

(ADES LOGO)

(LT Scotland LOGO)

(COSLA LOGO)

A JOINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ADES, LT SCOTLAND and COSLA

1 Joint Vision

ADES' Vision is “to promote public awareness of and make national representation on issues affecting the education service and to safeguard and promote the professional interests of members by giving advice, and by providing opportunities for professional development.”

LT Scotland's Vision is “to promote a climate of innovation, ambition and excellence throughout the Scottish education system; to support teachers, schools and authorities in improving the quality of education and raising levels of achievement of all learners; to ensure that the curriculum and approaches to learning and teaching, including the use of ICT, assist children and young people in Scotland to develop their full potential; to work in close partnership with the Scottish Executive and other key stakeholders to build capacity and support the delivery of a first class education that is recognised as such nationally and internationally.”

COSLA's Vision is to work with partners to achieve a shared, coordinated strategic agenda for the delivery of children's services which challenges traditional boundaries and makes best use of available resources, but which reflects a local government view of the modernisation agenda and secures the integration of services around the needs of children within a framework of local governance. **COSLA** is committed to working with member Councils and key stakeholders to ensure that local government is at the heart of the delivery of the full range of education services to children and young people in Scotland.

ADES, LT Scotland and COSLA believe their respective visions are complementary. Through the continuing development of a dynamic partnership, the three organisations intend to work closely together to deliver their visions for the benefit of Scotland's children and young people.

2 Developing a Shared Agenda: ADES and LT Scotland

The educational landscape across Scotland is changing rapidly due to demographic, social, political, legislative and pedagogical changes. In setting out to deliver their respective visions, **ADES** and **LT Scotland** are well aware of the need to adjust priorities, the organisations rise to the challenge of keeping pace with change. The attached Appendix outlines ADES' priorities and LT Scotland's revised remit.

Over the past year, **ADES** and **LT Scotland** have engaged in meetings to:

- explore how the skills, expertise and experience in both organisations could be articulated with those in Scotland's 32 authorities;
- identify a set of key development priorities;
- develop collaborative models to support the implementation of these key priorities.

In addition, **LT Scotland** is currently facilitating and supporting a range of pilot development commissions involving individual authorities and inter-authority consortia.

Through a recent survey of Directors of Education, and as a product of ongoing dialogue between the **ADES** Executive and senior management of **LT Scotland**, a common agenda has emerged. While subject to further consultation, the following shared priorities have been identified.

- **LT Scotland** has identified the need to modernise and revise its remit in order to support authorities, schools and services in meeting the challenges of education in the 21st Century. **ADES** recognises the potentially significant role which **LT Scotland** can play in providing both strategic and operational support across a wide range of areas.

- **ADES** and **LT Scotland** recognise that authorities require support and advice to strengthen their capacity to address the very wide and increasing range of national priorities and initiatives. These include enhancing the quality of services for children, addressing the *Ambitious, Excellent Schools* agenda and improving the quality of learning and teaching.
- **ADES** and **LT Scotland** share the view that authorities and schools are rich in good practice which now requires formally to be identified, accredited and disseminated across authorities, for the general benefit of all learners. **ADES** recognises that **LT Scotland** can play a significant role in commissioning major pieces of development work to and for authorities, individually and through inter-authority consortia. This development work, quality assured rigorously, could contribute to a national bank of high quality packages from which all authorities could make informed choices.
- **ADES** and **LT Scotland** are strongly of the view that facilitated joint-working and sharing of best practice represent the way forward in meeting the requirements of Efficient Government, Best Value, Public Sector Reform and, specifically, the second cycle of statutory inspections of education authorities (INEA 2).
- **ADES** and **LT Scotland** recognise that the most pressing challenges facing authorities relate to curriculum development and support. Authorities' quality improvement teams now focus more directly on quality assurance. Curriculum development and, to a slightly lesser extent, staff development are recognised by authorities as the areas in which they require the greatest level of support. Partnership arrangements having been agreed with **ADES**, **LT Scotland** could deploy its skills and experience and those available in Scottish authorities to strengthen the quality of strategic advice and support on key national initiatives such as *A Curriculum for Excellence*.
- In essence, **ADES** and **LT Scotland** agree that strategic leadership and direction are required, in the following broad areas:
 - curriculum review and development
 - staff development
 - leadership development
 - learning and teaching skills
 - closing the opportunity gap
 - skills for life and employment
 - creativity
 - key thematic areas, for example, urban/rural, race and gender issues
 - integrated children's services and provision of inter-agency training & support.
- **ADES** and **LT Scotland** plan to identify the number and range of existing self-support and inter-authority/inter-agency networks currently in operation across Scotland. The organisations will work in partnership to "add value" to the work of authorities, schools, agencies and networks. They will "map the landscape", identify gaps in provision and address agreed priorities.

3 A Joint Action Plan: ADES and LT Scotland

ADES and **LT Scotland** have identified the following points for action to take forward their shared agenda and priorities.

- ✓ Continue joint discussions and widen the professional debate, to secure ownership of an agreed set of high priority, strategic developments which would benefit from focused national advice and support. This process would include maintaining regular dialogue between **ADES**, **LT Scotland**, **SEED**, **COSLA**, **HMIE**, **SQA** and other key institutions and stakeholders.
- ✓ Engage in structured discussions with a wider range of key stakeholders, including **HAS**, **AHTS** and representative groups of centrally-deployed quality improvement officers and advisers, to target support options.

- ✓ Audit, in partnership, the following:
 - The capacity of authorities, in terms of the range and numbers of key central staff, to secure continuous improvement
 - The development and support needs, generally and specifically, of authorities
 - The range of educational networks currently in existence across Scotland, to identify areas of expertise and gaps in provision
- ✓ **LT Scotland** to continue to facilitate and support a range of pilot commissions, involving a number of individual authorities and inter-authority consortia, keeping **ADES** fully informed and engaged in further developments. On the basis of these developments, continue jointly to explore a range of possible delivery options.
- ✓ Examine jointly the range of funding streams available to maximise support to authorities, schools and services.
- ✓ Develop models which offer high quality leadership, direction, support and advice to authorities, schools and services in the pursuit of educational excellence for Scotland's children.

4. **Support of COSLA**

COSLA gives its strong endorsement to this joint initiative, which it considers will provide valuable, focused leadership, support and advice to Scottish authorities, schools and services in their drive to deliver continuous improvement in the quality of the learning experience for Scotland's children and young people.

Roy Jobson
President of ADES

Bernard McLeary
Chief Executive of LT Scotland

Cllr Rev Ewan Aitken,
COSLA Spokesperson on Education

APPENDIX: ADES' PRIORITIES AND LT SCOTLAND'S REMIT

ADES' Priorities

- Improve the quality of service delivery of education to citizens of Scotland
- Ensure the effective implementation of social inclusion
- Focus on effective provision for Looked After and Accommodated Children
- Develop teaching for effective learning in our schools
- Improve attainment and achievement of young people in Scotland
- Improve the effectiveness and impact of Integrated Community Schools and Integrated Children's Services
- Ensure delivery of well-targeted Continuing Professional Development for all staff working in education services
- Support the Virtual Staff College and e-learning for senior managers and administrators within the education service
- Implement the Modernising and Efficient Government agenda
- Improve impact on the education system through regular meetings to
 - set overall strategy and share information and ideas
 - take forward current initiatives and developments
 - focus on optimum design of networks and systems

LT Scotland's Remit

- Support the implementation of national developments in education, including reviewing and refreshing the curriculum by
 - building capacity through effective partnership working
 - developing a range of strategies to support curriculum and staff development
 - leading cutting-edge ICT developments
 - contributing educational, technical and communications expertise
- Provide guidance, leadership and support to authorities and schools to help implement educational policy and promote innovation by
 - supporting authorities and schools in raising levels of achievement and promoting inclusion
 - building and sustaining networks of education authority and school staff to implement policy and support innovation
 - supporting professional debate and disseminating best practice
- Provide sound and coherent advice to Ministers by
 - engaging with stakeholders, including authorities and schools
 - engaging with agencies involved in supporting services for children

- analysing the outputs of national and international thinking and research and inspection evidence, and drawing on recognised best practice

- Evaluate the impact of all aspects of its work by
 - using best value approaches, quality indicators and surveys of stakeholders to measure impact and identify areas for improvement
 - improving internal management and quality assurance processes
 - taking timeous, effective action in specific areas requiring improvement, for example, leadership, ICT and formative assessment.