

Independent Review on Assessments & Qualifications

About

Children in Scotland's Voices Forums bring together the diverse knowledge, skills and experience of our members to seek solutions for the most pressing issues affecting children in Scotland today.

Our June 2022 Voices Forum focused on the Independent Review on Assessments and Qualifications and gave our members an opportunity to give their views on the draft vision and principles of the review. Professor Louise Hayward presented on the Review and Ellie Craig MSYP discussed the work of the Scottish Youth Parliament in education and how young people can be included in conversations going forward.

Key themes identified and discussed

- Members welcomed the vision and principles and shared their hopes that they could be realised effectively.
- Members highlighted the importance of this vision working for *all* learners, especially those who might usually be missed out or excluded and suggested that this should be included at the top of the principles.
- The group pointed out the current issues faced by schools and the systematic change needed so they can be less risk adverse, data driven and feel empowered to try new things to improve the wellbeing of young people.
- Members pointed out the vast importance of ensuring that children and young people are supported effectively to be involved in this review and that their views are heard, acknowledged and responded to. One way of doing this was supporting young people to gather information themselves from their peers as this could make the engagement more informal and accessible. The review group must also let the young people know how their views have been taken into account.

Next steps

Children in Scotland will continue to support members to engage with the review. This will include promoting the public consultation when it is in progress later this year. Children in Scotland will also share our learning with Scottish Government from working with our Children and Young People's Advisory Group.