# Draft CCEA Corporate Plan Consultation

**CSSC response**

**Demographics**

**Please complete this section to ensure that we handle your response appropriately. How are you responding?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

On behalf of an Organisation

As an Individual

As a Group

**Please indicate the size of the organisation.**

The Controlled Schools’ Support Council (CSSC) was set up in September 2016 to represent and support the interests of the controlled sector in Northern Ireland. 95% of controlled schools have opted-in to register with CSSC.

The controlled sector is:

* Large – it accounts for 49% of all schools and caters for over 144,719 pupils, making it the largest education sector in Northern Ireland.
* Diverse – providing education across all school types, i.e. nursery, primary, secondary, grammar and special schools. Within this, controlled integrated, Irish Medium and Dickson plan schools are included.
* Inclusive – providing education for children of all faiths and none (62% of pupils define as Protestant, 10% Catholic and 28% ‘other’ and 41% of newcomer pupils in Northern Ireland.

The Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) has 19 permanent staff comprising 18 full-time equivalents.

**If you are responding on behalf of organisation, which of the following best describes your organisation?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

a. Primary School

b. Post-Primary School

c. Special School

d. Training Organisation

e. Education & Library Board

f. College of Further Education

g. University / Higher Education Institute

h. Employer

i. Government Department / Public Body

j. Other:

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We intend to publish a list of the organisations that have responded to our feedback survey.

**If you consent to this please provide the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of.**

Controlled Schools' Support Council

**If you are happy for us to contact you to obtain further information to assist us in the development of our corporate plan, please fill out your contact details below.**

Name: Barry Mulholland

Address: Controlled Schools' Support Council, Second Floor, Main Building, Stranmillis University College, Stranmillis Road.

Town: Belfast

Postcode: BT9 5DY

Email: Barry.Mulholland@csscni.org.uk

Phone: 028 9531 3030

**As part of our corporate planning process, we will develop and publish a report which summarises the key themes and ideas raised by individuals and organisations as feedback.**

**The information will be thematically analysed and reported. Full responses will not be published.**

**Do you agree with CCEA using your responses to create a summary report?**

Yes No

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# **Corporate Plan, Mission & Values**

**Q1a. To what extent do you agree that the Corporate Plan provides a good introduction to the organisation and structure of Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q1b. Please use this space to comment further on your answer to Q1a.**

The Controlled Schools’ Support Council (CSSC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) Corporate Plan Survey. We acknowledge that the Corporate Plan provides a good introduction to the organisation and structure of CCEA by clarifying the wide remit, duties and functions of organisation, and by outlining clearly the structure of the organisation.

**Q2a. To what extent do you agree with the CCEA Vision and CCEA Mission contained in the Corporate Plan?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q2b. Please use this space to comment further on your answer to Q2a.**

CSSC welcomes the centrality of the learner in all aspects of CCEA’s provision and planning. In relation to the vision statement we recognise the importance of CCEA’s aspiration to be a leading authority on curriculum, enabled by effective assessment and qualifications that reward and recognise learner achievement, however, we would recommend a much broader rationale than to lead learners to be, ‘informed and confident citizens’.

The section, ‘Our vision for education…’ sites important aspirations that CCEA, as outlined in the Education (NI) Order 1998 (Articles 73 to 80), has a clear responsibility to contribute to, however, some of the bullets could be more specifically focused on what CCEA has a responsibility for and the opportunity to effect change.

Within this section, CCEA’s vision is that, ‘all our young people can develop skills that enable them to compete for jobs here and elsewhere’. CSSC would suggest that this aspiration be

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broadened to include what is realistic for some of our young people with the most significant and complex needs. In the mission section, CCEA states that the learner is placed at the centre of CCEA’s thinking but in the vision section, it states that customers and stakeholders are at the centre of educational providers’ thinking. Perhaps one of these statements should be refined.

Whilst the section on vision declares that, ‘educational providers exhibit, in a transparent way, the very highest standards of corporate governance and accountability in their stewardship of public resources’, there is no mention of the integrity with which educational providers should be held to account for the governance and administration of examinations and assessment.

**Corporate Plan Outcomes**

**Q3a. To what extent do you agree with the Outcome** *‘CCEA will monitor and advise on the curriculum, so that children and young people have the best start in life, are committed to lifelong learning and can be effective within a global economy’***?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q3b: To what extent do you agree the actions for delivery will be sufficient to deliver this Outcome?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q3c. Please use this space to comment further on your answer to Q3a and Q3b.**

Whilst CSSC recognises the important role of CCEA with regards to monitoring and advising on the curriculum, so that children and young people have the best start in life, and are committed to lifelong learning, we would highlight the need to consider inclusivity within the statement, ‘...and can be effective within a global economy’. CSSC would contend that the curriculum should not be limited to providing human resource for the economy.

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CSSC welcomes the emphasis on evidence-informed practice and the engagement with stakeholders and communities in developing and maintaining a curriculum that meets the needs of our children, young people, society and the economy.

CSSC also welcomes the recognition that advice is not restricted to education stakeholders and government departments but that the general public must also be kept informed.

**Q4a. To what extent do you agree with the Outcome** *‘CCEA will provide high-quality assessment mechanisms that inform and recognise progression and reward achievement within our curriculum and qualifications’***?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q4b: To what extent do you agree the actions for delivery will be sufficient to deliver this Outcome?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q4c. Please use this space to comment further on your answer to Q4a and Q4b.**

CSSC agrees that high-quality assessment mechanisms are critical in order to inform and recognise progression and reward achievement within our curriculum and qualifications. We would seek clarification on the phrase, ‘eventually across all key stages’. Is it intented to have an assessment mechanism in place for all key stages by the end of the life of the CCEA Corporate Plan?

CSSC acknowledges the emphasis on evidence-informed practice and the recognition that assessment mechanisms must be aligned to the curriculum yet adaptive to changes that may be required in the future.

CSSC welcomes the recognition that reducing the burden placed on stakeholders and learners is desirable whilst maintaining the integrity of the assessments and qualifications.

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**Q5a. To what extent do you agree with the Outcome ‘CCEA will offer a range of high-quality qualifications that recognise knowledge, understanding and skills in a valid and reliable way and that supports progression and lifelong learning’?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q5b. To what extent do you agree the actions for delivery will be sufficient to deliver this Outcome?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q5c. Please use this space to comment further on your answer to Q5a and Q5b.**

CSSC agrees that offering of a range of high quality qualifications that recognise knowledge, understanding and skills in a valid and reliable way and that supports progression and lifelong learning should be a key strategic theme for CCEA over the next few years.

CSSC welcomes the review of the existing qualification portfolio ensuring that qualifications are valid, reliable, cost-effective and meet the regulatory requirements defined by the Northern Ireland regulator of qualifications.

CSSC recognises the need for providing support, assistance and content on the teaching of CCEA’s qualifications where this is appropriate

CSSC welcomes the review of GCSE and GCE qualifications so that they address the recommendations of the Ministerial Expert Group Report on the Future of Qualifications for Northern Ireland.

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**Q6a. To what extent do you agree with the Outcome ‘CCEA will maintain public confidence in the standards of all regulated qualifications used in Northern Ireland’**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q6b. To what extent do you agree the actions for delivery will be sufficient to deliver this Outcome?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q6c. Please use this space to comment further on your answer to Q6a and Q6b.**

CSSC welcomes the priority given to maintaining public confidence in the standards of all regulated qualifications used in Northern Ireland and the actions recorded to deliver this.

**Q7a. To what extent do you agree with the Outcome** *‘CCEA will fulfil its strategic priorities by developing its people and resources, with a particular focus on technology and the skills to that technology’***?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

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# 

**Q7b. To what extent do you agree the actions for delivery will be sufficient to deliver this Outcome?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q7c. Please use this space to comment further on your answer to Q7a and Q7b.**

CSSC recognises the importance of developing staff and resources and the benefits that technology can bring. CCEA is well placed to introduce innovative technologies that will enable better, ethical and reliable systems to be developed.

CSSC welcomes the pursuit of retaining the formal accreditations identified and the recognition of being a leader in equal opportunities.

**Q8a. To what extent do you agree the Corporate Plan provides a sufficient strategic overview of the types of work we will deliver over the next five years?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don’t Know

**Q8b. Please use this space to comment further on the coverage of the outcomes.**

CSSC agrees that the Corporate Plan provides sufficient strategic overview in most cases of the types of work to be delivered over the next five years. Some clarification on areas mentioned in previous sections would strengthen understanding of the Corporate Plan.

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**Additional Comments & Suggestions**

**Q9a. Are there any key issues or opportunities we should consider to make sure that the Corporate Plan works for different equality groups or for people from different backgrounds?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Yes

No

Don't Know

**Q10a. Do you think any of the outcomes in the Corporate Plan will impact differently on people who share protected characteristics?**

**Choose one of the following answers**

Yes

No

Don't Know

**Please use the space below to provide any other comments you think are relevant to the Corporate Plan.**

CSSC would welcome further clarification on how the children and young people with the most profound learning needs will be able to meet some of the strategic themes in the Corporate Plan as discussed in previous responses.

CSSC officers welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation. The closing date has not enabled consideration by Council, however, the response will be reported to Council in April 2020 and any further comments forwarded to CCEA.

CSSC appreciates the complexity and challenges facing CCEA and believes that this Corporate Plan provides a sound foundation for the work in the coming years. CSSC is willing to discuss its response to this consultation with you. Contact details have been provided above.

Yours faithfully

Barry Mulholland