

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 February 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	West Partnership Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the progress of the West Partnership and the initial improvement plan.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the initial improvement plan of the West Partnership be noted; and
- (2) that regular updates on progress within the partnership be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

3. Background

3.1. On 8 November 2017, the Executive Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education Resources) on Education Improvement Collaboratives (IC) and approved:-

- ♦ the agreed Scottish Government/COSLA position on IC
- ♦ officer participation in the West Partnership

3.2. Since that time, the Directors/Heads of Service have continued to meet and have developed an initial improvement plan. The structure and role of the Partnership aligns with the guidance issued in the Education Governance Strategic Report from the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, SOLACE, ADES and COSLA.

3.3. In seeking to develop the initial improvement plan, the Partnership, as agreed by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, has been focusing on three priorities:

- ♦ Improvement
- ♦ Early Learning and Childcare
- ♦ Learner Journey

In addition, in October 2017, lead officers were agreed: Mhairi Shaw (ERC) as Regional Lead Officer; Maureen McKenna (GCC) as Improvement Lead; Laura Mason (WDC) as Early Learning and Childcare Lead; and Tony McDaid (SLC) as Learner Journey Lead. With the agreement of the Chief Executives, Graeme Hay was appointed as the Policy Officer to support the Partnership.

- 3.4. The development of the Partnership has sought to emphasise the importance of maintaining local democratic accountability through the regional partnership, with the Partnership seeking to enhance and support the existing improvement measures being implemented by education authorities.

4. Initial Improvement Plan

- 4.1. The West Partnership, along with the other regional improvement collaboratives across Scotland, is required to submit an initial improvement plan to the Chief Inspector of Education Scotland by the end of January 2018.
- 4.2. The initial improvement plan (appendix 1) seeks to complement and enhance the existing work being undertaken by the eight partner authorities. However, it is recognised that it will remain draft and will continue to evolve as the West Partnership extends its engagement activity to include more and more staff across the eight authorities.

5. Progress

- 5.1. In December 2017, Tony McDaid (South Lanarkshire Council) chaired a group of senior representatives, including headteachers from the eight authorities to discuss how to take forward the Learner Journey theme. The group's initial discussions focused on how the Partnership can:-
- ◆ extend and enhance the support that authorities provide to schools in order to support learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy
 - ◆ share and build on examples of excellent practice
 - ◆ consult with key groups to identify the areas that require greatest support for schools and teachers
- 5.2. In January 2018, Maureen McKenna (Glasgow City Council) chaired a group of senior representatives from the eight authorities to discuss how to take forward the Improvement theme.
- 5.3. Laura Mason (West Dunbartonshire Council) met with the already established early years' managers group and is working with them to extend their work.
- 5.4. From these meetings, actions are being developed. For example, it has been agreed that Education Scotland will develop a programme of support on improvement, such as, preparation for inspection and evaluative writing, which will be offered across the eight authorities in a planned and purposeful way.
- 5.5. As these actions develop further, updates will be provided to the Education Resources Committee.
- 5.6. In January 2018, the first meeting of the Education Convenors' Group took place. At this meeting, it was agreed that the Chair of the Convenors Group would be Councillor Jim Patterson, Renfrewshire Council.
- 5.7. It was also agreed that the Education Convenors' Group would initially meet on a quarterly basis and updates on progress within the Partnership discussed.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Further information will be provided at a future date.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 8.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. Further consultation will take place before the end of the school session 2017/2018 with a range of stakeholders.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

16 January 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Raise educational achievement and attainment.

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee – 8 November 2017

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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