

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE EDUCATION (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNER) (ENGLAND)
REGULATIONS 2007

2007 No. 25

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Education and Skills and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 These Regulations provide for school improvement partners, appointed to schools before section 5 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (“the Act”) comes into force, to be treated as though they were appointed under, and for the purposes of, that section.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1 This is the first use of the regulation making powers under section 5 of the Act.

4.2 Section 5(1) of the Act requires local education authorities in England to appoint a school improvement partner to each of their maintained schools. Section 5(2) requires persons appointed as school improvement partners to be accredited either by the Secretary of State for the purposes of section 5, or by a person authorised by the Secretary of State to accredit for such purposes. Section 5 is to come into force on 8th February 2007 (under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2006 (SI 2006/3400 (c.127))).

4.3 Some local education authorities in England have appointed persons as school improvement partners, accredited on behalf of the Secretary of State by the National College for School Leadership, to their maintained schools before the commencement of section 5 of the Act. Section 5(5) (the provision under which these Regulations are made) enables the Secretary of State to make regulations which allow such persons to be treated as though they were appointed under section 5.

5. Territorial Extent and Application

5.1 This instrument applies to England.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

7.1 School improvement partners (SIPs) are a key component of the government's New Relationship with Schools policy. The SIP acts as a professional critical friend to a school, providing challenge and support through what is termed the 'single conversation' and helping to build capacity in the school's leadership team. There is a focus on school self-evaluation, leading to agreeing priorities and targets to improve pupil attainment, attendance and behaviour.

7.2 SIPs are accredited on behalf of the Secretary of State by the National College for School Leadership following assessment, training and accreditation. They also participate in ongoing personal professional development. SIPs will be drawn from serving head teachers, head teachers on secondment, former head teachers working as consultants and local authority advisers.

7.3 The policy behind the regulations is to treat local education authorities who have appointed accredited SIPs to their maintained schools before section 5 of the Act comes into force as fulfilling the statutory requirement to appoint an accredited SIP. All local education authorities have now appointed SIPs to their secondary schools. 29 local education authorities have appointed SIPs to their primary schools as part of a phased introduction up to April 2008.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies. Local education authorities and existing school improvement partners will not have to do anything – the conversion of their appointments to a statutory footing will be automatic.

9. Contact

9.1 Ian Morrison at the Department for Education and Skills, Tel: 020 7925 3819 or e-mail: ian.morrison@dfes.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.