

**Education Scotland**

- SSTA looking to return to the CfE Management Board
- Increasing SSTA involvement in future consultation arrangements
- Engagement with the review of the Inspection Process for the autumn 2017

**'Named Person' consultation**

- Additional Support Needs advisory panel produced a questionnaire to assist in the response to the consultation
- A Fact Sheet was issued to advise members of the potential changes
- Government wants to work with the SSTA in developing the guidance

**SQA - New Higher Qualifications**

- The Education Committees survey was the basis of the discussion with the Education Minister and highlighted the real workload demands on members
- The lack of confidence in materials, assessment arrangements and time available to teachers to deliver the new arrangements was highlighted
- The survey also showed teachers removing themselves from the external qualification process
- SSTA gave evidence to the Education and Culture Committee on 3 February
- The Minister rejected an extension of the existing qualifications in favour of implementing the New Higher Qualifications
- The SSTA has met with the SQA and raised issues identified in the SSTA survey including bureaucracy, verification processes, information on website and training
- Chief Executive of SQA attended the SSTA Congress and took part in a Q&A session

**Scottish Teachers for Enhancing Practice**

- SSTA sponsored the event in March with participants appreciative of the association's involvement.
- Future discussions taking place on further involvement

**General Teacher's Council Scotland**

- The GTCS has been asked to make provisions for Further Education Lecturers
- Increasing concern of use of Social Media and referrals to GTCS
- SSTA to engage with GTCS on the process/stages of the complaints procedure

### **Professional Update**

- Guidance materials for Senior Managers has been issued by the Senior Managers Advisory Panel was well received
- PU focus group met to discuss personal CPD entitlement and the reduction of the administrative procedures

### **Scottish College of Educational Leadership (SCEL)**

- Headteacher Fellowships has been piloted and the next cohort is being selected
- SSTA raised concerns over the announcement of a Masters qualification for Headship and for it to be mandatory from 2018
- SSTA stressed the necessity of opportunities for all teachers

### **Scottish Parent Teachers Council AGM**

- The SPTC 1<sup>st</sup> Lecture took place in Glasgow a relationship SSTA to foster

### **Scottish Trades Union Congress 20 – 22 April**

- Motions on Trade unions and Employment Rights, Equality and Social Justice, Economy and Industry, International Issues, Civil and Public Services, Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning
- SSTA motions abolishing fees at Employment Tribunals and Government support for Young Carers passed unanimously
- Education Motions included ending child poverty and retention of ASN funding
- Congress was addressed by the First Minister and leader of the Labour Party

### **Supply Teachers**

- Meeting with Minister - Highlighted the importance of Supply Teachers to the education system and the need to restore pay levels and potential national register for supply teachers
- Salaries Committee produced a Supply teacher bulletin

### **Working Time Agreements - Flexible Working**

- Salaries Committee reps bulletin Any request must be agreed prior to beginning of the school year and the request can be declined
- Salaries Conditions of Service Committee is preparing updated guidance on Working Time Agreements

### **Absence Management**

- SSTA guidance being prepared for members on the process
- Increasing examples received of schools using the procedure to 'bully' teachers.
- advocating a review in LAs to produce a fair and supportive procedure

**Workload** – teachers need more time for teaching – not more tests  
However, the recent joint report by government, employers and teacher unions can potentially open the door for teacher’s professionalism to be restored and tackle teacher workload.

**The Curriculum for Excellence Working Group on Tackling Bureaucracy Follow-up Report published in March 2015**  
gives guidance to schools on

- **Assessment** should be based on professional judgement. Tracking pupil progress and moderation is important; however there is no need for large folios of evidence to support it.
- **Forward Planning** should be proportionate; there is NO need to plan, assess, record or report every experience and outcome. Planning should support professional dialogue rather than to fulfil an audit function
- **Monitoring and Reporting** –ICT planning and reporting systems should be used with CAUTION. Just because such systems can support very detailed planning and reporting, does not mean they should be used in that way.
- **Self-Evaluation and Planning** – over-reliance on audit “tick box” distracts from quality teaching and learning.

Teachers need to be allowed to focus on teaching and learning and any activity that distracts from that must be severely questioned. Therefore, we need to use this document to support the professional judgement of the teacher and cut the relentless administration.

### **Salaries**

- **2.5% over two years** being discussed with employers

### **Teachers’ Pension 2015**

- ‘Winding Down’ scheme is not included in the 2015 Regulations but will continue for those with NPA60 tapered protection
- Further bulletins to be issued

### **Forthcoming events:**

- a) **Health and Safety Reps** training **Friday 12 June**, Stirling – new date
- b) **School Reps** training **Friday 28 August**, Stirling
- c) **Senior Managers** seminar to be re-arranged for autumn term