

7. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GUIDANCE – INCLUDED, ENGAGED AND INVOLVED PART 2: A POSITIVE APPROACH TO MANAGING SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS

The Scottish Government had invited comments on its consultation “Draft Guidance – Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Managing Exclusions”.

The Education Executive considered a report by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) (which had been circulated) which outlined the terms of the Scottish Government consultation paper on Draft Guidance – Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Managing Exclusions and sought endorsement of a draft response.

The Scottish Government guidance aimed to develop and clarify national policy on exclusion from schools in the context of national and local government responsibilities. The overarching aim was to support whole school communities, learning establishments and their partners to keep all children fully included, engaged and involved in their education, wherever it took place.

The guidance was largely reflective and supportive of current West Lothian Council policies, procedures and practice. It would provide an opportunity and audit tool for schools and officers to revisit policies, procedures and practice and ensure that these reflected current national policy and emerging best practice which in turn would support continuous validated self evaluation. The guidance would also ensure that all establishments were supporting young people to achieve within the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence as confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens. The draft response to the consultation was contained in the appendix to the report.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) recommended that the Education Executive approve the terms of the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.