

Working together for Scotland

A Programme for Government



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1.1

Working together for Scotland

A Programme for Government

Foreword

It is fitting that we pay tribute to the legacy that Donald Dewar - Scotland's first First Minister - left our nation. That legacy is more than his vision of a Scotland built on social justice. Donald put his principles into practice with the publication, in September 1999, of the first Programme for Government. That document explained what the Executive partners intended to achieve and when.

We are now building on the substantial legacy Donald left us by reviewing our policy priorities. The Executive is pursuing policies that are both progressive and pragmatic, taking forward the work that the first Programme set in train. We are forging a confident, competitive and compassionate Scotland. This document sets out the next steps we must take to achieve that.

We are delighted to give an account of what we have delivered against the promises we made. This document reviews how we are achieving the targets we set ourselves in our original contract with the Scottish people. And it makes new commitments to change the lives of the people of Scotland for the better.

Our Scotland is a modern, dynamic country. We are working together to make our nation more prosperous and our economy more competitive. We need to meet the challenges of global competition. To do so our country must harness its collective resources to achieve our ambitions. Our goal is simple but challenging: more jobs, better jobs and shared prosperity.

We are working together to improve the quality of life and the quality of our environment throughout Scotland - from the northernmost island communities to the rural Borders, from the historic cities of the east and west to the new towns of central Scotland. We are investing for Scotland's future. Though it will take time, we are reversing the long years of neglect of our infrastructure. In doing so we will spend wisely to get the best from our resources. Our investment in our transport system will give people more and better travel choices.

We are determined to deliver the effective public services that people demand. Everyone will see the benefits which flow from our investment in health. We are redesigning our health service to be more responsive to patient needs. Our children will benefit from better education, with rising standards of attainment and enhanced facilities in our schools. More police on our streets will make our country safer and our people feel safer.

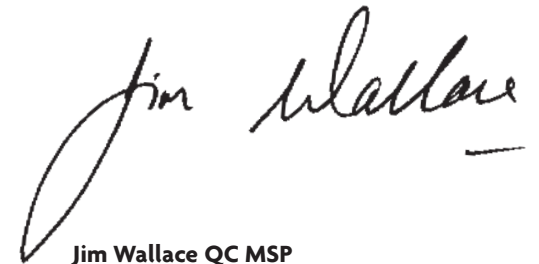
We are working together to promote equality of opportunity, to eliminate deprivation and disadvantage. We will extend opportunity to individuals at all stages in their lives, young and old alike.

The Scottish Labour Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats are working together delivering stable government for Scotland. It is a modern, coalition approach to policy development and is delivering our jointly agreed programme. Our partnership approach is reflected in our work with individuals, communities and organisations across Scotland, with the UK Government and the European Union.

Working together we are creating a vibrant, competitive Scotland, confident of its place in the world.



Henry McLeish MSP
First Minister



Jim Wallace QC MSP
Deputy First Minister

1.2

Making a difference for the people of Scotland

The first Programme for Government set out new ways of working together across traditional boundaries to deliver real results for the people of Scotland. We have been working together across Departments to target resources better to meet need, and to deliver improved services. We want to deliver social justice for all Scotland's people at all stages in their lives, to create opportunities, making a real difference to the Scotland we live in. We are working together with others - the public, private and voluntary sectors, local government and the UK Government - to achieve positive change.

Working together to deliver social justice for all Scotland's people



Working together for children and young people

We are working to deliver on our commitment of ending child poverty. We are ensuring that every child gets the best possible start in life through Sure Start Scotland, good quality, affordable childcare, a free nursery place and the new Children's Change Fund. These initiatives, working alongside action taken by the UK Government, will lift 100,000 Scottish children out of poverty.

The provision of high quality pre-school, primary and secondary education are essential to securing our children's future. We want to see improving standards of achievement for all in order that every child is able to fulfil his or her full potential.

We care about our children's health. Our effort and investment in health are focusing on reducing inequalities in children's health through the work of community nurses and family centres and more support for community projects that will boost health. We will support the regular provision of fruit to young children and improve children's dental health through a prevention-from-birth programme. We are committed to ensuring that vulnerable children and their families get the help that they need to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.



Children and young people need to appreciate how they fit into the world and contribute positively to it. Young people who offend damage their communities, their victims, their families and themselves. By increasing the range of interventions available through the hearings system, we will reduce offending, increase community safety and help get young offenders back on track. Equally we aim to protect children and young people by funding the criminal record checks for volunteers working with them. Further, we are putting the interests of children first in preparing our proposals on family law reform.

Working together for those entering employment

We want to support people as they leave school to ensure they do not miss opportunities to enter employment. We are providing ladders of opportunity into work through our training and education programmes. Economic stability and steady growth have provided significant employment opportunities, and this means youth and long-term unemployment have been reduced to their lowest levels for a generation.



Working together for older people

The NHS in Scotland continues to treat more people over the age of 65. For older people there will be better protection against winter flu, extended screening for breast cancer, and health education dedicated to older people's needs.

The key to improving the quality of life of all older people is ensuring that the services they need are provided effectively. That is why we intend that all community care services for older people will be managed and resourced jointly by 2002, and that aids and equipment should also be provided from common stores. Older people who need nursing care will no longer have to pay for it, wherever they live.

Our programme to provide central heating will make older people's homes warmer and cheaper to heat, and consequently safer and healthier too. We are tackling fuel poverty, delivering more home-based care and improving access to public transport. We will enhance concessionary travel by introducing in 2002 free off-peak local bus travel for pensioners and disabled people.

Our older people have much to offer their communities. We want to provide dignity and security in old age and our policy on the New Deal for over 50s aims to get more people over the age of 50 back into employment.

We are making sure that older people can be fully involved in our Active Communities Initiative by funding volunteering opportunities specifically for them. We will establish a National Forum on Older Volunteering. Older people's quality of life can be greatly improved when they feel secure. To that end, through means including increased police funding, we are working to ensure that they not only are safe, but feel safer.





Working together to improve the health of all Scotland's people

We are investing record amounts in protecting and promoting good health.

We are tackling systematically smoking, poor diet, homelessness, poverty, poor mental health, and drug and alcohol misuse, amongst other problems. We are consulting on a plan for action on alcohol misuse and will publish an agreed plan by the end of 2001. We are targeting health resources towards the areas and people that need them. We have set challenging targets in coronary heart disease and cancer care to reduce the number of deaths from these diseases. We have funded four national public health demonstration funds to show how one community may guide others to overcoming Scotland's major health challenges. We are setting up a network of Healthy Living Centres.

Through the development of new local and flexible arrangements, we will increase the scope to target health resources to areas of deprivation and where recruiting GPs is difficult.

We have introduced a new formula for allocating more than £4 billion a year to the NHS better to reflect need, particularly in deprived and remote areas.

Working together to create opportunities

Creating a prosperous and forward looking society

Our economic success depends on Scotland's people looking to the future, learning and earning, thereby sharing in a prosperous economy. We want Scotland to be a place where industry and enterprise flourish.

We have encouraged the take-up of e-commerce through the development of a network of business support centres to provide early advice to those taking their first steps.

Through the Digital Scotland initiative we have developed a comprehensive plan to ensure that Scotland maximises the economic and social benefits of digital technologies. We will promote an inclusive society by encouraging access to the web through publicly available facilities. We are encouraging the development of the right skills in schools through training teachers, helping them to buy their own computers, ensuring that these skills are embedded across the curriculum, and developing the National Grid for Learning in Scotland.

Scotland's success will also be underpinned by having telecommunications infrastructure to support pervasive and affordable access through faster broadband technology and other telecommunications services for business and individuals. We are working with the relevant UK bodies to ensure that Scotland's infrastructure continues to compare well with its competitors.

The Scottish public sector is also applying digital technologies to deliver online services which are more convenient, more joined-up, and more efficient; this includes the development of a website which will deliver targeted customer-centred services.

We want to secure Scotland's place as a leading knowledge economy by encouraging the development of personal and business skills, the adoption of new technologies and their transfer from the science base to companies. Recognising the quality of our scientists we will develop for the first time a comprehensive science strategy which will impact on enterprise and the quality of public service. The strategy will guide our investment decisions to maintain the excellence of our science base in Scotland leading to the earlier development of products and services which can improve quality of life.

Working together to empower communities

We are giving local people more say wherever they live. We have doubled our funding to the national network of Councils for Voluntary Service to ensure that local voluntary and community groups can work in partnership with statutory agencies. In some of our most deprived areas we have introduced People's Panels and are rolling out a programme of People's Juries. Through the Working for Communities Programmes we have developed new ways by which local people can seek to ensure local services are in line with their needs.





Working together for equality of opportunity

We want our policies and decisions to take into account the different needs of our diverse population and to promote equal opportunities. Our equality strategy explains how we will do this and we are already making a difference.

We have established a Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund to tackle domestic abuse with £6 million over four years matched by the same amount from local partners, and have published the first national strategy to address domestic abuse in Scotland.

We are funding the extension of women's micro-credit schemes more broadly across the whole of the Scottish Enterprise Network to enable women to start up or extend an existing small business.

We will enhance existing concessionary travel schemes for pensioners and those with disabilities. We will set up a Scottish Centre for Learning Disability which will offer advice, training and support to agencies, professionals, people with learning disabilities and parents and will help promote change locally in the way people understand learning disabilities, in the information available to people with learning disabilities and in the range of support available.

We are developing a national framework of standards for translating, interpreting and communication support provided by the public sector.

Making a difference to the Scotland we live in



Working together to enhance rural Scotland

Rural Scotland is an important and integral part of Scotland, accounting for nearly 90% of our land and 30% of our people. We value its distinctive qualities. Rural communities will benefit from significant new resources for our schools, our health service, rural transport and rural housing.

For example, our proposals for investment in broadband connections for schools will give rural and remote areas full access to the best educational resources and support. Through the New Deal for Schools we are supporting the provision of new and refurbished schools, investing over £1.2 million for a replacement primary school at Stow in the Borders. Through the Excellence Fund we are providing help for specialist schools, including £500,000 to support the traditional music school at Plockton in Wester Ross and we will increase support for Gaelic medium education to over £3 million a year.



We are investing significant sums to improve transport in rural areas and have dedicated additional resources in our Rural Transport Fund. We are also investing further significant sums with funding for Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd, which provides the infrastructure to support essential air services, at record levels. Support for Caledonian MacBrayne is also at record levels, allowing fares to be kept as low as possible, and the new Northern Isles ferry contract will mean faster, more comfortable journeys on services to Orkney and Shetland from 2002.

Extra investment by Scottish Homes in rural areas in 2001-02 should result in them approving the construction of about 1,650 new and improved homes for families in rural areas, mostly for social rent.

A new £7 million hospital to serve the people of the Uists, Benbecula and Barra will open next year. The funding of the NHS will reflect the distinct requirements, and additional costs, of health provision in rural areas. We have set up and funded our Remote and Rural Areas Resource Initiative to develop and co-ordinate projects designed to address the specific needs of rural areas.



Working together for sustainable development

We want decision-makers in the Scottish Executive to take account of the effect of all policy options on the production of waste, energy use and travel.

Making the links between climate change, renewable energy and flooding is changing our attitude to energy efficiency - one spin off is improving building standards, enabling people to heat their homes affordably. A more pro-active approach to waste reduces the number of people who have to live near landfill sites, provides jobs and improves business efficiency.

We have worked to secure environmental benefits in our own purchasing. The Executive now uses mainly recycled paper and 50% of the Executive's fleet of motor vehicles, and 100% of Government Car Service cars are now adapted to use alternative fuels. A new electricity contract covering the Executive and 29 other Scottish public sector organisations provides that 100% of the electricity supplied will come from renewable sources.



2.1

Justice

Working together for a safer and fairer Scotland

We are working with the police, with local communities and those in the justice system to prevent crime and deal effectively with offenders. We will provide better support for victims. We want to make Scotland a place where people are safer and feel safer. We are replacing outdated laws with humane ones which reflect the reality of people's lives today. This includes abolishing the feudal system, a wide-ranging land reform programme and revision of family law. We are building public confidence in the justice system and the workings of government, by making them more open and accountable, and making justice more accessible. This means opening up judicial appointments and police complaints, developing new community legal services and rigorously respecting people's human rights.



A Scotland where people are safer and feel safer

We have:

- provided direct funding of £8.9 million to increase police numbers by up to 300 officers
- supported 34 extra CCTV projects to make communities safer

Replacing outdated laws - people and families

We have:

- delivered the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act
- consulted on changes to the law on harassment and stalking
- set up a Commission to review charity law

Replacing outdated laws - land reform

We have:

- delivered the Abolition of Feudal Tenure (Scotland) Act

A more open and accountable system

We have:

- announced volunteer witness service schemes for all sheriff courts
- consulted on an independent judicial appointments board
- set up a working party on a community legal service

A Scotland where people are safer and feel safer

We will:

- provide resources to increase police numbers to an all time high by 2002
- protect rape victims from cross-examination by the accused
- develop more effective community penalties for offenders, taking particular account of the needs of women offenders
- improve rehabilitation services and the quality of the prison environment for staff and prisoners
- increase the effectiveness of police forces by improving the management of common services shared between forces
- establish a national database of good practice in community safety

Replacing outdated laws - people and families

We will:

- bring forward a draft bill to reform family law
- support organisations that provide advice to families and individuals
- provide for free criminal record checks for volunteers working with children in the voluntary sector
- establish the Public Guardian's Office by April 2001, to supervise the affairs of adults unable to make decisions for themselves
- introduce a bill to replace poindings and warrant sales from the end of 2002
- review the law of diligence and bring forward improvements by 2003

Replacing outdated laws - land reform

We will:

- publish our draft Land Reform Bill in February 2001 to secure a right of community purchase, a crofting community right to buy and a right of responsible access
- bring forward proposals to reform the law on title conditions
- support a member's bill to abolish leasehold casualties

A more open and accountable system

We will:

- consult on an Independent Commission on Human Rights
- introduce an independent element in the police complaints procedures and will consult by spring 2001 on how to proceed
- publish a strategy to provide better services for the victims of crime
- pilot a victim and witness support service in North-East Scotland
- establish an independent judicial appointments body

2.2

Open Government

Working together to create open government for Scotland

Better scrutiny leads to better decisions. By opening up government, we open up debate, bringing government closer to the people of Scotland and ensuring it reflects their needs. Open government requires us to consult fully, to be open, inclusive and accountable, and to work in partnership with a range of individuals and organisations. We are working on a programme to reform the way the Executive and civil service operate, taking advantage of developments in information technology. Our ultimate objective is to provide people with better services, including easy access to information.

We have:

- consulted widely on all major policy initiatives and legislation
- consulted on our proposals for Freedom of Information
- established a Ministerial working group that is charged with placing 21st century government at the heart of all Executive policy
- brought together central and local government to integrate action across the whole of the public sector in Scotland
- published an Information Age Government Framework for Scotland setting out standards for getting government online
- created the £25 million Modernising Government Fund to support innovative projects that will be beacons for the public sector in Scotland as a whole
- developed a new performance management system for the Executive
- launched a diversity strategy which will substantially increase the numbers of people from under-represented groups at all levels in the Executive

We will:

- take forward a major review of all quangos
- modernise the way we make appointments to the public bodies sponsored by the Scottish Executive
- appoint a wider range of people to serve on public bodies
- publish our draft Freedom of Information Bill in early 2001
- set up a modern complaints system for the public sector
- join up government delivery across the whole of the public sector in Scotland according to citizens' needs
- roll out delivery of our Action Plan for creating 21st century government
- set up a Scottish government website to give easy joined-up access to government services
- get all government services in Scotland which can feasibly be delivered electronically online by 2005
- continue to drive innovation across the public sector by funding a further round of Modernising Government Fund applications
- deliver a visible programme of modernisation in the civil service

2.3

Drugs

Working together to tackle drug misuse and its consequences

Tackling drugs effectively will protect the health of our young people and impact on crime. Our Drugs Action Plan published last year involves action across the Executive. In 2000 we set up the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency and the Executive's Effective Interventions Unit and we are enhancing the accountability of Scotland's Drug Action Teams through a new monitoring and planning process. We have recently set targets which will allow national and local progress to be tracked. Over the next three years we will commit an extra £100 million to dealing with drugs. With these additional resources we will continue to pursue a balanced strategy, combining action against the dealers with comprehensive measures embracing prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation, leading to new opportunities for former drug misusers.

We have:

- joined up action on drugs with a Ministerial Committee linking key areas of justice, health, community care, social justice and education
- set specific targets to allow success at all levels to be judged
- set up an Effective Interventions Unit to tell us what is and isn't working
- established the first ever national drug misuse research programme to inform decisions
- established the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency to tackle drug-related crime
- introduced Treatment and Testing Orders to tackle drug-related crime
- funded Scotland Against Drugs which has raised over £4 million for anti-drugs initiatives from business
- ensured that 89% of all schools now provide a programme of drug education for every pupil

We will:

- ensure that all schools provide a programme of drug education to every pupil by 2002
- aim to increase those being seen by treatment services for the first time to 16,500 (up by 50%) by 2004
- reduce the known proportion of under-25s being offered and using illegal drugs
- provide additional access to treatment opportunities for 2,500 offenders through a range of community disposals targeting drug-related crime by 2004
- expand rehabilitation services to equip former drug users for a life free from drugs
- assist 1,000 reforming drug misusers a year to prepare for training and employment
- increase support for families of drug users, particularly for the children of drug-using parents
- provide comprehensive drug treatment packages in Scottish prisons
- consult on a model of drug courts which meets Scotland's needs and which will work within our legal system

2.4

Education and Children

Working together to give our children the best start in life

We want all children in Scotland to achieve their fullest potential. We will support children and their families at home and in school. We want education that focuses on the needs of the individual child and high standards. Achievement at school has a strong influence on success in later life. We are determined that more children will share in rising achievements. The world in which our children live and work will be very different from ours. Their education should be forward looking and embrace change. To meet the challenges of the future we are providing new technology in schools and improvements in school buildings. To meet the challenges of the classroom we are putting teachers and teaching at the core of our education policies.



Early support

We have:

- increased spend on Sure Start Scotland with resources for 2001-02 reaching £19 million
- ensured a free nursery place for all four year olds and 68% of three year olds
- launched a National Childcare Information Line
- committed an extra £8 million in childcare infrastructure and staff training
- increased childcare allowances for parents in further education by £6 million

Improving Scotland's schools

We have:

- committed to spending more on education in real terms over the next three years
- set national priorities to drive improving standards in schools
- reduced class sizes in primary one and two to 30 or less
- provided modern computers in schools, one for every nine secondary and 28 primary pupils
- ensured e-mail addresses for 66% of secondary and 29% of primary pupils
- put in place 47 New Community School projects, involving around 230 schools
- provided additional resources to enable local authorities to employ 738 more teachers
- reformed the schools inspectorate to focus on supporting teachers, schools and education authorities in achieving high performance
- established a statutory right to education designed to realise the full potential of every child
- provided two special increases in funding, totalling £48.9 million, specifically for books, equipment and repairs in schools

Early support

We will:

- complete the roll out of free nursery places for three year olds by 2002
- protect children by establishing an index of adults deemed unsuitable to work with them
- establish in 2002 a fund combining resources for local government, health and the voluntary sector to promote integrated services for children and young people
- reduce the number of children in residential care by 10% by 2003
- aim to reduce re-referrals to hearings for children and young people on offence grounds by 10% by 2004

Improving Scotland's schools

We will:

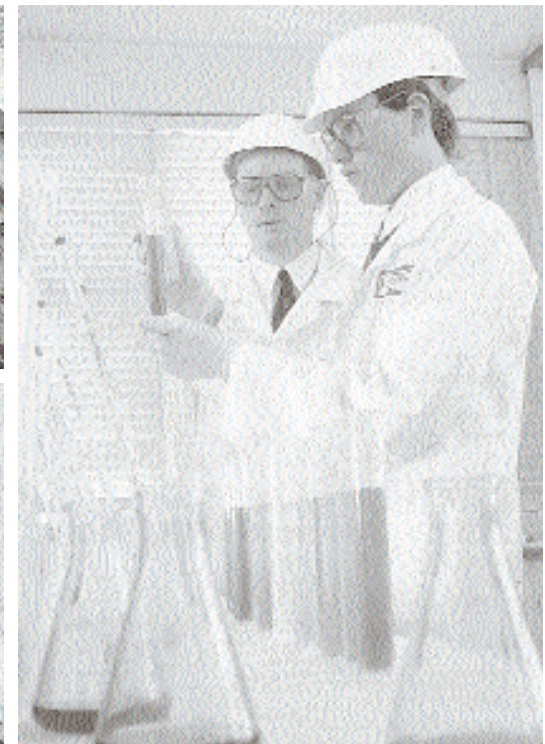
- reduce class sizes in primary three to 30 or less
- restore standards in the Scottish examinations system in 2001
- publish in 2001 recommendations for improving the Record of Needs for children requiring special education
- support pilot 'future school projects', developing evaluation plans by 2002
- improve assessment by 2003 so that achievement can be effectively measured
- increase the proportion of children attaining appropriate levels in reading, writing and maths by the end of primary two and primary seven
- follow up on increased investment in the improvement of school buildings through the development by 2002 of a comprehensive buildings strategy in partnership with education authorities
- increase the number of modern computers to one for every five secondary and every 7.5 primary pupils by 2002 and enhance their support for learning by providing broadband connections for schools

2.5

Enterprise and Lifelong Learning

Working together to create a highly skilled, learning, earning, connected Scotland

We are seizing the chance to make full employment - in the modern sense of employment opportunity for all - not just a slogan but a reality for the first time in a generation. We aim to help every Scot be ready for tomorrow's jobs. We are building a pro-enterprise culture in Scotland. We want success to be valued and business to flourish. We want more Scots of all ages and backgrounds to have the opportunity to start their own business. We are widening access to further and higher education and making a reality of the promise of lifelong learning, learning today for the jobs of tomorrow.



Building the enterprise culture

We have:

- launched strategies on manufacturing and the creative industries
- launched the New Strategy for Scottish Tourism and initiated a review of the Scottish Tourist Board
- launched the Small Business Gateway and the Invest for Growth schemes to support new and growing businesses

Every Scot ready for tomorrow's jobs

We have:

- helped deliver across Scotland a large fall in unemployment and rise in jobs. In the last 12 months, claimant count unemployment has fallen in 30 out of the 32 local authority areas and long term youth unemployment is down by 33%. Total employment has gone up by 59,000 since May-July 1999, and the number of working age people in employment now stands at the highest level since records began in 1960
- launched the PACE initiative - Partnership Action for Continuing Employment - to assist those made redundant
- developed initiatives through the New Deal Task Force to train young people for growth sectors such as retail, hospitality and call centres

Lifelong learning

We have:

- scrapped tuition fees for eligible Scottish students studying in Scotland
- committed funding for 2,800 additional places in higher education institutions
- committed funding for 40,000 additional places in further education colleges
- established the Scottish University for Industry, learndirect scotland, to give everyone in Scotland access on a one-stop basis to information on post-school training, skills and education
- agreed to designate the UHI as a higher education institution providing, for the first time ever, a higher education institution based in the Highlands and Islands

Building the enterprise culture

We will:

- support the uptake of e-business by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- support 180 high-growth start-ups in 2000-01 and introduce new micro-credit schemes for women
- review small business rate relief and publish a better regulation strategy early in 2001
- increase the economic benefits for the tourism of Scotland and overhaul support for the industry as recommended in the review of the Scottish Tourist Board
- attract inward investment, creating or safeguarding 7,000 jobs in 2000-01
- maximise the economic benefits of publicly funded science

Every Scot ready for tomorrow's jobs

We will:

- work with Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the private sector to develop new approaches to understanding the Scottish labour market, identifying skills shortages and better matching supply to demand
- double the number of modern apprentices during this Parliament
- develop sector initiatives to strengthen employer linkages and help clients obtain jobs in sectors with high vacancy levels
- ensure coherence of policy analysis, planning and delivery between national organisations responsible for economic development and lifelong learning

Lifelong learning

We will:

- invest to enhance the quality and effectiveness of further and higher education
- invest to improve adult literacy and numeracy
- deliver 100,000 Individual Learning Accounts by 2002
- create an all-age guidance structure focused on new opportunities
- introduce bursaries of up to £2,000 for students from low income families

2.6

Health and Community Care

Working together to build a healthy, caring Scotland

We are working together to improve health in Scotland and revitalise the National Health Service (NHS) and community care services. Health matters to everyone, but Scotland has a poor health record with inequality across communities. Although the NHS has a proud record of service, there are still variable standards of care across the country.

The plan, Our National Health, sets out a new approach to improving both health and the NHS. Partnerships - linking communities, local authorities, and the NHS - will tackle the causes of poor health and improve care at home. In the NHS, investment will be matched with reform - less bureaucracy and more accountability - so that locally responsive NHS boards will deliver national standards of care that focus on what is best for individual patients.



Improving health

We have:

- set up a national Health Improvement Fund to invest more than £100 million over four years
- established a Public Health Institute to give a new focus to public health in Scotland
- launched our Dental Services Action Plan
- begun to establish a network of Healthy Living Centres in deprived areas

Rebuilding our National Health Service

We have:

- committed record investment in health for this and the next three years
- boosted investment in new equipment to improve patient care
- kept our major building programme on schedule - a total of eight new hospitals and many other developments

Improving the patient's journey

We have:

- more than doubled the number of one-stop clinics
- funded 110 more doctors and 210 more nurses

Meeting specific needs

We have:

- announced a major package of improvements in the long term care of older people
- taken action to ensure children's health and health services get the priority they need
- put in place a fairer, better way of sharing NHS funds across Scotland to address the healthcare needs of deprived and rural areas

Improving health

We will:

- encourage every school to become a health-promoting school
- provide fresh fruit in nursery schools
- provide free toothbrushes and toothpaste for 100,000 children in Scotland
- develop a strategy to tackle alcohol misuse

Rebuilding our National Health Service

We will:

- improve local involvement in developing health services
- reduce bureaucracy by streamlining NHS boards

Improving the patient's journey

We will:

- improve access to good quality primary care, so that patients can get access to a member of the primary care team within 48 hours
- reduce the longest time patients wait for inpatient treatment from 12 to 9 months
- reduce the number of people getting treatment and care in inappropriate settings
- set national standards for care in the NHS, and see that they are met
- launch NHS24 to give round the clock access to health advice and services

Meeting specific needs

We will:

- continue to improve services for older people, both in the NHS and in other care settings
- continue to assess the provision of long term care
- improve cancer services by launching our National Cancer Plan
- ensure maternity services meet women's needs better through our Framework for Maternity Services in Scotland
- improve the way vulnerable people are cared for through our new Commission for the Regulation of Care

2.7

Social Justice

Working together for equality, to regenerate communities and to tackle poverty

We are working with the UK Government to tackle the appalling levels of poverty in Scotland and end child poverty within a generation. We are committed to an open and inclusive Scotland where everyone can live free from prejudice and discrimination. Our social justice and equality strategies underpin policy making and spending plans across the Executive so that improving health, education, the economy, justice and community issues are dealt with, breaking the cycle of deprivation and poverty in Scotland and delivering opportunities for all. We are working to ensure decent, affordable housing for everyone, attracting new large scale investment and empowering tenants. And we are tackling the toughest housing challenges - rough sleeping, homelessness and fuel poverty. By empowering communities to make decisions and influence others we are supporting the regeneration of our most hard pressed neighbourhoods. The social economy and the voluntary sector play a vital part and we are supporting their growing role.



Tackling poverty and promoting equality

We have:

- produced an overarching Social Justice strategy containing targets and milestones for action across the Executive
- established an Equality Unit to put equality issues at the heart of Executive policy making
- published an equality strategy containing actions to mainstream equality across the Executive and promote equal opportunities more widely

Housing

We have:

- increased support for rough sleeping initiatives by 40%
- approved the building of 6,600 new and improved homes for rent or low cost owner occupation
- insulated 40,000 homes under the Warm Deal since April 1999
- introduced a licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupancy to raise standards of accommodation and management

Empowering communities, the social economy and the voluntary sector

We have:

- strengthened the infrastructure for the voluntary sector and volunteering by putting funding in place to complete the national networks of the Councils of Voluntary Service and Local Volunteer Development Agencies

Tackling poverty and promoting equality

We will:

- report annually on our progress in achieving our social justice targets and milestones
- promote equality for all by implementing our equality strategy

Housing

We will:

- develop a strategic policy framework for housing in Scotland through enactment of a new Housing Bill in 2001
- provide all council and housing association tenants, and all pensioners in both public and private housing, with warm and dry homes through the installation of central heating and insulation by 2006
- ensure that no-one has to sleep rough by 2003
- ensure that women escaping domestic abuse have better choices
- attract large scale new investment into rented homes and put tenants at the heart of rebuilding communities
- introduce improved measures to tackle anti-social behaviour
- address the significant problems of housing quality in the private housing sector through a task force
- look for ways of providing help to families with mortgage difficulties by supporting the Mortgage Rights (Scotland) Bill and considering the merits of a national mortgage rescue scheme

Empowering communities, the social economy and the voluntary sector

We will:

- create a package of support for community representatives working in Social Inclusion Partnerships to enhance community participation
- address financial exclusion including producing a national development strategy for credit unions by April 2001
- set up an investment fund, Social Investment Scotland, to provide development advice and loan funding for social economy organisations
- strategically review our funding of the voluntary sector

2.8

Transport

Working together to build a sustainable, effective and integrated transport system

We are committed to delivering an efficient, safe transport system which meets the needs of all in society - individuals and businesses, car and public transport users, cyclists and pedestrians - without threatening our environment. We are tackling years of neglect by very substantially increasing investment in our transport infrastructure. We are delivering transport solutions which will work for the long term, but which extend choice and improve accessibility now.

Key priorities include tackling congestion in our urban areas by promoting attractive alternatives to the car, improving transport networks, delivering readily accessible and accurate information for transport users, and maintaining the affordable lifeline links so vital to the economic and social wellbeing of remote and rural areas.



Roads

We have:

- begun major road improvement projects for the A1, A77, A78, A96 and A830 announced following our Strategic Roads Review
- begun detailed studies on the replacement of the Kincardine Bridge and on the A8, A80 and M74 transport corridors
- begun taking forward over 40 other major improvement projects throughout the country, for example the replacement of the A78 Inverkip Rail Bridge, Greenock and improving the Inchmichael junction on the A90 to improve safety between Perth and Dundee

Public transport

We have:

- enacted legislation to encourage bus use, to permit congestion charging and to facilitate co-operation between local authorities in their transport planning
- supported capital investment in over 50 major public transport projects across Scotland
- by the award of £24 million in Freight Facilities Grants since July 1999, secured the transfer of 13.4 million lorry miles per year off Scotland's roads

Lifeline links

We have:

- frozen tolls on the Skye Bridge
- safeguarded lifeline air services to Campbeltown, Tiree and Barra
- invested £20 million in two new ferries for Caledonian MacBrayne

Roads

We will:

- implement the decisions following the Kincardine Bridge, A8, A80 and M74 Studies
- achieve a 40% reduction in all deaths and serious injuries on Scotland's roads by 2010, and a 50% reduction in those figures for children
- carry forward to agreed timetables delivery of the five major trunk road projects already announced
- complete by 2008 the M74 strategic link between Cambuslang and west of the Kingston Bridge

Public transport

We will:

- invest a further £150 million in the Public Transport Fund by 2003-04
- secure free local off-peak bus travel for elderly and disabled people during 2002
- continue our efforts to double cycle use between 1996 and 2002 and to double it again by 2012
- make more information available to passengers through the Transport Direct initiative
- create a £75 million Integrated Transport fund to drive forward the process of transport integration
- increase passenger rail use in Scotland further, through our directions to the Strategic Rail Authority
- work with local authorities to develop regional strategies to deliver integrated transport using the enabling powers in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001
- secure the transfer of a further 4.6 million lorry miles to reach our new target of 18 million lorry miles off Scotland's roads by 2002

Lifeline links

We will:

- implement the new contract for subsidised lifeline ferry services to the Northern Isles
- protect fares and levels of service when we tender the services operated by Caledonian MacBrayne

2.9

Local Government

Working together to modernise local government

Following the McIntosh Report in 1999 we have promoted a range of policies to modernise local government. We have asked all local authorities to review their political management arrangements. To strengthen local government we shall legislate to give councils a power of community initiative and a statutory basis for community planning. We have announced a three year local government finance settlement increasing resources by 10.5% in real terms. We shall also give councils a four year term, starting in 2003. Alongside new freedoms, councils will have a statutory duty of Best Value. We have established a Ministerial Working Group to consider the report of the Working Group on Renewing Local Democracy. We are committed to continuing to make progress on electoral reform and the wider modernisation of local government.

We have:

- transformed the financial environment for local government with:
 - the stability of a three year financial settlement for 2001-02 to 2003-04
 - a commitment by councils to publish their council tax levels for the coming three years
 - a fairer and more stable distribution of resources between councils
- concluded the revaluation of non-domestic rates with minimum turbulence for businesses
- legislated to establish a Standards Commission for Scotland and codes of conduct for local government and other public bodies
- brought together all council leaders through a Community Leadership Forum to support innovation in Scottish local government

We will:

- legislate for councils to be elected for a four year term, beginning in 2003
- legislate to give local authorities a power of community initiative, more flexible trading constraints and a duty of Best Value
- repeal compulsory competitive tendering and apply Best Value to ensure high quality public services
- give a statutory basis to Community Planning
- implement the recommendations of 'It Pays to Pay' by 2002 to allow councils to improve their in-year council tax collection rates

2.10

Finance

Working together to spend wisely

The money that we spend in Scotland on public services affects the lives of everybody who lives here. We must therefore ensure that our public expenditure is directed at the needs of people in Scotland. We believe in asking how people think we should be spending the money, and listening to what they have to say. We must relentlessly seek Best Value for public expenditure. We are achieving this by establishing clear three year expenditure plans which allow proper planning of the delivery of public services, by setting demanding but realistic targets against which we report performance, and by constantly reviewing how more can be achieved with the resources available.

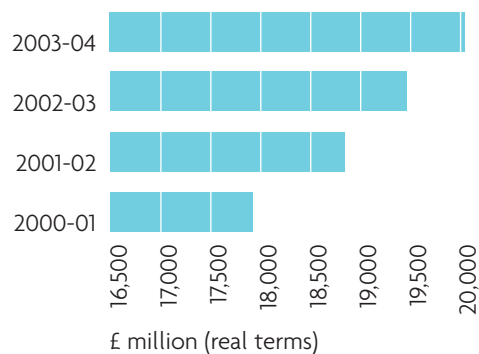
We have:

- set a robust financial framework for Scottish devolution with the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000
- undertaken the most extensive consultation ever on budget priorities
- announced our three year spending plans up to 2003-04

We will:

- use an increase in spending on devolved responsibilities of £3 billion per year by 2003-04 to deliver long-term investment and pursue our social justice objectives
- establish a Best Value process to scrutinise the Executive's budget with the objective of delivering the best possible public services to Scotland as efficiently and cost effectively as possible
- build on the experience of the 2000 Spending Review to modernise the Executive's spending decisions process in time for the 2002 Spending Review
- have the capacity to conduct 90% of the Scottish Executive's procurement transactions electronically by the end of 2001

New Spending Plans



2.11

Environment

Working together to improve Scotland's environment

We are building a sustainable future for Scotland. We are tackling years of neglect in environmental infrastructure investing massively in our water system, building a modern, competitive public water industry, reducing pollution and fundamentally changing waste management to create a cleaner, safer, healthier environment for generations to come.

We are tackling climate change, reducing greenhouse gases and supporting local authorities to reduce flood risk and coastal erosion. We are modernising the operation of the planning system.

We are protecting and enhancing the natural environment. We are establishing the first two National Parks, where integrated management will mean greater protection of landscape and nature, social and economic benefits to those who work and live there, and an enhanced experience for visitors.



Water, waste and pollution control

We have:

- adopted a national strategy for waste
- resourced the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to co-ordinate Area Waste Plans
- legislated to introduce integrated pollution prevention and control and given SEPA new powers to tackle water pollution
- led the biggest ever programme of investment in Scotland's water and sewerage services
- completed a major new sewage treatment works for Edinburgh
- proposed a scheme to ease the impact of increased water charges on those most badly affected

Natural heritage

We have:

- legislated to allow the creation of National Parks
- classified 12 more Special Protection Areas for wild birds and consulted on an additional 90 possible Special Areas of Conservation to protect valuable habitats and species

Climate change and air quality

We have:

- published the Scottish Climate Change Programme setting out measures to help combat climate change
- published the Air Quality Strategy with the aim of improving Scotland's air quality

Planning

We have:

- issued new guidance on the planning system
- issued revised guidance on renewable energy developments

Water, waste and pollution control

We will:

- provide additional funding through the Strategic Waste Fund for local authorities to deal with waste sustainably
- invest in secondary sewage treatment for more than 80% of Scotland's population, compared to less than 50% previously
- introduce legislation in 2002 to protect and improve the natural water environment by implementing the EC Water Framework Directive
- introduce legislation in 2001 for a framework for the water industry that protects our public health, environmental and social objectives

Natural heritage

We will:

- improve the system of nature conservation to work with local communities to achieve effective protection for nature
- establish two National Parks in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and in the Cairngorms by early 2003

Climate change and air quality

We will:

- implement the Scottish Programme and develop a strategy to adapt to climate change impacts
- increase the proportion of electricity derived from renewables in Scotland to around 18% by 2010
- provide resources for flood prevention and coast protection schemes
- oversee implementation of the Air Quality Strategy, including introduction of Local Authority Action Plans by March 2002

Planning

We will:

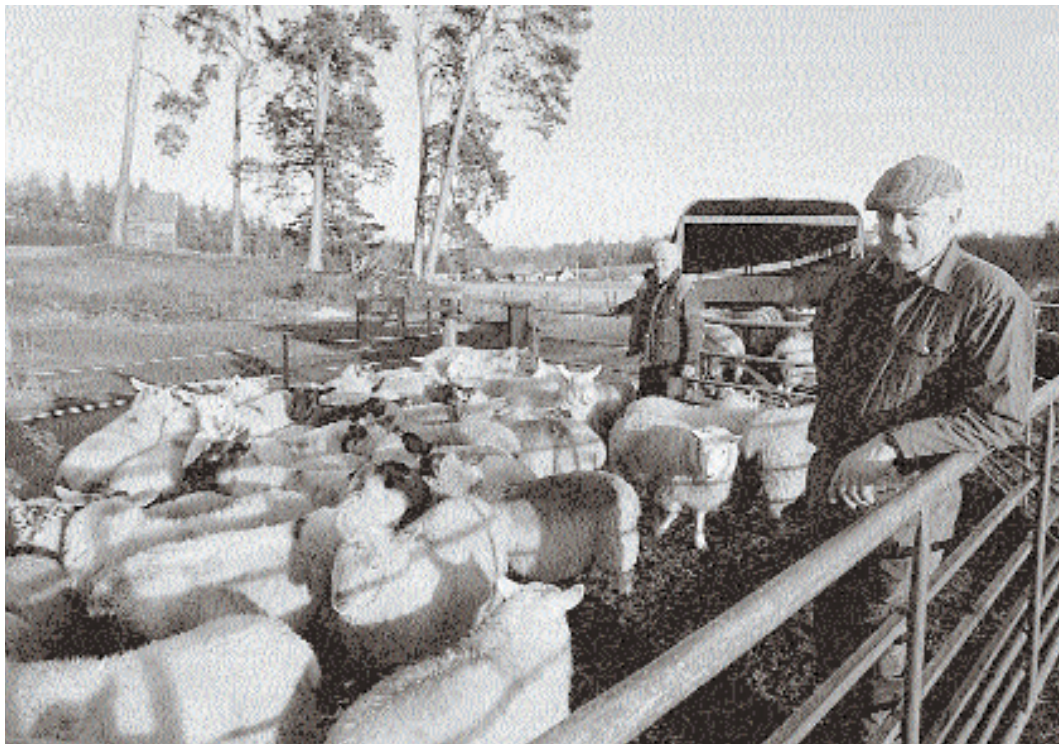
- revise planning controls for mobile phone masts by mid 2001
- consult during 2001 on proposals to modernise the planning system including: the overall planning framework; more public involvement in the planning process; and getting better quality development in urban and rural Scotland

2.12

Rural Development

Working together to support agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry

We are placing rural issues at the heart of policy making. Our new Agriculture Strategy will set out a vision for a sustainable Scottish farming industry, maintaining its key role in rural areas. Fisheries make an important contribution to the economy of our rural coastal communities. We are taking action to ensure that Scottish fisheries have a sustainable long term future. Scotland has superb natural food products and the skills to add value to them. We will work to maximise that competitive advantage for our food industry. We are developing a diverse forest resource which will improve the environment and be available for people to enjoy. Scotland's agricultural and biological research institutes are international leaders in their fields. We are building on that strength.



Agriculture, forestry and food industries

We have:

- delivered extra support for farmers worth almost £150 million
- agreed new support schemes under the rural development regulation
- launched discussions to agree a new strategic approach for agriculture
- implemented new and revised Common Agricultural Policy schemes under Agenda 2000
- introduced an independent appeals mechanism for farmers
- published our Scottish Forestry Strategy
- established a leadership group to drive forward the strategy for the Scottish food industry
- supported the creation of Quality Meat Scotland
- encouraged the conversion of land to organic farming

Fisheries

We have:

- enhanced local involvement in inshore fisheries
- introduced legislation to conserve salmon stocks
- introduced innovative safety grants

Scientific research

We have:

- launched a new strategy for our major agricultural and biological research programme
- widened the range of uses to which the research is put
- increased investment in the cutting edge areas of life sciences, particularly genomics

Agriculture, forestry and food industries

We will:

- develop and implement an agricultural strategy
- support 1,000 projects over the next seven years to provide alternative income for farmers
- include over one million hectares of land in Rural Stewardship Agreements by 2006
- pilot the electronic submission of claim forms, minimise bureaucracy and improve cattle traceability
- publish a draft bill to modernise agricultural tenure by autumn 2001
- restore or create a further 15,000 hectares of native woodlands by 2003
- support the food industry in its aim to increase food exports to £500 million a year by 2004
- support projects leading to investment of £200 million in the food industry by 2006

Fisheries

We will:

- work with the relevant agencies and the fish processing industry to tackle the problems facing the sector
- protect Scottish interests and promote an enhanced regional dimension in the review of the Common Fisheries Policy
- work to secure a sustainable recovery strategy for depleted stocks
- review the management of Scottish freshwater fisheries

Scientific research

We will:

- invest further in the exciting opportunities opened up by recent research in life sciences
- make the results of research more easily available and foster commercialisation

2.13

Europe and External Affairs

Working together to promote mutually beneficial links between Scotland and Europe

Scotland benefits from being a modern dynamic country with a strong sense of identity within a powerful EU member state. Devolution has revitalised government in Scotland. We take that new energy into discussions with the UK Government and with our partners in Europe. We now have a presence and focal point for Scottish interests in Brussels at Scotland House to take forward EU-related business. We will implement European Structural Funds programmes wisely to leave a lasting legacy. They are designed to provide additional support to economic development and job creation and to equip people with the skills required to compete in labour markets; a key change from previous programmes is the new emphasis on social justice, sustainable development and equal opportunities. We will play a full and enthusiastic part in the Joint Ministerial Committees and the British-Irish Council, to make sure they provide the maximum benefit for the people of Scotland through better policy and more effective co-operation.

We have:

- opened Scotland House in Brussels to facilitate interchange between the Executive, the UK Government and European institutions
- attended 14 full meetings of the European Union Council of Ministers
- prepared, in partnership with local bodies, five European Structural Funds programmes for submission to the European Commission, four of which are now agreed and are being implemented
- reviewed the administrative arrangements for structural funds, at regional monitoring committee and management level, to ensure they are streamlined, efficient and involve for the first time elected members of local authorities, trade unions and the private sector
- played a full part in the Joint Ministerial Committees on health, poverty and the knowledge economy, hosting five of their 10 meetings
- with the National Assembly for Wales, developed proposals for the British-Irish Council's work on social inclusion

We will:

- continue to work with the UK Government to ensure that Scottish interests are fully represented at meetings of the European Union Council of Ministers
- develop by the end of January 2001 our strategy to build mutually beneficial links with other nations and regions in Europe
- use Scotland House to best effect as a source of information and co-ordination of Scottish interests in Europe
- deliver over the next seven years, against agreed targets, the European Structural Funds programmes for the Highlands and Islands, for the Objective 2 areas and for Objective 3
- review regularly the effectiveness and impact of our programmes so that they reinforce and add value to our priorities in conjunction with the European Committee of the Scottish Parliament and local partners
- continue to make the most of the Joint Ministerial Committees' contribution to effective co-operation between the administrations of the United Kingdom
- continue to play a leading role in the British-Irish Council's work on social inclusion



2.14

Sport and Culture

Working together to promote sport and culture

We are promoting the widest possible involvement with Scotland's sporting and cultural life. Sport and culture are important to our quality of life and the development of Scotland as a modern dynamic society. Historic and contemporary buildings throughout Scotland also help shape our quality of life. Sporting and artistic excellence can inspire; participation can support the development of essential skills in Scotland's people while bringing them and their communities together. Participation in sport links with our priority objective of improving our health and sport is also important to our local and national sense of identity. The cultural sector and the creative industries including film, software and popular music make a significant and increasing contribution to the economy.

We have:

- ensured that the modernised Hampden is available as the national football stadium for Scotland
- established area institutes of sport to support top level performance
- secured the appointment of 245 sport co-ordinators in schools
- worked to deliver the Sports 21 strategy
- published Scotland's first ever National Cultural Strategy - Creating our Future, Minding our Past - and proposals for a first ever national Policy on Architecture
- allocated extra funds to restore free access to the Royal Museum and the Museum of Scotland

We will:

- develop in 2001 a strategy for attracting major sporting and cultural events to Scotland
- make every effort to bring the Ryder Cup to Scotland in 2009
- promote the development of physical activity and skills in young children through widening the present Active Primary Schools pilot
- ensure that all Social Inclusion Partnerships have a sports component
- promote centres of excellence in Scotland's traditional arts
- set up a pilot programme of cultural co-ordinators in schools
- ensure that future lottery spending in Scotland through the New Opportunities Fund is matched to Scottish needs
- take forward the next stage of development of the national theatre company for Scotland
- ensure the role of popular cultural forms is fully reflected in the implementation of the National Cultural Strategy

3

Reporting on Our Achievements

Our first Programme for Government, published in September 1999, set out our priorities for action and commitments to deliver for the people of Scotland.

This section reports on our achievements against those commitments.

3.1 Justice

Working together for a safer and fairer Scotland

Aim: To combat crime in our communities

We will use information technology to free up police officers for front line duties and develop a Scottish Police Information Strategy.

A programme of integration of criminal justice IT systems will be taken forward, beginning with Fife, Grampian and Northern force areas before the end of 1999.

We will support the provision of leisure and other facilities for young people as part of our preventive strategy on crime.

We will encourage stronger links between the police and the communities in which they operate.

We will implement our action plan on the Macpherson Report on the Stephen Lawrence case.

On track

Achieved National roll out will be completed in 2001.

Ongoing Four pilot projects and an Evaluation Study established.

Ongoing Five 'Pathfinder' Community Safety Partnerships established. 'Pathfinder' Report published 7 November 2000.

Ongoing

Aim: To support the victims of crime

We will double the number of witness support schemes by October 1999.

We will improve information to victims and their families on the progress of cases and on the release dates of offenders.

These schemes will be in place by 2001.

Achieved National roll out underway.

Ongoing

Aim: To protect the most vulnerable in our society

We will introduce legislation in 1999 to reform the law on managing the welfare and finances of adults who are incapable of making their own decisions about these matters.

We will review the law by 2001 in relation to sexual and violent offenders, including harassment and in particular stalking.

Achieved Implementation plan in place. Office of the Public Guardian to be established by April 2001.

On track Review completed. Legislation to follow.

Aim: To reform Scotland's outdated feudal and land tenure systems

We will introduce legislation in 1999 to abolish feudal tenure.

We will introduce legislation in the spring of 2000 to provide a community right of purchase when land comes to be sold.

We will introduce legislation in the spring of 2000 to provide a right of responsible access to the land.

We will set up a Scottish Land Fund to support community ownership by early 2000.

Achieved

Delayed Draft bill to be published in 2001.

Delayed Draft bill to be published in 2001.

Delayed Fund will open for business in early 2001.

Aim: To promote a fair, accessible and modern legal system

We will speed up the operation of the courts system.

We will consult on arrangements over judicial appointments.

Ongoing We will introduce a computerised case management system for civil business into all Sheriff Courts by September 2001.

Achieved We will announce how we intend to proceed in early 2001.

3.2 Open Government

Working together to create open government for Scotland

Aim: To promote open government in Scotland

We will encourage the development of the Civic Forum.

Achieved

We will carry out wide consultation throughout Scotland.

Achieved to date

We will consult widely on our budget priorities each year.

Achieved to date

We will publish by the end of 1999 our strategy for modernising government in Scotland.

Achieved

Aim: To introduce an effective Freedom of Information regime

We will consult widely in the autumn of 1999 on proposals for a Scottish Freedom of Information Bill.

Achieved Draft bill, including provisions on environmental information, will be published in early 2001.

3.3 Drugs

Working together to tackle drug misuse and its consequences

Aim: To combat drugs in our communities

We will tackle the problem of drugs in prisons.

Ongoing Proportion failing mandatory drugs tests falling - 18% in 1998-99 to 15% in 1999-2000.

We will introduce Treatment and Testing Orders to reduce drug-related offending. Pilot schemes will be established in Glasgow in September 1999.

Achieved Pilot schemes extended to Fife in July 2000. Further extension to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire announced in November 2000.

We will set up a Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency by June 2000 to target dealers and the supply of drugs.

Achieved

We will increase by up to 200 the number of police officers working against drugs in our communities.

We will expand treatment and rehabilitation facilities for drug, alcohol and substance abuse.

On track Funding for 100 additional officers in forces provided in 2000-01. Additional funding for further increases in officer numbers to be provided in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Ongoing An additional £31 million provided over three years for the expansion of treatment and rehabilitation facilities in the community in the 2000 Spending Review. Drug strategy co-ordinators appointed in all prisons in Scotland. The Executive will produce a Plan for Action on alcohol misuse by end of 2001.

3.4 Education and Children

Working together to give our children the best start in life

Aim: To ensure all children have access to early learning and quality care

We will develop the Childcare Strategy for Scotland and set up a new National Childcare Information Line by December 1999.

We will establish a new independent regulatory body by 2001 to ensure high quality care for children.

Having delivered a nursery place for every four year old, we will ensure a nursery place for every three year old whose parent wants it by 2002.

We will train 5,000 new childcare workers by 2002.

We will expand support for families and very young children through family centres and mobile and outreach services for at least 5,000 additional children by 2002.

Achieved

On track Legislation planned for 2000-01.

Achieved for four year olds

On track for three year olds: over 40,500 (68%) in pre-school education in July 2000.

On track 1,500 awards so far.

On track

We will provide out of school care places for 100,000 children by 2003.

On track Places so far for 16,000 children.

We will establish a consultancy index of adults deemed unsuitable to work with children.

On track Consultation paper issued July 2000.

Aim: To promote social justice

We will support 60 New Community School projects by 2001.

On track 47 projects started involving around 230 schools.

We will continue to invest in the early intervention programme in primary schools to improve children's standards of literacy and numeracy and publish an independent assessment of the programme's effectiveness by 2001.

Ongoing

Aim: To modernise Scottish schools

We will ensure an e-mail address for every school child by 2002.

On track In place for 66% of secondary pupils and 29% of primary pupils.

We will build or substantially renovate 100 schools by 2003.

On track

As part of our major investment in books and equipment, we will ensure that there are at least four modern computers for each class by 2003, and that every school leaver will understand information technology.

On track

Aim: To raise standards and achieve excellence

We will introduce the Improvement in Scottish Education Bill by November 1999 to support continuous improvement of standards in all schools.

Achieved Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. (Scotland) Act passed in summer 2000.

We will reduce class sizes in P1, P2 and P3 to 30 or less by August 2001.

Achieved for P1 and P2.

We aim that by 2001 at least 94% of pupils in S4 achieve Standard Grade in English and Maths and at least 23% of S4 pupils go on to achieve three or more Highers at Grades A-C.

On track for P3.

We will ensure by 2003 that every school age child in Scotland has a Personal Learning Plan to map out a pathway to achievement.

On track Pilots in New Community Schools.

We will establish an Education Forum.

On track Programme of Ministerial meetings with parents, teachers and education authorities under way.

We will encourage civic, environmental and business education in schools.

Ongoing

Aim: To strengthen leadership in schools and reward professionalism in teaching

We will attract, motivate and retain high quality teachers by enhancing their professionalism through, among other things, a new framework for continuing professional development which we will begin to implement by 2000.

Ongoing

We will develop a modern pay and conditions package for teachers.

Ongoing McCrone Committee reported May 2000. Implementation discussions started in September 2000.

We will recruit 1,000 additional teachers and 5,000 classroom assistants by 2002.

On track 738 extra teachers and 1,500 classroom assistants have been employed.

We will make the Scottish Qualification for Headship mandatory.

On track

3.5 Enterprise and Lifelong Learning

Working together to create a highly skilled, learning, earning, connected Scotland

Aim: To create a culture of enterprise

We will publish a Tourism Strategy by January 2000.

Achieved

We will introduce by April 2000 a new business mentoring scheme.

Achieved Business Mentoring Scotland set up April 2000.

We will develop a manufacturing strategy for Scotland and start to implement it by early 2000.

Achieved

We will encourage the transformation of ideas from our labs into successful businesses and will support the establishment of a Scottish Institute of Enterprise by 2001.

Achieved Institute established in March 2000.

We will help to create 100,000 new Scottish businesses by 2009.

Ongoing

We will develop a website to provide easier access for businesses to local and national advice and funding.

Achieved The Scottish Enterprise Network Small Business Gateway was launched in July 2000.

We will promote an entrepreneurial culture in schools, colleges and universities.

Ongoing

Aim: To promote inclusive economic development, both socially and geographically

To complement the successful New Deal, by the end of 2001 we will deliver 100 projects in Scotland through the New Futures Fund initiative, to improve the employability of our most disadvantaged young people.

Achieved

Aim: To widen access to learning

We will increase by 42,000 student numbers for Scotland by 2002.

On track A further 800 places will also be provided by academic year 2003-04.

We will ensure that more part time students and students from low income families have access to further education and higher education and will:

- double the loan funding for mature part-time students on low incomes from 2000-01;
- introduce a pilot scheme in 1999 to encourage students from low-income families to stay on at school with a view to going on to higher education;
- increase access funds, starting in 1999, to relieve financial difficulties faced by higher education students.

All achieved We also helped students in further education with the cost of childcare.

We will review the issue of tuition fees and financial support arrangements for students in the light of the report by the independent inquiry.

Achieved

We will support the progress of a University for the Highlands and Islands and investigate a south of Scotland university.

Ongoing Agreed to designate UHI in December 2000.

Aim: To provide training for skills that match jobs for the future

We will initiate a Scottish Labour Market Unit by the end of 1999 to highlight the skills that Scotland needs.

Achieved

We will create 20,000 modern apprenticeships by 2003.

On track

Aim: To foster a culture of lifelong learning in the population

We will establish the Scottish university for industry in the year 2000.

Achieved learndirect scotland launched October 2000.

We will deliver 100,000 Individual Learning Accounts by 2002.

We will develop adult guidance through Scottish Guidance Group and Learning Direct Scotland.

On track Launched September 2000.

Achieved Major review of the Careers Service also undertaken.

3.6 Health and Community Care

Working together to build a healthy, caring Scotland

Aim: To monitor, protect and improve the health of the people of Scotland, implementing policies which address inequalities in health, prevent disease, prolong life and promote and protect health

We will ban tobacco advertising by the end of 1999.

We will create a network of Healthy Living Centres by 2002, which will focus in particular on improving health in areas of poverty and deprivation.

We will build a Health Promotion Fund to support measures to improve health and to help meet our targets of halving deaths from coronary heart disease and cutting deaths from cancer by 20% by 2010.

We will take steps to improve the nation's dental and oral health, particularly among children - including a widespread public consultation on fluoridation.

We will establish four major demonstration projects to determine best practice for improving children's health from the period leading up to birth and throughout the first five years of childhood, to improve teenage sexual health and reduce the number of teenage pregnancies, and to tackle cancer and coronary heart disease.

Delayed by court action; UK Bill now introduced.

On track First four in place.

Achieved £26 million per year for Health Promotion Fund announced.

Ongoing Launched new dental services action plan in August 2001. Consultation document on children's oral and dental health to be issued in 2001.

Achieved

Aim: To develop and deliver modern, person-centred, primary care and community care services, in which high-quality, integrated services are delivered close to patients' homes and ensuring that there is support and protection for those members of society who are in greatest need

In 2000, we will introduce a Carers' Strategy for Scotland to help unpaid carers.

We will improve standards of care through new independent inspection of day and home care, and nursing and residential care homes.

Achieved

On track Legislation to be considered by Parliament in 2000-01.

In 2000, we will publish our proposals for services for people with a learning disability.

We will introduce legislation to modernise the statutory framework for meeting the needs of people with mental illness following completion of the Millan Review in summer 2000.

Achieved

On track

Aim: To provide a modern, high quality, responsive NHS in Scotland, working in partnership with patients to provide services designed from the patient's perspective, harnessing new technology to improve services for patients and ensuring that patients' rights are respected and protected

We will deliver the biggest ever hospital building programme in Scotland and will provide eight major new modern hospital developments by 2003.

On track Six hospitals will be opened by end 2001, with the other two by end 2003.

By 2002 we will launch a new generation of walk-in/walk-out hospitals. In these hospitals patients will be assessed and treated by specialist staff offering same-day treatment.

On track

By the end of 1999, we will set targets to speed treatment and shorten waiting times.

Ongoing The plan, Our National Health, announced new maximum waiting times for various treatments.

We will introduce a fairer system for the allocation of NHS resources based on need and recognising the particular needs of deprived and rural communities.

Achieved First allocations under new system already made.

We will use modern technologies to provide a better service to patients. Scottish NHS Net will link all GP surgeries and hospitals by the end of 1999, and be extended to pharmacies.

On track All GP surgeries and hospitals now linked. Work to link pharmacies continuing.

In 2000, we will publish a full report on Scotland's leading edge work on clinical outcomes and quality.

Achieved Report was published in December 2000.

We will work to end "postcode prescribing" through the creation of a new body to assess and advise on the clinical effectiveness of drugs and treatments.

Achieved Health Technology Board for Scotland established on 1 April 2000.

By early 2000 we will launch Scottish NHS Direct to provide a 24 hour telephone health advice service.

Delayed to allow more local and national consultation. NHS24 will be rolled out in 2001.

We will work in partnership with patients and NHS staff to establish our Patient's Project in 2000. The project will develop a strategy for communicating effectively with patients.

On track The Patient's Project is an integral part of Our National Health.

Through the introduction of an instant appointments system by 2002, we will ensure that people know the time of their hospital appointment before leaving their local surgery.

We will establish an additional 80 one-stop clinics where patients get diagnosis and treatment all in the same day by the year 2002.

In 1999, we will publish an Education, Training and Lifelong Learning Strategy for the NHS in Scotland.

By 2001, we will establish a Scottish Social Services Council to recognise and increase the skills and professionalism of the social care workforce.

We will increase the number of doctors.

We will recruit more nurses.

We will introduce more family friendly policies as part of our overall commitment to retain and to value all NHS staff.

Aim: To improve food standards and safety

In 1999 we will publish a range of advice on the safe handling and preparation of food in voluntary establishments and catering premises.

Where necessary, we will use our statutory powers to ensure that high food standards are met, including the introduction of a Butchers' Licensing Scheme for Scotland by 2000.

We will establish the new Executive in Scotland of the Food Standards Agency in 2000 which will assist people to make informed choices about what they eat and to take steps to ensure their food is safe.

We will end the beef-on-the-bone ban as soon as medical advice indicates that it would be safe to do so.

Ongoing Will be delivered in the context of the Electronic Clinical Communications Implementation programme which will by 2003 allow the routine electronic delivery of a wide range of communications between primary and secondary care, including electronic appointment booking.

Achieved One-stop clinics up from 80 to 200.

Achieved Action on implementation underway.

On track Legislation will be considered by Parliament in 2000-01.

Ongoing We have funded an additional 110 doctors who will be recruited by spring 2001.

On track Numbers of training places up 3% since June 1999, and will increase by a further 3% in 2000-01. Funding is in place for 210 more nurses to receive specialist training.

Ongoing Guidance published January 2001.

Achieved

Achieved

Achieved

Achieved

3.7 Social Justice

Working together for equality, to regenerate communities and to tackle poverty

Aim: To tackle poverty, ensure the best start in life for Scotland's children and give people more influence in their communities

We will publish a Scottish Social Inclusion Strategy in 1999.

Our Social Inclusion Partnerships will support the regeneration of Scotland's most deprived neighbourhoods. We will introduce a monitoring and evaluation framework by the end of 1999 to track success.

We will work in partnership with the UK Government to tackle child poverty and raise over 60,000 children out of poverty in Scotland by 2002.

Achieved Known as the Social Justice Strategy.

Achieved

On track In addition, Budget changes will lift a further 40,000 children out of poverty.

Aim: To regenerate the most disadvantaged communities, ensure that decent affordable housing is available to everyone and increase residents' satisfaction with their neighbourhoods and communities

Through the Empty Homes Initiative we will bring over 900 empty houses back into use by 2000 for households in housing need or facing homelessness.

We will ensure that 18,000 new and improved homes are built over the next three years for affordable renting or low-cost owner occupation.

We will ensure that no one has to sleep rough by 2003, by providing new accommodation and better support services.

Ongoing Will achieve 900 by the end of March 2002.

On track Target increased to 20,000.

Ongoing Support increased 40%. Recommendations of Glasgow Street Homelessness Review Team accepted by Executive with £12.5 million identified for re-provisioning hostels in next three years.

By 2003, we will attract new large scale investment to improve council homes through schemes to encourage community ownership, subject to the consent of tenants by ballot.

On track Three councils have formally decided to pursue whole transfers to community ownership. A further 21 are undertaking feasibility work.

We will tackle damp and cold houses by:

- improving 100,000 houses suffering from dampness and condensation by 2003 through the Healthy Homes Initiative. This initiative will give priority to the elderly and those on lower incomes.
- requiring new homes to have more effective insulation standards.

We will create 400 New Deal places each year in tackling fuel poverty and insulation.

We will encourage rent deposit schemes.

We will promote a common secure tenancy for all tenants in social housing.

We will seek to improve the house buying process in Scotland by supporting measures which avoid additional costs for house buyers resulting from multiple surveys and valuations, and include energy efficiency assessments.

We will review the present arrangements for factoring former council property now in owner occupation.

We will consult on new ways, such as a tribunal, of dealing with harassment by landlords, eviction proceedings, unfit conditions and enforcement of repairs.

Aim: To promote equality of opportunity and community involvement

We will establish by September 1999 a Racial Equality Advisory Forum to develop a long term strategy and action plans to tackle institutional racism.

We will establish an Equality Unit within the Scottish Executive by December 1999, to ensure that equality of opportunity is at the heart of policy making.

We will seek to ensure that 1,000 young people complete the Millennium Volunteers scheme by 2001.

We will improve disabled access to public buildings and promote barrier-free housing standards.

We will work to strengthen the infrastructure of the voluntary sector and of volunteering, as a priority.

On track 40,000 houses insulated between April 1999 and June 2000.

On track Consultation on proposals to require all new buildings to be more energy efficient.

Achieved in 1999-2000.

Achieved

On track Will be delivered through the Housing Bill.

Ongoing Monitoring market-led initiatives.

Ongoing Housing Bill will provide new powers to regulate factoring services provided by local authorities.

Ongoing

Achieved

Achieved

On track with funding in place.

Ongoing

Ongoing We have completed the national network of Local Volunteer Development Agencies and funding is in place to complete and strengthen the national network of Councils for Voluntary Service in 2001.

3.8 Transport

Working together to build a sustainable, effective and integrated transport system

Aim: To deliver a sustainable, effective and integrated transport system which meets our economic and social needs but does not threaten the health of our environment

We will introduce a bill in early 2000 to invest in transport and to encourage bus use. This Bill will allow road user charging and charges on parking at the workplace, where it is sensible to do so. We will use the money raised to invest in transport improvements.

We will publish an action plan to develop through ticketing by March 2000.

We will establish the framework for a national transport timetable system by end 1999, and implement by end 2000.

We will run a Public Transport Fund between 1999-2002 to provide alternatives to car use, and to assist innovative investment in new railway stations, new bus lanes, new rapid transport systems and park and ride schemes.

By increasing the Freight Facilities Grants, we will move freight off the roads and on to trains and ships and we will transfer an additional 15 million lorry miles a year off the roads in Scotland by March 2002.

We will encourage the establishment of regional transport partnerships to improve the co-ordination of transport policies and delivery of services across local authority boundaries.

Achieved but workplace charging levies provisions removed from the Bill during Parliamentary stages. The money raised from a charging scheme introduced by a local authority will be invested by the authority in transport improvements to ease congestion. The Bill also allows specification of minimum levels of travel concessions for pensioners and disabled people.

Achieved

Achieved Commissioning trials under way. Full launch spring 2001.

Ongoing Funding awarded for 52 projects.

On track Awards in the pipeline will take lorry mile total to 13.4 million; funding increased to £36 million over next three years.

Ongoing New local authority transport partnerships are emerging. Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 includes powers to require local authorities to prepare joint plans to address transport issues of common interest.

We will encourage the improvement and integration of concessionary fare schemes on public transport for pensioners and those with special needs.

On track The Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 includes powers to set a minimum level of travel concession for pensioners and those with a disability. Free off-peak local bus travel for these groups will be introduced from October 2002.

We will ensure the maintenance of affordable air and sea links to Scotland's island communities.

We will review the effects of the discount scheme aimed at local users and freight traffic on the Skye Bridge. We have frozen the tolls at their current levels in cash terms for the remainder of the contract.

Ongoing
Achieved

3.9 Local Government

Working together to modernise local government

Aim: To modernise local government finance

We will improve the treatment of both capital and revenue support for councils and will launch a review of support for service to deprived communities in the autumn of 1999.

Achieved

Aim: To provide the public with high quality local government services which provide customer care, flexibility and choice

In response to the McIntosh Commission, we have already set up a working party on enhancing the attractiveness of public service and electoral systems, including progress on electoral reform.

We will set up a Community Leadership Forum to stimulate modernisation in Scottish local government and unveil a package of development and training by December 1999.

We will consult with COSLA during 1999 on financial opportunities such as the effective pooling of budgets at local level and business improvement districts.

We will legislate by summer 2000 to establish a Scottish Standards Commission and a code of conduct both for local government and for other public bodies.

We will deliver Best Value in local government to improve services.

Achieved Recommendations under consideration.

Achieved Training package under consideration.

Achieved

Achieved

On track Best Value framework in place.

3.10 Finance

Working together to spend wisely

Aim: To secure Best Value in the Scottish Assigned Budget

We will not increase income tax in the first term of the Scottish Parliament.

Achieved to date.

We will introduce a Public Finance and Accountability Bill in 1999, setting out the financial framework for the Scottish Parliament.

Achieved

3.11 Environment

Working together to improve Scotland's environment

Aim: To help the people of Scotland secure a high quality of life through sensitive stewardship and sustainable development of the natural resources of Scotland; in particular by securing a clean, healthy and safe environment, ensuring a safe and effective water industry, and improving people's enjoyment of the environment

We will adopt a national strategy for waste by the end of 1999.

Achieved

We will improve standards of urban wastewater treatment systems through the highest ever level of investment, with the construction of new systems in Edinburgh and Glasgow complete by end 2000.

Ongoing Edinburgh operational now, Glasgow by spring 2001.

We will establish the first National Park for Scotland in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs by summer 2001.

Delayed Target date now early 2002, to allow more time for consultation as required by the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.

We will introduce a new system for nature conservation.

On track Publication of proposals planned for spring 2001.

We will invest to raise the quality of Scotland's drinking water.

Ongoing Around £140 million will be spent in 2000-01 on treatment works and water mains network.

We will work with local authorities to reduce the risk to health from poor air quality.

Ongoing Progress is being made on the designation where required of air quality management areas, and associated action plans by March 2002 to meet the targets for the seven pollutants covered by the Air Quality Strategy.

We will bring Scotland's 60 designated bathing waters up to European standards.

Ongoing Work in progress to reduce sewage pollution and identify and tackle sources of diffuse pollution (e.g. farming).

We will introduce strategic environmental assessment for Government programmes.

Ongoing Strategic environmental assessment will be introduced in the light of the final form of the proposed EC Directive. Consultants are currently reviewing best practice.

Aim: To ensure we have an efficient and effective planning system that operates in the public interest

We will improve the operation of the planning system to make it more positive and proactive.

Ongoing New planning guidance and advice issued.

We will provide locational guidance on renewable energy development by summer 2000.

Delayed Revised guidance issued in November 2000.

We will implement EC Directives on environmental impact assessment and control of major accident hazards.

Achieved

We will review building standards relating to the conservation of fuel and power and develop proposals for improved energy standards for new buildings by end 2000.

Achieved Consultation on proposals completed. Improved standards will be included in revised regulations.

3.12 Rural Development

Working together to support agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry

Aim: To promote improved environmental, employment and living conditions in rural areas

We will ensure that rural issues and needs are placed at the heart of policy-making across the Executive.

We will legislate to modernise crofting tenure by autumn 2002.

Ongoing 'Rural Scotland: a New Approach' published in May 2000.

Delayed Work will continue and a White Paper will be published in autumn 2001 but legislation will be deferred to allow more time for consultation.

Aim: To promote the adaptation of Scotland's agriculture to a sustainable future

We will implement, from 1 January 2000, a package of measures through the new Rural Development Regulation.

We will continue to support sustainable farming in the less-favoured areas by introducing an effective successor to the Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance scheme by summer 2000.

We will implement by summer 2000 a package of reforms following the Agenda 2000 agreement which provides effective support to Scottish agriculture.

We will increase expenditure on agri-environment programmes by 75% by 2001-02.

On track Scottish Rural Development Plan formally approved by EU on 6 December 2000. All schemes agreed and most introduced by December 2000.

Achieved European Commission approval for the new scheme was secured as planned in autumn 2000.

Achieved Arable and quota schemes in place. Payments on livestock schemes began in October 2000.

On track

Aim: To promote the Scottish food industry

We will develop by summer 2000 a strategy to achieve substantial growth in the food industry and added value in rural Scotland.

Achieved Strategy in place.

We will establish by autumn 2000 new schemes of assistance tailored to meet the processing and marketing requirements of the Scottish food and drink industry.

Achieved

Aim: To operate fair and effective systems for paying support to farmers

We will introduce by autumn 2000 an independent appeals mechanism for farmers suffering penalties in relation to their EU subsidy claims.

Achieved

Aim: To promote the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

We will develop by summer 2000, through the new Scottish Inshore Fisheries Advisory Group, plans to secure greater local involvement in inshore fisheries.

Achieved Through discussions with the Scottish Inshore Fisheries Advisory Group and delivered by enacting local Regulating Orders.

We will work for an outcome to the review of the Common Fisheries Policy in 2002 which protects the interests of Scottish fishermen.

Ongoing

We will issue guidance on the location of marine fish farms by November 1999.

Achieved

Aim: To support a high quality science base in agricultural, biological and related sciences which delivers research of strategic relevance

We will implement by summer 2002 a strategy to exploit the output of our world-class research base in agricultural and biological sciences to the greater benefit of the rural economy, the environment and human health.

On track Research programmes restructured to enhance relevance to the rural sector and other end-users.

Aim: To promote sustainable forest management

We will publish a Scottish Forestry Strategy by autumn 2000.

Achieved

We will demonstrate by summer 2000, through independent certification, that Forestry Commission forests in Scotland are sustainably managed.

Achieved

3.13 Europe and External Affairs

Working together to promote mutually beneficial links between Scotland and Europe

Aim: To promote Scotland's interests in Europe

We will work with the UK Government and its European partners to promote Scottish interests in Europe.

Ongoing Scottish Executive Ministers have attended 14 full meetings of the Council of Ministers since devolution.

We will launch an office of the Scottish Executive in Brussels in October 1999.

Achieved

3.14 Sport and Culture

Working together to promote sport and culture

Aim: To support wider involvement in sport and culture and to improve our physical environment

We will publish a National Policy on Architecture for consultation by autumn 1999.

Achieved We will publish a Policy on Architecture for Scotland by spring 2001.

We will publish a National Cultural Strategy by summer 2000 and support the creative industries.

Achieved

We will ensure free admission to the National Museums of Scotland by April 2001.

On track Funding provided to allow free admission from April 2001.

We will work towards secure status for Gaelic, foster the unique role of Sabhal Mor Ostaig and take forward the recommendations of the Fraser Report on Gaelic broadcasting.

We will establish a Scottish Football Academy and a network of local academies by 2002 as part of our wider programme of support for sport.

We will ensure that all schools have a sports co-ordinator by 2003.

Ongoing There are around 1,880 children in Gaelic medium primary education in 2000-01 and Gaelic medium education will be strengthened by Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000. Four year support package for Sabhal Mor Ostaig's cultural role announced in September 2000.

On track

On track 245 co-ordinators in post.
