

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 June 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.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress 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. Areas of development

- 5.1. Three areas of work were initially identified to support the ambitions of the partnership. These were:
 - ◆ Early Learning and Childcare
 - ◆ Improvement
 - ◆ Learner Journey
- 5.2. In addition, lead officers were agreed for each area: Mhairi Shaw (ERC), Regional Lead Officer; Maureen McKenna (GCC), Improvement Lead; Laura Mason (WDC), Early Learning and Childcare Lead; and Tony McDaid (SLC), Learner Journey Lead.

6. Initial Improvement Plan

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. The Education Resources Committee noted the contents of the initial improvement plan of the West Partnership at its meeting held on 6 February 2018.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. The feedback referred to above noted the following high level strengths:
 - the Partnership has developed a clear, high-level phase one plan;
 - all partner authorities have worked well to develop strong governance arrangements;
 - the Partnership has made a very positive start to gathering performance data;
 - a key principle of the plan is its emphasis on adding value and avoiding unnecessary replication of existing local improvement priorities;

- it is focused on areas which it has identified would benefit from collaborative approaches to bring about improvement for all;
- the plan identifies that the Partnership provides the opportunity to recognise, promote and share good practice across the eight partner authorities.

6.6. The feedback also indicated areas which should be considered when devising Phase 2 of the Plan

- the plan should develop further how it will share and learn from best practice in raising attainment across all eight member authorities
- there is a recognised need to involve all stakeholders and provide more detail of improvement activities and associated resource needs
- phase 2 of the plan should take due account of school and local authority improvement plans, national advice and priorities
- setting out what collaboration means for the workforce of the West Partnership and how it may:-
 - become a way of and enhances the current way of working for all colleagues;
 - improve outcomes for children and young people

7. The Development of phase 2 of the Improvement Plan

- 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.
- A consultation activity is also underway with all teachers and practitioners as to how the Partnership can engage directly with classroom and playroom practitioners.
- The Partnership has already had meetings with:-
 - Principals of Colleges operating in the region
 - National Parent Forum for Scotland (NPFS) representatives
 - Trade Union representatives
- The individual workstreams will continue to develop action plans, reflecting the priorities outlined in the Improvement Plan.
- Consultation will also take place with young people in order to shape Phase 2 of the plan.
- The Partnership has 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. This will feed into Phase 2.
- Phase 2 of the Improvement Plan will be considered at the Glasgow City Region Education Committee and, consequently, at local authority Education Committees before submission to Education Scotland in September 2018.

8. Progress to date

8.1. As well as the development of Phase 2 of the improvement plan, a range of activities have been undertaken to take forward the three strategic priorities.

8.2. Early Learning and Childcare

The Early Learning and Childcare area has been divided into a range of workstreams in recognition of the significant agenda underway.

8.3. The workstreams include:

- **Build Leadership Capacity**

- gathering of baseline quality information from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate
- identifying specific targets for improvement
- participating in National Standard and Quality Criteria consultation

- **Developing curriculum, learning and teaching**

- aligning of cross-authority work undertaken prior to the establishment of the formal West Partnership
- developing West Partnership Achievement Framework – collation of practice from each authority
- establishing metrics for maximizing use of physical capacity and staffing model
- putting in place arrangements for the launch of the new European Practice Standard for Outdoor ELC
- communicating Grounds for Learning regarding a shared visioning session to support the development of key principles for our Outdoor ELC strategy

- **Professional Learning/CPD**

- considering CPD required to support the implementation of the plan

8.4. Improvement

- **Supporting staff**

- working with Education Scotland to develop a series of conferences, designed and tailored to the needs of staff across the partnership. The outline plan covers a suggested format, potential number of attendees, potential venue and potential keynote speakers. These would then be considered together and the intention would be to develop a three to five year plan for conferences targeting staff
- planning for events to take place during academic session 2018/19

- **Data analysis**

- analysing a range of data across the partnership
- working with the Scottish Government to access data that would help develop baseline evidence

8.5. **Learner Journey**

- **Focusing on high quality learning, teaching and assessment**
 - building on the Making Maths Count collaborative, sessions on building resilience and instilling a growth mind-set in students in mathematics have taken place. Teachers from across the West Partnership have attended training events
 - undertaking a survey of all teachers and practitioners to help identify professional learning opportunities to support classroom practice

- **Extending the range of moderation and assessment activities**
 - plan a range of moderation support activities across literacy and numeracy
 - offering moderation of assessment opportunities across the partnership. This work will be supported by each Local Authorities' Quality Assurance Moderation Support Officer

- **Working to improve the range of curricular pathways for young people**
 - working with the College Principals to improve the vocational pathways available for pupils leaving school into college. This includes a number of Head Teachers meeting with the Principal of South Lanarkshire College to discuss extending the college offer for pupils
 - identifying opportunities for potential partnership working with the Developing the Young Workforce Regional Groups

9. **Progress Update**

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

10. **Employee Implications**

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

11. **Financial Implications**

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

12. **Other Implications**

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

13. **Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 13.1. 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.

13.2. Further consultation will continue to take place between now and the school session 2017/2018 with a range of stakeholders.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

25 May 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 – February 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:-

Tony McDaid, Executive Director (Education Resources)

Ext: 4379 (Tel: 01698 454379)

E-mail: tony.mcdaid@southlanarkshire.gov.uk