Item 2

25th January 2024

Glasgow City Council

Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Education Services

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EDUCATION SERVICES: PUPIL PARTICIPATION DEVELOPMENTS

Purpose of Report:

To update the committee on Education Services developments to support pupil voice in the city

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to note the update and Education Services work to support pupil voice, participation and engagement across our establishments.

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 UNCRC is central to the key national and local policy drivers underpinning Glasgow's Education Services. These include Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), Curriculum for Excellence and Glasgow's Towards a Nurturing City. These rights are embedded in policy and practice across the policy landscape providing a means for children's rights to be realised.

1.2 The previous work of Glasgow Education Services was reported on to this committee in January 2023.

1.3 The incorporation of the UNCRC bill into Scots law was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament in March 2021 and has subsequently been through a reconsideration stage and then passed the Parliamentary vote again on the 7 December 2023. As a result, the Bill is likely to move to Royal Assent in summer 2024.

1.4 Under Part 1, Section 2 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on listed public authorities to complete a children's rights report. Subsequently Listed Public Authorities must every 3 years report on the steps they have taken within their area of responsibility to secure better or further effect of the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The most recent report was due in March 2023 but deadlines were extended due to the impact of the pandemic. Local authorities must publish their report on this. Work on Childrens Rights is a council wide responsibility and Education Services report through this committee on the work we undertake in Children's Rights.

1.5 Following Glasgow Education Services committee paper in May 2021, a Childrens' Rights Officer took up post in the Education Improvement Service (EdIS).

1.6 This report seeks to update on the progress of work to ensure Children's Rights are central to our work and that the voice of young people in Glasgow schools is heard. This work is rooted firmly in Education Services All Learners All Achieving document.



2 GLASGOW SCHOOLS FORUM

2.1 The Glasgow Schools Forum is open to all schools across the city to send representation. The Forum meet in two separate groups: two Primary sessions, allowing up to 50 schools at each session to meet

together and then the Broad General Education (BGE) group which is open to all Secondary schools and has representation from young people across S1-S3. The Forum meets monthly.

2.2 In school session 2022/23 :

- 157 schools attended at least 1 forum out of 6 (Secondary 34 inc. 4 ASL, Primary 123 inc. 1 ASL)
- 27 attended all 6/6 (Secondary 11 inc. 1ASL, Primary 16)
- 28 attended 5/5 (Secondary 3 inc. 1 ASL, Primary 25)
- 27 attended 4/6 (Secondary 4, Primary 23)

2.3 Through activities at each Forum, the young people are directly involved in co-creating the agendas and focus for all future meetings. The Forums continue to be based on the Glasgow Children's Rights Framework. Agendas are responsive to the voice of Glasgow's young people.



2.4 Dialogue sessions at the forum over the last year have included: School Uniform, World Childrens' Day, Sense over Sectarianism, Anti-bullying, School dinners, recycling, assessment, attendance and playgrounds.

2.5 The Forum have worked with partners including Respect me, Neighbourhood Regeneration and Sustainability Team, Glasgow Life, EdIS, Psychological Services and Cordia

3 SENIOR PHASE PARLIAMENT

3.1 The Senior Phase Parliament is an opportunity to listen to young people from the Senior Phase of Secondary School. The Senior Phase Parliament meets 4 times per school year. The views gathered of the young people here have been instrumental in creating the 'Manifesto for a Fairer Future'. (Appendix 1) Each meeting of the Parliament had a focus identified in the Manifesto, and also has a time set aside for questions they have posed to the Director of Education regarding key issues and concerns that they may have around their education.

3.2 The Senior Phase Parliament met in November to identify the next priorities for this session. Young people have volunteered to be part of sub groups that will lead to outcomes for this session. These are:

- Mental Health Sub group – This group will work with Barry Syme, Principal Psychologist to identify a strategy to support the mental health of boys, based on research completed by Education Psychologists.
- Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) sub group – This group will research and prepare questions for a SQA representative at the Senior Phase Parliament in March.

4 MANIFESTO FOR A FAIRER FUTURE

4.1 Children and Young People have developed plans and priorities with their views impacting positively on policy and practice. An example of this would be recent feedback to the EdIS team officers on views on Assessment and Curriculum. This has resulted in adjustments to CLPL delivery on assessment.

4.2 The Manifesto for a Fairer Future (Appendix 1) was developed in this final format by the young people in Hyndland Secondary but comes from the views and voice gathered through the Senior Phase Parliament. The Manifesto launch was the keynote at the Young People's Conference this session and will also be a key focus at the upcoming Inclusion Conference for Senior Staff in 2024.

4.3 The Manifesto is the young people's vision of how they would like their world to be and outlines key themes. This has been shared with young people city wide and they have been developing plans for how they will share this wider in their school communities.

5 CITYWIDE PUPIL CONFERENCE

5.1 In October 2023 we held our first Young Persons' Conference for P6/7 and S1/2/3 for all schools in the Scottish Exhibition Campus (SEC). The theme for the Conference was 'All Learners, All Achieving'. The day was hosted by Young people from Hyndland Secondary and included 4 workshops hosted by young people from different schools in Glasgow. A "marketplace" was available where our young delegates could meet a variety of partners who support schools, including Active Schools co-ordinators, West of Scotland Development Education Centre (WOSDEC), Social Enterprise Academy, PEPASS, Glasgow Life and Save a Life For Scotland. Nearly 600 Young People, Teachers and partners attended from those establishments who applied to attend. At the conference there were representatives from 84 Primary schools, 22 secondary schools, 2 ASL secondary schools and 1 ASL Primary school.

5.2 Our attendees reported positively on the event:

"Loved all of it especially the young people leading and the musical performance at the end"

"Seeing our young people full of confidence and determined to make a difference for all young people"

"That it was kids performing instead of adults"

"Shows our school that we can help with this and we can make change by working together and communicating and being a team"

"I want to take action and tell everyone about what we have learned and we hope that everyone listens and also we want to speak with the head and depute teachers and tell them what we have experienced and tell them that how we can change the school matters"

5.3 The workshops provided for the young people were identified under the 'All learners All Achieving' annual business plan to share the work of Education Services with the young people across the city. The workshops undertake were:

- Developing your own Ants racism Charter – led by young people
- Beyond the Classroom – led by Blairvadach team
- Digital Skills – led by young people
- One Good Adult – led by Glasgow Educational Psychologists, and
- Networked Learning – led by QIO, Learning for Sustainability

6 RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARDS (RRSA)

6.1 Pupil Voice is a key aspect of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Rights Respecting School Awards (RRSA). At all levels schools and young people are asked about their views and to give examples of when and how they are being listened to.
RRSA Evaluation statements for Pupil Voice at Silver Level in Glasgow school include:

Young People felt that the school "let their voice be heard."

Young people's voices were credited as the inspiration behind several initiatives in the schools, with staff and pupils eager to share their stories. "The pupils want to give back,"

Pointing to their Pupil Parliament as an important channel young people said, "We have a voice in lots of different situations."

Children across schools were certain that their voice was listened to, bringing in examples of being in certain committees such as the rights committee, eco group, playground buddies, pupil council and litter patrol.

Staff described the range of pupil voice committees, with one stating, "Children love being on committees and feeding back to peers," and another adding, "It encourages their leadership and builds responsible citizens."

95% of children surveyed said they influenced decisions in school

6.2 In August 2021, the Children's Rights Education Officer began working with schools across the city, developing the understanding and implementation of Children's Rights in all establishments. The table below shows the increase in active schools engaging with the award from September 2021 to December 2023

RRSA Position in Glasgow School Sept 21 to December 2023. (Award level is valid for 3 years)

RRSA Awards at	20/09/2021	30/06/2022	30/06/2023	05/12/2023
Gold	2	2	4	5
Silver	2	4	16	19
Bronze	16	24	53	62
Registered	16	52	39	40
Active (within 3 years)	**36**	**82**	**112**	**126**

6.3 In promoting and developing engagement with the UNCRC, the Lead Officer has developed an extensive CLPL offer for all establishments, delivering to 641 practitioners from August 22 to July 23

6.4 Education Services have worked very closely with UNICEF to train our RRSA assessors and trainers for the city. We now have a trained team of 4 and this will increase annually to ensure sustainability.

6.5 Further mutual learning from UNICEF has taken place as part of the Children and Young People's Eurocities Working Group which is supporting our networked learning organisation work.

7 GIRLS 4 EQUALITY

7.1 Girls4Equality is a legacy from the Girls@COP26 event. Girls4Equality met on International Day of the Girl on 11 October 2023. The young women were consulted about how they use the City, specifically parks, shopping, and culture There were inputs from NRS about City Planning and SWG3 about female artists in the City. The results will be collated and shared with NRS as part of a broader consultation on City Development.

8 YOUNG LEADERS PROJECT: WEST PARTNERSHIP

8.1 The Young Leaders of Learning Programme (YLL), Is a programme which Scottish Government wants to use to engage with young people to listen to their views about how to improve Scottish Education. Schools participating in YLL programme are supporting their own self-evaluation and school improvement activities by involving learners in the process.

8.2 In 2022/23 Staff and up to 8 Young people from 33 Glasgow schools. (24 Primary, 7 secondary and 2 ASN Secondary) were trained by a West Partnership team using training materials from Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland (SPARQS), an organisation that promotes student engagement in the quality of learning and teaching in Scotland's universities, colleges, and schools. We chose Health and Wellbeing as the focus for the engagement.

8.4 Evidence so far suggests that YLLs develop confidence, communication skills and other Organisational ability.

9 Executive Director & Captains

9.1 The Executive Director of Education meets annually with the School captains across all Secondary and ASL schools in the city. This is the second year of this approach, and the young people have the opportunity to share their thoughts and questions with the Director directly in this forum, as well as the Director being able to give the young people a voice.

10 Pupil Participation Professional Learning Offer

10.1 This session a variety of Professional learning opportunities have been provided for schools and establishments who want to develop Pupil participation further. These sessions are open to practitioners in Early years, Primary, Secondary and ASL. Additionally, the Lead Officer for Childrens Rights and Participation has been delivering whole staff training and development on request to ensure schools can take forward Pupil Participation across whole establishments.

11 Civic Participation

11.1 Education Services are focused on supporting children and young people to become compassionate, responsible, and effective citizens developing the skills, knowledge, and attributes for an equitable, just and sustainable world. Participation activities empower our children and young people to play an active role in our city. As part of this work all P7 young people very invited to the City Chambers to meet with the Lord Provost and learn about the roles and responsibilities of this civic role in the City. They also explored the history of the City Chambers meeting with the Glasgow Heritage Trust. The young people were invited to explore a digital resource that gives a virtual tour of the City Chambers and explains the significance of this historic building in our City. This was developed by GCHT with EdIS, St Mungo’s Primary Pupils and personnel working in the chambers.

12 Next Steps:

The work in supporting and ensuring Childrens Rights and Voice in Education continue to be developed and supported. The following initiatives are now being planned:

- Education Services and UNICEF have drafted an RRSA Action Plan. It is the aspiration of the Glasgow Education Services that all Glasgow schools will engage in UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award. To make effective use of Scottish Government funding we would hope all schools to achieve Silver award status by March 2025. This, in part, will ensure that all schools meet the first priority of the National Improvement Framework 2023 "Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education". Rights Respecting Schools Awards at Bronze and Silvers are all now assessed by Glasgow trained staff allowing the programme to be more sustainable post March 2025 when the Government funding finishes.
- Childrens Rights Working Group will continue to meet to design resources to support staff.
- Education Services will support collaborative work and actions across services as a follow up to enactment of the UNCRC bill
- Young Leaders of Learning staff and Young People will now be trained by our Lead Officer using the Relationships toolkit.

13 POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resource Implications:

Financial:	N/A
Legal:	Future work on CRIA
Personnel:	N/A
Procurement:	NA

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

- Increase Opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens(Mission 3 Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's Children and young people)
- Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow (Mission 2 Become a net zero carbon city by 2030)
- Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities. (Mission 2 Meet the learning nd care needs of families before and through school, Mission 3 Improve

	the Health and wellbeing of our local communities, Mission 4 Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant) • Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities. (Mission1 Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods, Mission 2 Run an open well governed council in partnership with all our communities) •
Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Yes 1. CLPL Provision across outcomes 2. Development of BAME networks linked to equalities developments across participation, engagement and inclusion approaches 3. Inclusion of all young people 4. Gender based violence and Gender is a theme through this work 5. Hate crime training 6. Mental health and wellbeing focus e.g. Respect Me 7. Equalities and discrimination are part of the Senior Phase Parliament manifesto
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Positive impact
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	Yes – engagement in civic responsibility and accountability

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	Yes :- Theme 1 Communication & Community Empowerment Theme 2 Just and Inclusive Place

	Theme 4 Health and Wellbeing
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	None
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	N/A

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

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

14 Recommendations

14.1 That Committee note the report and promote engagement across the Council Family, Officers and Members.