

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>18 September 2018</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>West Partnership Update</b>
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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 phase 2 of the improvement plan.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of phase 2 of the 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. A Joint Steering Group, consisting of representatives from Scottish Government Learning Directorate, Scottish Government Children and Families Directorate, Education Scotland, CoSLA, SOLACE and ADES devised a report on the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) in September 2017.

3.2. The report set out a number of principles upon which the RICs should operate including the need to develop an improvement plan which would be devised on a regional basis and would be informed by the National Improvement Framework and be:-

- ◆ outcome focused
- ◆ child centred
- ◆ a thematic approach
- ◆ robust, locally driven and evidence based
- ◆ agile and flexible
- ◆ empowering

3.3. The Joint Steering Group also agreed that the introduction of RICs would entail all partners working differently as well as “securing additionality through collaboration, thereby protecting against displacement or replication of activity”. The Scottish Government undertook to devise guidance to support the development of each RIC’s Improvement Plan and this was issued in December 2017.

#### **4. The West Partnership**

- 4.1. The development of the West 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. It recognises that schools and local authorities will still produce their own improvement plans to take account of local needs and priorities.
- 4.2. In January 2018, the first meeting of the West Partnership Education Convenors' Group took place and it was agreed that Councillor Jim Patterson, Renfrewshire Council be appointed as the Chair of the Convenors' Group. The Education Convenors' Group will meet on a quarterly basis and updates on progress within the Partnership discussed.

#### **5. Initial Improvement Plan (Phase 1)**

- 5.1. The West Partnership, along with the other regional improvement collaboratives across Scotland, was required to submit an initial improvement plan to the Chief Inspector of Education Scotland by the end of January 2018.
- 5.2. The initial improvement plan sought to complement and enhance the existing work being undertaken by the eight partner authorities. However, it was also recognised that the initial plan will remain draft and continue to evolve as the West Partnership extends its engagement activity to include more and more staff across the eight authorities.
- 5.3. The Education Resources Committee noted the contents of the initial improvement plan of the West Partnership at its meeting held on 6 February 2018.
- 5.4. The partnership's improvement plan was endorsed in January 2018 and thereafter submitted to Education Scotland by the due date of 30 January 2018. Feedback on the plan was received in February 2018 with the intention that it would support Phase 2 of the plan which is due by 3 September 2018.

#### **6. The Development of phase 2 of the Improvement Plan**

- 6.1. An opportunity was offered and taken to continue to raise awareness of the Partnership and its plan and to engage with Head Teachers at recent Pupil Equity Fund conferences held in Hampden in March 2018. Comments and suggestions from Head Teachers at these events have been collated and will inform the next version of the plan.
- 6.2. A consultation activity took place with all teachers and practitioners as to how the Partnership will engage directly with classroom and playroom practitioners.
  - ◆ The Partnership also met with:-
    - ◆ Principals of Colleges operating in the region
    - ◆ National Parent Forum for Scotland (NPFS) representatives
    - ◆ Trade Union representatives
  - ◆ The Partnership engaged Professor Chris Chapman and Professor Graham Donaldson, both Glasgow University, to work with senior leaders and Quality Improvement staff across the region to develop a shared vision of collaboration, the benefits of such approaches and what that will look like at all levels of the system.

## **7. West Partnership Regional Improvement Plan (Phase 2)**

- 7.1. The second phase of the Regional Improvement Plan seeks to build on the outcomes and measures outlined in the previous version, working towards the vision of *Equity, Excellence and Empowerment*.
- 7.2. The plan (appendix 1) sets out the workstreams to be developed over the coming year, each led by a Director of Education/Chief Education Officer, and bringing together officers and teaching staff from each member education authority. Each workstream will also be supported with staff resources from Education Scotland which remain to be confirmed.
- 7.3. The plan also includes a remit and outline action plan for each workstream to develop in the coming year. Each of these individual action plans remains in draft form and it is envisaged that these may be subject to change based on feedback and consultation with stakeholders.

## **8. Progress Update**

- 8.1. As these actions develop, further updates will be provided to future meetings of the Education Resources Committee.

## **9. Employee Implications**

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

## **10. Financial Implications**

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

## **11. Other Implications**

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

## **12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 12.2. Engagement continues to take place with all partners in the West Partnership.

**Tony McDaid**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

28 August 2018

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 19 June 2018

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ West Partnership – Improvement Plan

### **Contact for Further Information**

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

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