

FOI Request - Regional Improvement Collaborative (Northern Alliance) governance - 101003196530

1. What is the governance structure of Northern Alliance Regional Improvement Collaborative?

The Northern Alliance is an education collaborative of the eight Local Authorities Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Highland Council, Moray Council, Argyll & Bute, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Shetland Islands Council and Orkney Islands Council.

The **Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead** oversees the strategic direction of the Northern Alliance and communicates progress at a national level.

The **Regional Improvement Forum** consists of Directors, Heads of Service and Chief Education Officers from the eight Local Authorities who work with the Education Scotland Senior Regional Advisor to provide support and challenge in order to drive forward improvement within the Regional Improvement Plan.

Senior Councillors from each constituent local authority meet as a **Convention of Convenors** to discuss and advise on the strategy of the Northern Alliance, reviewing progress through regular updates.

The **Regional Improvement Advisory Forum** includes membership for Head Teachers, Education Psychology Service, Higher Education, Unions and the Scottish Government. This group provides support and challenge in relation to progress and priorities.

Established in late 2021, the **Youth Advisory Group (YAG)** captures youth voice, strengthening youth participation in Northern Alliance developments. Members include MSYPs for each of the eight Local Authorities.

2. Who is in the management team? How are they recruited and by whom? Who are they accountable to and who do they report to?

There is no management team in the Northern Alliance. The Quality Improvement Manager is recruited by members of the Regional Improvement Forum and is accountable to and reports to the Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead and Regional Improvement Forum.

3. What is the governance structure and who is on it?

See question 1.

4. How does Moray Council have input to decision making?

Moray Council is one of the eight Local Authorities that form the Northern Alliance. The Chief Education Officer and Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) are both members of the Regional Improvement Forum who, along with the other members, support and challenge developments and activity to drive forward the aims and priorities within the Regional Improvement Plan.

5. How does Moray Council ensure accountability and scrutiny of the NA RIC?

The Northern Alliance produces an annual Progress and Impact Report evidencing activity and associated impact. Each individual Council within the Northern Alliance can report through their own governance structures. The Convention of Convenors provide political

oversight in each Local Authority. All Regional Improvement Collaboratives report to the Scottish Government on use of funding.