

Report

Report to:	Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 June 2011
Report by:	Chair of Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group

Subject:	Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project – SSSC West of Scotland Learning Network - Proposal for the Replacement of Core Functions
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Joint Committee on the proposal for the replacement of the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) West of Scotland Learning Network (West) core functions of practice placement co-ordination, practice learning qualifications, mental health programme and business support

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the proposals for the continuation of the West of Scotland Social Care Learning Network in a revised form be noted; and
- (2) that an update be submitted to the Joint Committee advising of the outcome of the West of Scotland Social Care Learning Network's AGM on 24 June 2011.

3. Background

3.1. The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) West of Scotland Learning Network (West) will cease to exist in its current format from September 2011.

3.2. The 3 main functions funded by local authorities were practice placement co-ordination for social workers, practice learning qualifications (PLQ) and Mental Health Officers (MHOs). Approximately 320 student placements would be required for September 2011.

3.3 Meetings with Universities and Directors of Social Work had been held to discuss changes to the constitution of the West of Scotland Learning Network (West) and the options available.

4. Current Position

4.1 The Clyde Valley Learning and Development Group Social Care Sub Group has developed a proposal to enable the existing innovative work of the Learning Network to be built upon and continued within a revised form of the Network. This proposal will be considered by the West of Scotland Social Care Learning Network's AGM on 24 June 2011.

- 4.2 The proposal is that the West of Scotland Universities Partnership fund a post which would co-ordinate practice learning and placement development across the west of Scotland. This would be across the whole sector including voluntary and independent agencies. Full funding would come from the Universities.
- 4.3 The practice learning qualification would continue to operate on a partnership basis with the programme managed and developed by a part-time Practice Learning Development Officer. The qualification would be offered via the Clyde Valley Assessment Centre which would assist in minimising costs.
- 4.4 A Mental Health Programme Co-ordinator post, as currently operated by the Learning Network (West), would continue to develop and co-ordinate the practice element of the mental health officer programme. This post would continue to be funded by the local authorities.
- 4.5 Business support for the various professional officers would be essential, as would the operation of an office function. A post would be created which would operate across the various elements. Funding for the post would be on a 50 / 50 basis from the Universities and local authorities. Funding for these posts would be via local authority contributions as shown below:-

Council	% contribution	New post costs	2010/2011 contributions	LA savings
Argyll & Bute	3.63	2,173.31	4,195.80	2,022.49
Dumfries & Galloway	6.03	3,609.81	6,917.40	3,307.59
East Ayrshire	5.03	3,011.27	5,783.40	2,772.13
East Dunbartonshire	4.43	2,652.14	5,103.00	2,450.86
East Renfrewshire	4.43	2,652.14	4,082.40	1,430.26
Glasgow City	25.53	15,281.39	29,030.40	13,749.01
Inverclyde	3.63	2,173.31	4,195.80	2,022.49
North Ayrshire	5.63	3,370.39	6,463.80	3,093.41
North Lanarkshire	13.33	7,979.17	15,195.60	7,216.43
Renfrewshire	7.23	4,328.06	8,278.20	3,950.14
South Ayrshire	4.63	2,771.85	5,329.80	2,557.95
South Lanarkshire	12.53	7,500.34	14,288.40	6,788.06
West Dunbartonshire	3.93	2,352.87	4,536.00	2,183.13
Total	100	£59,856.06	£113,400	£53,543.94

- 4.6 Staff would be managed by the reformed Learning Network Directors (this may fall to one of the partners on a day to day basis). One of the partners may be required to provide office accommodation for the Practice Learning Co-ordinator and administrative support staff.
- 5. Employee Implications**
- 5.1. There are no direct employee implications affecting local authority staff as a result of this proposal.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The revised structure and proposed changes to the funding will result in savings to the local authorities of some £53,544 (as shown in paragraph 4.5).
- 6.2. Costs of the newly defined posts with details of funding are illustrated in the table below:-

Post	Grade	Top Point	% On Costs	Hours	Actual Cost	Funding Source	LA Costs	HEI Costs
Practice Learning Co-ordinator/ Development Officer	£34,401 – £37,613	37,613	29	35	£48,634	HEI's		£48,634
Practice Learning Award Officer	£34,401 – £37,613	37,613	29	17.5	£24,317	LA's	£24,317	
Mental Health Programme Co-ordinator	£34,401 – £37,613	37,613	29	17.5	£24,317	LA's	£24,317	
Business Support	£15,640 – £17,356	17356	29	35	£22,441	50% HEI + LA's	£11,221	£11,221
							59,854	59,854

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The revised structure introduces an element of risk. The reliance on part-time posts may lead to a less permanent workforce. Transition to the new organisation and recruitment to posts may leave a gap and possible instability in current arrangements. These issues would be addressed by the Clyde Valley Social Care Sub Group as part of a transition plan.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. In addition to the consultation undertaken between the Clyde Valley member councils, consultation also took place with other members of the Learning Network including Associate Member Councils and non member Councils.

Gill Bhatti

Chair, Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group

2 June 2011

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project - Shared Services Update Phases 2 and 3
– March 2011

Contact for Further Information

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

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