

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 November 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative - Evaluation of Improvement Plan for 2020/2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ to inform the Committee of the evaluation of work undertaken by the West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative during 2020/2021

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the West Partnership's evaluation of the Regional Improvement Plan for 2020/2021 be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) is a national initiative to bring about improvement for all schools in Scotland. The purpose being to identify and share best practice designed to improve outcomes for learners in schools and educational settings.

3.2. The Education Resources Committee noted the progress of the West Partnership and the contents of its Improvement Plan for 2020/2021 in October 2020.

4. Progress to Date

4.1. Appendix 1 of the report outlines the progress with and impact of the Regional Improvement Plan for 2020/2021.

4.2. The evaluation of the work of the Partnership under the following key heading is as follows:-

- Responding to COVID-19
- Senior phase attainment
- Poverty-related attainment gap
- Positive destinations
- Workstream Highlights
 - Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement
 - Curriculum, Learning and Teaching and Assessment
 - Collaborative Learning Networks and Families and Communities
- Next steps and conclusions

- 4.3. Overall, the West Partnership continues to make very good progress implementing its Regional Improvement Plan, despite the impact on delivery caused by COVID-19.
- 4.4. The reach of the Partnership continues to increase as follows:-
- over 1739 participants attended a West Partnership event
 - over 300 headteachers and depute heads participated in Virtual Learning Networks
 - 20 subject/sector networks across all curricular areas to support the SQA Alternative Certification Model. Networks were used to share practice, resources and pedagogy, particularly in digital pedagogy
 - Over 700 participants signed up to the Education Scotland and West Partnership Spring webinars on the themes of Children's Rights, Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing and Pedagogy.
 - The annual West Partnership Maths Conference was hosted virtually in November 2020 with 250 participants attending.
 - Storyboards captured effective practice and lessons learned and were shared across the partnership. Eighteen different storyboards have been produced and shared on topics such as Parental Engagement, Family Learning, Transitions, Learner Wellbeing and ASN. Storyboards were shared on Twitter and viewed over 100,000 times.
 - A well-established Youth Ambassador Forum provided young people with the opportunity to share the work they do in youth participation and to share their views with other West Partnership networks on areas such as diversity and health and wellbeing.
 - Within early years, over 200 practitioners attended an open discussion on child centred play pedagogy.

5. West Online Schools (West OS)

- 5.1. West OS is an online school created by teachers, providing recorded learning experiences for children and young people. Each West OS video comprises 10 minutes of input from an experienced teaching practitioner and can be used as a standalone experience or as part of a wider programme guided by a teacher.
- 5.2. It was developed as part of recovery planning for schools reopening from lockdown and was designed to build on good practice within the Partnership and aimed to maximise the potential of E-learning.
- 5.3. School engagement with West OS is significant. This includes:-
- 46,500 different users from within the West Partnership region have utilised a West OS video
 - 87.5% of all West Partnership establishments have used West OS
 - 100% of all West Partnership secondary schools have used West OS
 - 93,000 video views accumulated from West Partnership based users
- 5.4. The evaluation report has been submitted to Education Scotland and the Scottish Government.
- 5.5. The evidence findings have helped to inform and shape the West Partnership's Improvement Plan for the period 2021 to 2022.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The Scottish Government invited bids to support the implementation of each RIC's improvement plan. The Scottish Government awarded grant funding of £1,025,592 to support the West Partnership's programme of work for the period from August 2020 to 31 March 2021.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no significant implications for climate change, sustainability and the environment arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained in this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. There is no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment and consultation on the evaluations of activities was undertaken by the RICs with stakeholders.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources Resources)

18 October 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 16 March 2021
- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 27 October 2020
- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 6 August 2019

List of Background Papers

- ◆ West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative Plan 2019/2020

Contact for Further Information

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

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