Item 4

26th November 2024

Glasgow City Region Education Committee

Report by: Samantha Jane Hewitt, Principal Teacher, West OS

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West OS Update

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Committee with an update on the work of West OS within this first term of tapered funding and reduced staffing.

Recommendations :

The committee is asked to:

- note the progress of West OS to date;
- note the significant reach of West OS across the partnership; and
- discuss the role of West OS going forward- with particular emphasis on March 25 and beyond.

1. Background

1.1 From March 2024, one Principal Teacher has continued creating and delivering lesson content with industry experts, to schools across the West Partnership and beyond.

1.2 New topics and themes have been introduced in line with national and local priorities. BGE Live lessons take place via Teams with teachers signing up their classes to take part.

1.3 West OS hosts a padlet for each theme / lesson and directs teachers towards prior reading, knowledge and resources needed before and after the lesson.

2 BGE LIVE-Update

2.1 BGE Live has continued to gain traction with practitioners signing up for a range of topics and themes identified by practitioners, including:

- 2.1.1 Mental Health- What makes a good Role Model and Avoiding Drama/ conflict;
- 2.1.2 LGBT Inclusive Education,
- 2.1.3 UNCRC-Dignity,
- 2.1.4 STEM- Microorganisms and pH and Technology, and
- 2.1.5 AI and Art.

2.2 BGE Live interest continues to increase with **over 250 signups** for some of the themes above, Data reflects that Mental Health, Children's Rights and Anti-bullying are lessons that currently receive the greatest interest. Teacher webinars have, and will continue to be, delivered in conjunction with these BGE Live lessons due to the sensitive nature of these themes.

2.3 Feedback from both practitioners and young people continues to drive improvement and practice changes. The volume of BGE Live lessons delivered has also increased and expands the offer of lessons available through each week and term.

2.4 Each BGE Live theme is offered as a curricular package with 3-5 lessons being offered for each theme and an accompanying Padlet with links to resources; prior and post reading for practitioners and follow up tasks for learners. In each live lesson, young people utilise a learning mat to record their work and are asked to explore scenarios; challenged by critical questions and have time to reflect. The 3-5 lesson series allows for progression and for prior learning to be built upon. Young people have the opportunity to listen to industry experts, outside speakers, take part in live experiments, have directed outdoor learning activities, debate and share their views during the lesson and after.

2.5 A new partnership with the Children's Parliament has allowed for further collaborative working. In partnership, West OS has explored the theme of

Dignity in School. Lessons explored the UNCRC and why knowing rights is so important. All classes were encouraged to take part in an online photo exhibition highlighting areas where they felt happy, healthy and safe. The series culminated with young people creating their own class Dignometers that were produced via class research, evaluations and discussions. Lesson evaluations were extremely positive with young people commenting on the impact of the class-based discussions and the creative use of the photo task.

2.6 Following the success from this series, West OS and Children's Parliament plan to deliver this series early in 2025 with additional elements and following feedback from teachers, partners and our reference group will now work together on exploring a Gender Equality lesson package.

2.7 The Mental Health Series, created in collaboration with Headstrong, remains very well attended with lessons focusing on role models and dealing with conflict and were an active response to current issues and concerns being signalled by practitioners in schools. Lessons attracted over 200 sign ups with attendance reaching over 115 different classes participating. Evaluations were extremely positive with increased social media posts thereafter.

2.8 A central aim this academic session has been to further expand topics, themes and partners. As such, West OS is delighted to be working with Scotland's leading Anti-Bullying service *respectme.* This lesson series takes place throughout November and is in line with Anti-Bullying week. The series will explore what bullying behaviour is; give an insight to coping strategies; hear from a young adult who experienced bullying behaviour as a child and will finally ensure that rather than being against bullying-everyone can actively know how to display Anti-bullying behaviour. The Cabinet Secretary is also recording a video message of support for the young people during the lesson series. There are currently over 200 sign ups to this lesson series and it is expected this will increase over the final week of marketing.

3 Next Steps

3.1 Looking to 2025, Common Sense Education, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Skills Development Scotland will also be collaborating with West OS to deliver new content for young people.

3.2 The new West OS Reference Group has been established and has discussed the work of West OS and ideas for lesson content, themes and learning and teaching approaches. Expertise, sectors and curricular areas range across the group.

3.3 The Reference Group have clarified short and longer term aims for WEST OS:

3.3.1 The shorter term aim of West OS revolves around enhancing the live lesson offer; expanding the lesson series and focusing on increasing engagement and quality. There will be a further strengthening of partnerships with external organisations and collaborative lesson development.

3.3.2 Longer Term aims centre on ensuring sustainability and growth of the West OS platform post-March 2025. The online recorded lesson bank and website area will remain for all young people and practitioners to access.

5.4 Currently, the Principal Teacher West OS oversees the strategic planning, marketing, scoping, evaluation, resource creation and generation and delivery of the BGE Live Lessons to over 100 classes of young people each week. Without this funded role, BGE Live will currently be unable to continue after March 25.

6. Recommendations

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