

Update on Regional Improvement Collaboratives

Background

There will be six Regional Improvement Collaborative areas in Scotland. They will bring together local authority and Education Scotland staff and expertise, to enhance and ensure the quality and responsiveness of educational improvement support to headteachers, teachers, managers and practitioners across their region.

Key lines:

- RICs will reduce inconsistencies and strengthen the support that is provided to our schools. We will learn from current collaborative working and we will empower schools and communities to shape their regional education support offer.
- There is no one size fits all solution and these reforms must work for each and every part of the country – that is why we are empowering and supporting our headteachers and their teaching staff to decide what works best for the children in their schools
- RICs will ensure and enhance both sector and subject-specific support and advice, with a clear focus on literacy and numeracy and the areas of improvement identified for that region.
- We are working in partnership with local government and Education Scotland in the establishment of RICs including on the recent appointment of Scotland's 6 Regional Improvement Leads.

Possible questions

How are the RICs going to be resourced?

RICs will be resourced by pooling and sharing local government resource and devolving Education Scotland staff time and expertise. Any additional resources would be considered as part of the normal budgetary processes.

How will they be organised?

Regional Leads for each IC will report jointly to the Chief Executives of the constituent local authorities (with the lead's own local authority remaining as their employer) and the Chief Inspector of Education.

What is the current timeline for the RICs?

Regional Improvement Leads were appointed in each region by the end of October 2017 and each Collaborative has been tasked to deliver its first Regional Improvement Plan by January 2018. An external review will be commissioned in April 2018, with a further review some 12 to 18 months thereafter, to assess progress on establishing the Collaboratives and on fulfilling their potential.