires more information please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself (johnw@scsh.demon.co.uk) on 0131 226 4382.

If any Committee Member would like to speak to either Robert Aldridge (robert@scsh.demon.co.uk) or John Dickie (john@scsh.demon.co.uk) they can contact them on 0131 226 4382.

Many thanks,

John Woods
Information Worker
Youth Housing Strategy Unit
Evidence to the Local Government Committee
Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Bill

Scottish Council for Single Homelessness is the key membership organisation representing individuals and organisations concerned with preventing and tackling homelessness in Scotland. Our members include local authorities, housing associations, voluntary organisations and individuals. Our aim is to support the elimination of homelessness in Scotland by:

- influencing policy makers at all levels in the interests of people who experience homelessness;
- establishing best practice in homeless service development and delivery across Scotland.

Many of our members are currently working with young people who may become, are, or have been homeless.

We are grateful for the opportunity to give evidence to the Committee. Our particular concern with the Bill is to strongly support the repeal of Section 2a of the Local Government Act 1986.

1. The experience of SCSH and our membership is that young gay men and women are disproportionately represented amongst the young homeless population.

Evidence

The National Inquiry into Preventing Youth Homelessness (CHAR 1996- commissioned by ten leading young people's and homelessness charities) identified Young Lesbians and Gay Men as a “disadvantaged group... more vulnerable than others to the situations that create homelessness” reporting that a quarter of callers (n=4000) to London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard had a housing problem related directly to their sexuality. (Gay Switchboard (Edinburgh) contact Bob Sutherland) confirm high proportion of callers face housing/homelessness problems)

A forthcoming action research report by the Stonewall Youth Project in Edinburgh will reveal that of the 200 young gay people the project has given support to during 1999, 20% experienced homelessness because of other peoples reaction to their sexuality. Furthermore isolation, fear, risk of homelessness and bullying in schools are the key issues identified by these young gay men and women.

2. We strongly believe existing legislation, including Section 2a, that promotes the idea that gay and lesbian lifestyles are of less social and moral value that those of their heterosexual peers reinforces a social climate within which families and friends reject young gay people. As a result young gay people are often forced to leave home under pressure and unprepared for living independently. This in turn leads to increased risk of homelessness.

Evidence:

The Inquiry found “a number of agencies reported to the enquiry that they see a significant number of young people who became homeless because there sexuality has led to conflict, especially with their parents”.

The London Gay Teenage Group reported “11% of young gay and lesbian men were evicted by their parents when they told them about their sexuality.”

Putting single homeless people first
A Report by Glasgow Women’s Library, (Poverty and Social Exclusion of Lesbian and Gay Men in Glasgow) funded by Glasgow C.C., March 1999 found that 34% of lesbians and gay men (of 137 interviewed) had experienced homelessness, of which 37% connected this with their sexuality or the homophobia of others.

For 42% of those surveyed in Glasgow their sexuality or homophobia had been a reason for leaving home. Furthermore SFHA research amongst young gay men and lesbians (Obtaining a Fair Deal, 1997) found one third had to leave their family home as a result of their sexual orientation.

3. If young people are to successfully make the transition from childhood home to adulthood independence they require both informal (friends and family) and formal (e.g. school, careers, housing, benefit and health) support. Clause 28 undermines both sources of support by destroying informal supportive relationships through reinforcing negative attitudes towards people who are gay or lesbian, and restricting the quality of formal sources of support, particularly when provided by local authorities.

Evidence:

“The (misuse of Section 28 has had a devastating effect on lesbians and gay men...isolating individuals in vulnerable social contexts”. One interviewee in the Glasgow research, a previously homeless young women, said:

“I told one of the staff (about her sexuality whilst in residential care) he just spoke to me and told me I wasn’t the devil or a sinner or anything and he wasn’t really meant to give out information, because of Section 28, so this made me depressed and I took an overdose not long after…”

Homelessness is one of the most extreme forms of social exclusion. Scottish Executive research (Experiences of Social Exclusion in Scotland, 1999) highlights the process by which people are excluded from social and economic opportunities through discrimination based on difference, including differences in sexuality. This discrimination is experienced in terms of attitudes as well as social and political structures and practices.

4. Whilst the debate on Section 28 has so far concentrated on homophobic bullying in schools, local authorities also fund a broad range of services including those for homeless people. SCOSH’s members deal only too frequently with young people who have been made homeless because of their sexual orientation. Some are thrown out of the parental home, while others may suffer harassment and have to leave their homes. There are also examples of homophobic bullying in some homeless projects, and of the section constraining the advice given to young homeless gay men and lesbians.

Evidence:

SFHA research found that 50% of young lesbians and gay men felt they had to hide their sexual orientation to keep their house whilst 43% have had to leave private rented housing once their sexual orientation became known, primarily as a result of landlord and flat-mate harassment.

Furthermore “Lesbians and gay men were found to feel they would not be given a sympathetic hearing nor support from housing providers.”
Research in Edinburgh (Experience and Perception of Violence and Intimidation of LGBT Communities in Edinburgh, Alcohol and Health Research Centre, 1999) found 6.4% (of 187 respondents) had been evicted or denied housing as a result of attitudes towards their sexuality.

5. Section 28 applies as much to local authority housing policies and organisations which they fund, as it does to schools. It is open to broad interpretation, and therefore acts as a ‘sword of Damocles’ hanging over many local authority decisions.

Evidence

Initial research by the National Centre for Social Research, Homelessness among Gay and Lesbian Youth (a major National Lottery funded research project in its early stages) suggests Clause 28 has the subtle effect of encouraging local authority workers to exercise caution and to steer away from working with issues of sexuality.

6. The new section 20 lays a duty on local authorities, when delivering services that relate principally to children, to have regard to the value of “stable family life”.

SCSH would stress that for many children and young people at risk of homelessness, particularly those who runaway or become looked after by local authorities, experiences of “traditional families” will not be positive but include physical, sexual and psychological abuse or neglect. (40% of young homeless women have experienced sexual abuse in childhood or adolescence – CHAR 1992). Others may be coming to terms with discrimination and rejection resulting from their sexuality.

In this context any emphasis on the “importance of stable family life” needs to be balanced by an understanding of the actual experiences of children and young people so that appropriate support services can be provided. Politically constructed ideals of family life must not be promoted in such a way as undermines the self esteem of disadvantaged young people already vulnerable to homelessness.

7. SCSH believes it is important that any new sex education guidelines regulating Section 2a are non-judgmental and do not in any way suggest that gay relationships are of less value or worth than heterosexual relationships. If Government promotes the idea that there is not a moral equivalence between gay and heterosexual relationships, young gay men and women will continue to find themselves at increased risk of homelessness as they make the transition to adulthood.

Scottish Council for Single Homeless
March 6, 2000

For more details contact John Dickie (Head of Youth Housing Unit) or Robert Aldridge (Director, SCSH) on 0131 226 4382. Email john@scsh.demon.co.uk or robert@scsh.demon.co.uk.
Raising Standards

TARGETS

Targets for pupils with special educational needs

This is the sixth of a series of occasional newsletters which are being published to inform teachers about progress with improving standards in Scottish schools. It has been produced by HM Inspectors of Schools on behalf of the Scottish Executive.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The document Setting Targets - Raising Standards in Schools set out the expectation that all schools would set and work towards attainment targets for 2001. Targets for pupils with special educational needs described approaches specific to this aspect and established a phased programme of implementation. Some schools and education authorities opted-in to set targets for session 1999/2000.

All other relevant schools, primary, secondary and special, will set targets for pupils with special educational needs for session 2000/2001. They will report to the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) on success in attaining these targets by early Autumn 2001.

Further advice for education authorities was issued to Directors of Education in March 2000.

The purposes of this newsletter are to:

- focus attention on the extension of setting targets for pupils with special educational needs to include all relevant schools
- provide information about developments during session 1999/2000
- describe arrangements for national support and follow-up over the next few years

The Success for All project

(Article by Professor Dominic Mill and Norrie Collie)

Background

The Minister's foreword to A Manual of Good Practice in Special Educational Needs states that "our aim is to develop an inclusive society that offers fairness for all and provides the opportunity for all children and young people to achieve their full potential." Shortly afterwards, SEED published advice on setting targets for pupils with special educational needs as part of the initiative to raise standards.

The Success for All project is related to both these priorities: disseminating the features of good practice highlighted in the Manual and supporting schools to raise the achievements of pupils with special educational needs through setting targets.

The main intended outcomes of the project are to:

- provide advice through a series of booklets on setting targets for individual pupils using individualised educational programmes (IEPs)
- enable schools to use IEPs to set whole-school targets for improvement
- enable schools to find 'partner schools' with similar characteristics against which to benchmark standards by way of a web-based network
- share experiences, generate ideas and develop good practice through a series of seminars, workshops and conferences.
Raising Standards

Project management

The project is managed by a team from Northern College comprising Brenda Fierst, Jim Buchan and led by Professor Donnie MacLeod. There is an Advisory Committee chaired by Annette Bruton of Stirling Council with representation from education authorities and SEED.

Project phases

This is a 3-year project which is due to be completed by January 2003.

Phase 1: First steps

- establishing features of good practice with regard to target setting within IEPs and networking.
- IEPs and setting targets at whole-school level:
  - development of templates and guidance on their use across a range of provision
  - development of advice for setting targets at whole-school level
  - seminars/workshops during April/May 2000 in Dundee, Inverness and East Kilbride to share and discuss the outcomes of the development work.
- establishing a website and the initial development of electronic formats for IEPs. These will continue to be developed and refined in consultation with schools and education authorities throughout the life of the project.

This first phase culminates in a conference in June 2000.

Phase 2: Piloting and evaluating whole-school target setting, and using networks of support

Development work will be undertaken in a number of pilot schools. It will focus on setting targets at whole-school level for learners with special educational needs. Three booklets of support materials will be published in December 2000. This phase will also include a national workshop and a conference in February 2001.

Phase 3: Self-evaluation and development planning

This phase will involve a wider range of schools. It will take ahead the approaches in phase 2, leading to publication of materials under the theme of ‘Developing an inclusive school’. It will conclude with a conference in December 2001.

Phase 4: Continuation of collaborative work

This phase will follow up and evaluate progress made. It will guide the initial stages of network use and plan a responsive programme of seminars/workshops. At least one conference will be delivered on-line and the proceedings published and offered as additional guidance and final recommendations for SEED.

The work of National Development Officers

National Development Officers (NDOs) were seconded to HM Inspectors of Schools Audit Unit from March 1999 to March 2000 to assist schools and education authorities implementing setting targets for children and young people with special educational needs. Their role initially focused on raising awareness of the initiative through a series of national seminars and school visits, then providing support and advice linked to the Raising Standards Setting Targets Support Pack: Special Educational Needs.

Since October 1999, NDOs have spoken to more than 3000 teachers and education officers through a series of seminars and conferences arranged by many education authorities around Scotland.

A particularly important aspect of the NDO role has been the provision of practical support for schools involved in the first phase of setting targets. By the end of March 2000, they will have had direct contact with all 121 schools participating in the phase 1 year through meetings with headteachers, school visits or telephone contact.

In addition, they have established a voluntary network of special schools so that schools with similar characteristics can assist each other to focus on aspects of special educational needs provision.
Uses of the network range from common approaches to managing IEPs, to curricular initiatives, staff development and the use of certificated attainment. The level of interest has been so high that NDOs have now extended the original network to include small groups of mainstream primary and secondary schools.

Phase 1 of setting targets for pupils with special educational needs is drawing to a close, and all schools are preparing to become involved. Questions and answers arising from NDO liaison with teachers and education authorities as well as helpful staff development materials are being made available on the website. Details are given in the final article in this newsletter.

Networking – Sink or Swim

On receipt of the brown envelope from the Scottish Executive, Victoria Quay, I hovered between opening and reading the contents or writing ‘no longer at this address’ on the front. I’m glad to say that I bit the bullet and read the correspondence. The contents refer to the networking between similar establishments in regard to setting targets.

I’m the head teacher of a nursery/primary school for children with complex learning difficulties situated in the ‘City of Architecture and Design’, a.k.a. Glasgow.

My networking colleagues come from East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, East Dunbartonshire and Midlothian.

The letter lay pinned on my wall until fortunately another school showed great initiative and contacted me. I made an initial visit to Inverclyde for half a day which was very informative. After that brief contact, he other headteacher agreed a date to visit my school, then wrote to other schools inviting them to a half-day informal, getting-to-know-you session. All schools were delighted to participate. The benefits were simple but effective:

- putting faces to names
- gathering information about each other’s schools
- sharing information
- sharing concerns
- swapping IEP formats
- getting about everything

As a fairly new head teacher, I was anxious about how valuable my input would be in the company of more experienced colleagues. As soon as dialogue began, we all knew we were roughly on the same platform and those already boarding the train were very glad to assist our passage through A Manual of Good Practice.

After tea and scones, we all left feeling that we had been able to contribute to the discussion and could extend networking to:

- begin a programme of inter-school exchange with staff released to visit other establishments
- exchange IEP pro formas for discussion / information
- discuss the management of IEPs through a review-driven process.

My homespun advice is if you haven’t stuck your toe in the water yet, then do. The experience will both reassure and refresh you.

Mary Cloughley
Head Teacher
Hampden School (Glasgow City Council)

Raising the Attainment of Pupils with Special Educational Needs

SEED Research Project

The Strathclyde Centre for Disability Research, in collaboration with the Special Needs Research Centre at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been commissioned by SEED to undertake research into raising the attainment of pupils with special educational needs. This project has recently commenced and a final report is anticipated around October 2000.