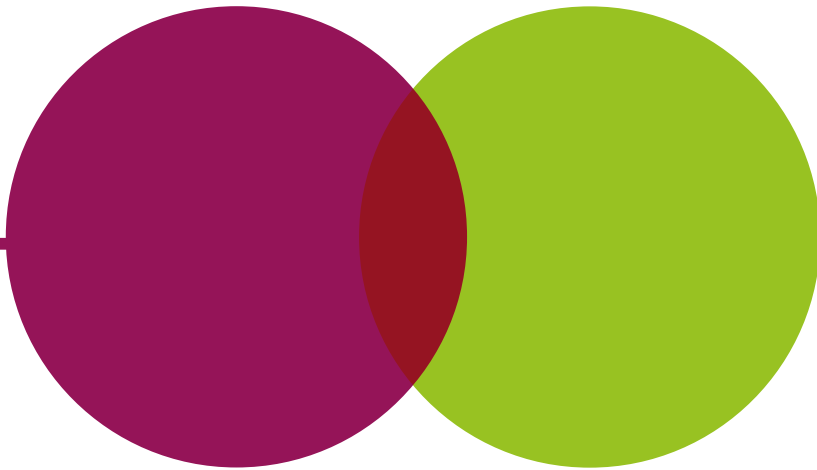




National Audit Office



INSIGHT

Strengthening relations with local delivery bodies

Department for Education

SESSION 2026-27
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HC 34

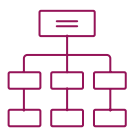
Summary

1 Eight actions for the Department for Education (DfE) to consider to strengthen its relations with local delivery bodies, including local authorities and other front-line providers.



Action 1:

Establish a clear vision and ensure it is coherently translated into local performance measures, so local decisions consider the outcomes wanted by DfE.



Action 2:

Set out clear, transparent systems so all parties, including DfE, fully understand where responsibilities for delivering outcomes lie, and any misalignment is addressed.



Action 3:

Collect and use proportionate and reliable cost and outcome data to understand how funding is used and make informed decisions.



Action 4:

Target support and guidance, informed by insights into organisations' capabilities and local context, where it can have the greatest impact.



Action 5:

Be clear on the standards expected from local bodies to ensure realistic expectations and clarity on when DfE will intervene.



Action 6:

Strengthen the identifying and sharing of good practice, insights and data through making best use of information and channels available.



Action 7:

Use whole-system approaches and work with wider government to share funding, priorities and expectations.



Action 8:

Ensure that local accountability arrangements are supported and regularly reviewed so they adapt and remain effective.