

In pursuing its mission, **Education Scotland** is committed to working collaboratively and in partnership with other public bodies and local authorities, promoting and supporting a climate of ambition and delivering added value through focusing its work around seven strategic objectives. These are:

1. to lead and support successful implementation of the curriculum
2. to build the capacity of education providers and practitioners to improve their own performance
3. to promote high-quality professional learning and leadership
- 4. to stimulate creativity and innovation**
5. to provide independent evaluation on the quality of educational provision
6. to provide evidence-based advice to inform national policy
7. to develop our people and improve our organisational capability

Main features of inspection and review

- Increasingly focussed on the ability of an establishment or service to evaluate itself;
- findings used to take forward plans to improve;
- focus on the impact of the establishment or service on users, the quality of leadership and management in helping staff to achieve the best outcomes for learners;
- we observe and evaluate practice at first hand and gain a view of what learners or other users experience (observations, discussions, professional dialogue).

Relationship between inspection and innovation

- Importance of professional dialogue during inspection- sharing ideas, using coaching questions, offering advice;
- commentary on innovation identified as “good practice” and worthy of sharing more widely;
- continuing engagement options include “Innovative Practice visit”;
- *Journey to Excellence* and *Creativity Portal* on our website;
- encouraging collaboration where appropriate.

Areas where inspection can affect innovation

- Affirmation of innovative approaches that are improving outcomes for learners;
- encouraging staff to share their innovative and highly effective practice and promote innovation during inspection and review activity;
- giving priority to supporting improvement through constructive professional dialogue;
- increased expectations related to implementation of *Curriculum for Excellence*;
- promoting a learning approach in order to learn from the knowledge and experience of others and share our knowledge and experience.

Possible Lines of development

- Further emphasis on self-evaluation for improvement;
- continuously review how to achieve greatest impact from the knowledge of effective practice which is gained through inspections, reviews and other tasks;
- sharing on our public facing website of evidence of highly effective practice from our professional document *Record of Inspection Findings* completed during each inspection and sent to the headteacher in confidence;
- as Education Scotland, work across our organisation to stimulate creativity and innovation.