Item 3

7th March 2024

Glasgow City Council

Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Education Services

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FAMILY LEARNING IN GLASGOW SCHOOLS AND EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

Purpose of Report:

To inform the committee of the work being done in relation to supporting the development of family learning across Education Services.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the committee note the developments planned and the current activities in relation to family learning.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

***PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING**:*

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1 Background

1.1 The Family Learning Team is managed by Glasgow Life and includes 1 Learning Services Coordinator and 5.6 Family Learning Officers, delivering primarily in early years and primary, with some work in secondary schools. The team have a strategic link to Education Services, working alongside an identified Quality Improvement Officer.

1.2 Working across all sectors, the team offer joint planning and capacity building activities that enable schools to develop effective parental engagement strategies, improve the range and quality of family learning programmes, increase vocational and accredited learning and parental volunteering opportunities and develop strong partnerships that support quality and sustainability.

1.3 The team's blog provides a useful summary of this work https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/glasgowfamilylearningteam/

1.4 The family learning team is funded through the Attainment Scotland Fund as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge. The team's priorities are a part of our Glasgow Improvement Challenge holistic approach to "Supporting families to be better able to support their child's learning and development". This report updates the committee on the activities of the family learning team from August 2022 - January 2024.

2 Continuous Professional Development

2.1 The Family Learning Team deliver Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) using a blended learning approach of online and face-to-face delivery. Learning opportunities include:

- Principles and Practice of Parental Engagement & Family Learning
- Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Family Learning
- Family Learning – the Glasgow Context

2.2 During the period of this report, 90 Family Learning CLPL sessions were delivered across all sectors with 1680 attendees. 96% of attendees stated that their confidence in supporting parental engagement and family learning increased. 96% also stated that their confidence in planning, evidencing, and evaluating family learning increased. 75% of primary schools and 84% of ELC establishments attended CLPL during the 2022/23 session.

"Both these courses and the session last week inspired us to take action in implementing family learning opportunities across our school". (St Angela's Primary)

'Feeling inspired and motivated after joining your excellent Principles and Practices of Parental Engagement and Family Learning today. Some good ideas for our Good Food Group' (Depute Head, Molendinar Family Learning Centre)

3 Universal Offer

3.1 Family Centered nursery-P1 progressive transition project offering four weeks of quality family learning activities was delivered for the third time with a total of 343 staff attendances at training. 112 ELCC and 120 Partnership Nurseries participated with all children starting P1 (6,500 in 2023) receiving a family learning kit. 96% of evaluations submitted evidenced that relationships between parents /carers, children and nursery staff were strengthened.

3.2 The Primary 1 activity focusing on the 'Everywhere Bear' book supported children and their families through their early level transition. Webinars to support delivery had 124 staff attendances over the past 2 years. Staff engaged in preparatory webinars and all schools received resources to enable delivery. 100% of evaluations from parents evidenced a positive impact on the child and family's experience of early level transition.

3.3 In the current academic year, we are showcasing how some schools and nurseries have built on both these offers to incorporate family-centred transitions into their school calendar. The team have formed a working group with Leaders of Early Learning and staff from schools and nurseries to identify best practice. Two over-subscribed events during February 2024 shared key messages and good practice with 120 staff attendees.

3.4 The Family Learning Team blog was visited over 8,000 times during the period in question, supporting practitioners across the city to remain abreast of good practice and new developments.
https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/glasgowfamilylearningteam/

3.5 CLPL sessions to support the ongoing delivery of Play Along Maths have been attended by 276 staff from nurseries and primary schools since August 2022. Pre-5 and P1 Play Along Maths materials have been refreshed and launched in mid-September 2023, and P2/3 will be launched in March 2024. This programme uses well known games which families take home on a weekly basis to develop both the child and parent/carers knowledge of maths concepts and language. We expect 65 Primaries and 56 Early Years establishments to deliver during the current session.

'I did not want my son to choose the cash register because I did not know how to count the money myself. This project helped me ask for help and I have been going to Adult Literacy and Numeracy Classes ever since'.(Parent,St Roch's Primary)

3.6 Termly Family Learning Action Groups (FLAG) support citywide school staff to share practice with their peers and learn new skills which enhances family learning in their setting. These meetings also link school staff with their community partners e.g., a presentation by staff from Linn Park Adventure Playground led to an increase in the number of schools accessing the facility. A similar group was recently established for staff working in ELC.

These sessions always give me a feel-good factor, I leave feeling supported and energised. (Primary Teacher, Sandwood Primary)

3.7 The Family Support and Engagement Worker (FSEW) network was established to support the range of partners and staff who work in and with our establishments. The network has evidenced success in sharing good practice and increasing knowledge of support agencies and partners. Last session, we had 80 members of staff on the database, but this reduced significantly when funding for posts came to an end. In the current academic year, the work of this group has been combined with the Family Learning Actions Groups (FLAGS).

It was good to meet with other workers to share practice, I found it reassuring to have acknowledgement of the breadth of the job remit and resilience required. I felt cared for in my professional role today.(Support Worker, Glasgow Life, Clyde Gateway)

4 Targeted Offer

4.1 One-to-one support from a Family Learning Officer was provided for 16% of ELC and 48% of primary establishments during 2022/23 and will increase by the end of the current academic session. This included a wide range of activity including resource provision, sourcing funding, action planning, and advice on evaluating and reporting family learning.

"Before meeting with my Family Learning Officer, I didn't know where to start with engaging parents. She chatted through some great tools that have really helped to focus my thoughts and I now have a good plan in place" (Teacher, Hyndland PS)

4.2 A wide range of learning packs have been produced by the Family Learning Team for use by schools alongside advice from the team. Examples of these are:

- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for Parents
- Family Fun with Food
- Additional Support Needs, Family Centred Transitions

4.3 Sharing Stories. This initiative was delivered in partnership with Glasgow Libraries and was piloted in a few ELCs. Sharing Stories helps parents/carers and babies' development, language, and social skills. Spending a few minutes reading together every day helps to build bonds and develop relationships. It can have a positive effect on emotional wellbeing for both babies and families. This session, 28 early years establishments were trained, and they are currently being supported in the programme rollout.

4.4 There is a partnership agreement with Save the Children UK whereby 3 Family Learning Officers are trained as trainers for the evidence-based Families Connect programme. This programme supports parents to engage in their children's learning by building on parents' existing skills and knowledge and increasing their confidence to support their children's learning in the home. Families Connect builds relationships between parents and settings and provides opportunities for parents to share their parenting experiences. During 2022/23, 15 schools and ELCC delivered the 8-week programme. Since August 2023 a further 17 staff from 10 establishments have undertaken the training and the team are supporting with engagement and delivery.

4.5 A new ESOL Family Play programme was designed by a Family Learning Officer in response to identified need. It was piloted in Cadder Primary School in partnership with the GCC English as an Additional Language Team. The successful pilot resulted in a presentation to all EAL staff in the city and supported roll-out.

4.6 A partnership project with the Glasgow Life Early Years Children & Families Team provides staff and resources to deliver 6 weeks of post-5 family play workshops in two primary schools identified by the team. This pilot is now extended to offer it to six primary schools on a termly basis city wide to build capacity of school staff and parents.

4.7 Levelling the Field is a partnership project with Achieve More and Glasgow Life Early Years Children and Families Team. Achieve More has received CORRA Funding to work with four schools across the north to provide a package of adult learning, play and family learning to support parents/carers to be better able to support their child's learning, and provide a pathway to future volunteering, educational and/or employment opportunities. Members of the Family Learning Team are steering group members and have played a key role in training project staff.

4.8 Multiply is a UK Wide programme to upskill adults in functional numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses. The family learning team is working in partnership with Glasgow Life's new Multiply Coordinator to support engagement of learners through schools. This has resulted in six primaries, one nursery, and one secondary school delivering new adult learning programmes. The team has also facilitated training for Multiply Tutors from the Glasgow Counts Leaders of Learning to ensure that they remain abreast of maths and numeracy strategies being taught to their children.

4.9 A family- centred P7 – S1 Transitions programme was designed by a Family Learning Officer working in St Paul's High School during the pandemic. The good practice that emerged was used as the basis for a similar approach in King's Park secondary School last year.

4.10 Parent Council Capacity Building - A bespoke response to the needs of 3 Parent Councils in Govanhill identified digital skills and ESOL as key to removing barriers to participation. Twelve parents have now completed digital classes in Govanhill Library and there are now 25 new Parent Council volunteers.

5 Summary

5.1 The strong partnership that has emerged between Glasgow Life and Education Services has identified an increased number of opportunities to support staff as they in turn work with families. The combined skills and experience of the Family Learning Team and the QIO, places the team in a strong position to continue to make effective connections between schools and their community partners.

Appendix One: Embedding Family Learning at Pollokshields Primary School.docx
Appendix Two: Families Connect at St Brigids Primary.pptx
Appendix Three: Cleeves Primary Transitions Programme Overview.pptx
Appendix Four: Family Support and Engagement Worker Network Case Study 2023.pptx

6 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: within existing funding allocation

Legal: NA

Personnel: continuation of current level of staffing and workforce

Procurement: NA

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge 1, Mission 1 End child poverty in our city using early intervention to support families.
Grand Challenge 1, Mission 2 Meet the learning and care needs of children and their families before and through school

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Outcome 12
Glasgow City Council (Education Services) has developed a more strategic approach to delivering equality and diversity curriculum inputs in schools that has been developed in partnership with the third sector and achieves external validation where possible.

	Outcome 14 Glasgow City Council (Education Services) has continued to improve outcomes in relation to attainment and achievement for children and young people including those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, those for whom English is not their first language, those who identify as black and minority ethnic, and disabled children and young people.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Positive impacts - outcomes detailed above
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	Yes

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	NA
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	NA
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	NA

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report	No
If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out	

7 Recommendations

7.1 The committee is asked to note the activities undertaken and the developments planned in relation to embedding family learning across all nurseries and schools.