Item 2
5th March 2024

Glasgow City Region Education Committee

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EDUCATION SCOTLAND
RESTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT DELIVERY MODEL 2024

Purpose of the Report

To advise members of the committee of the emerging changes within the national agency.

Recommendations :

The committee is asked to:

- Note planned change.
- Note how existing RIC work will be supported by Education Scotland as a result of restructure and recent announcements on the future of RIC funding.
- Consider how the agency's restructure will continue to support local authorities currently operating as members of the west region.

1. Background

1.1. In April 2019 Education Scotland established a Regional Directorate within their organisational structure. This directorate was established with six Regional Improvement Teams (RITs) to complement the structure of Scotland's six Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs).

1.2. To date these multi-disciplinary RITs have worked alongside local authorities and RICs to support improvement priorities outlined within regional and local plans. Through the regional structure, local improvement support was coordinated and delivered through the associated RIC groupings of local authorities, which varied in size, scale and support requirement.

2. Restructure

2.1. As an executive agency of Scottish Government, a recent review and update of Education Scotland's delivery priorities has been undertaken. Whilst Education Scotland's principle aim is driving improvements in education, in partnership with local partners, how the agency will strategically and operationally deliver support, alongside local authorities, is to adapt.

2.2. With the tapering of funding to RICs and Education Scotland's staffing reduction from 6 to 4 Senior Regional Advisors, it has been necessary to reconsider how Education Scotland 'groups' local authorities to ensure an effective delivery model. This restructure is also designed to improve the alignment of Education Scotland's Corporate Plan to the current needs of the system and Scottish Government's priorities.

2.3. Moving forward, Education Scotland plans to augment its improvement activity associated with the Scottish Attainment Challenge. In November 2023, David Gregory was appointed by Education Scotland as the interim Strategic Director of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and in January 2024 a review and 'regrouping' of local authorities was undertaken. As a result, in March 2024, Education Scotland will shift its aligned support from six regional groupings of local authorities to four. Four Senior Regional Advisors will remain in place to provide strategic support to the local authorities within these four groupings, alongside associated Attainment Advisors. Each group will equally consist of eight local authorities. The model and rationale for change was shared with ADES Executive in advance of its implementation.

2.4. A variety of factors were considered to support the changes of local authority groupings, these include:

- The ability for Education Scotland to increase levels of support for collaboration between local authorities.
- A balance of SIMD levels within a grouping of local authorities so that Education Scotland's resources can be targeted more equitably.
- The size of the population of each local authority to ensure universal resources can be used more effectively.

- Consistency in SRA levels of engagement and support with local authorities.
- Considerations of how a geographic approach to local authority groupings would not enable a balance of SIMD within groupings or provide an equitable universal resource, when measured against region population. Appendix 1 provides an outline of the current alignment and the new operational delivery model moving forward.

2.5. Where Education Scotland has already committed support to West Partnership RIC activity during the academic session 2023-24, this will continue until the agreed date of completion.

3. Proposed Implementation

3.1. Education Scotland's transition to the new operational model and groupings is due to be activated on 4th March 2024.

3.2. Communication to all Directors of Education and a sequencing of internal and external communications are scheduled to commence week beginning 26th February 2024.

4. Recommendations

4.1. The Committee is asked to:

- Note planned change.
- Note how existing RIC work will be supported by Education Scotland as a result of restructure and recent announcements on the future of RIC funding.
- Consider how the agency's restructure will continue to support local authorities currently operating as members of the west region.