Item 6
25th June 2024

Glasgow City Region Education Committee

Report by: **Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, WP**

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PLANNING FOR 2024-25 AND BEYOND

Purpose of the Report

To advise members of the committee of the self-evaluation activity underpinning the proposed West Partnership improvement plan for 2024-25 and beyond.

Recommendations :

The committee is asked to:

- note the self-evaluation process undertaken across the partnership in light of the Scottish Government tapered funding for 2024-25;
- note the emerging themes for the 2024-25 improvement plan; and
- agree the proposed collaborative framework for 2024-25 and beyond following the withdrawl of Scottish Government funding.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The parliamentary announcement on 7th November of the Scottish Government's plans to taper funding to the Regional Improvement Collaboratives in 2024-25 and stop funding thereafter has initiated an internal review of the structure and work of the West Partnership.

1.2 Three assumptions underpin the review process:

- The aspiration to build a networked learning system remains a shared priority across the West Partnership, thereby adding value to the work of individual Local Authorities;
- There is continued buy-in to maintain a strong collective focus on pedagogy; and
- There is support and scope for a flexible approach, to enable the participation of teachers, middle and senior leaders to shape and drive the work of the West Partnership more directly.

1.3 Building on these assumptions, all the current activity has been reviewed and options explored as to how the existing workstream activity (including programmes, enquiry activity and networks) could be reshaped to prepare the West Partnership system for the forthcoming funding withdrawal.

2. PROCESS

2.1 Reviewing Current Activity

West Partnership officers have considered each programme, collaborative enquiry activity, professional learning activity and network to establish which have the most significant impact and reach and where WP activity is different from other local and national offers. Given the considerable strengths and impact of the WP work, directors are committed to continuing key aspects of the work.

2.2 Collaborative Framework 2025-26

A suggested West Partnership Collaborative Framework (Appendix 1) has been developed to show how the system might maintain some of the most impactful activity of the WP and develop new work collaboratively. The framework, when established and embedded, will be practitioner-driven and impact directly on children and young people. The framework, while supported significantly reduced collaborative activity, will rely on increased ownership of the WP activity by central officers and practitioners, as the key resource.

2.3 Four Strategic themes (Appendix 1) have been identified as a structure to organise current and future activity:

- Early Level;
- Emerging Issues
- Leadership of Learning; and
- Inclusion

2.4 Each theme would be led by a Strategic Group, sponsored by a Director of Education.

2.5 These groups would be supported by Operational Groups who will take forward the activity, evaluation and reporting on impact.

2.6 A Headteacher Reference Group would meet with the RIC Lead Officer twice per year to assist in guiding the improvement priorities. A representative from this group would also serve on the Overview Group.

2.7 The Overview group of the eight Directors of Education and a HT Representative will have strategic oversight of the four strategy groups and receive regular evaluation of impact.

3. EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The shared purpose of improving outcomes for all has been at the heart of the West Partnership's work since its inception. The existing evaluation framework has been crucial in establishing coherence across the workstreams. A new model, when agreed, will need to build on the existing framework and ensure a robust evidence base continues to shape and direct the work. The importance of consistent, high-quality and bureaucratically-light programme management structures for planning, evaluating for improvement and reporting on impact are highlighted as essential. This will maintain clarity of focus and impact on learners.

4. BEYOND 2025

The West Partnership Core Team will work to deliver on all agreed Improvement Plan priorities for 2024-25, with significantly reduced staffing and funding. In addition, they will seek to ready the system across the partnership for the transition to the new framework, with reduced activity and resource. However, the impact of collaboration across the partnership over the period of the Regional Improvement Collaborative is such that Directors are exploring a range of scenarios to allow the retention of a key 'Collaboration Officer' to lead on this work beyond the 2024-25 session.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

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- note the emerging themes for the 2024-25 improvement plan; and
- agree the proposed collaborative framework for 2024-25 and beyond following the withdrawl of Scottish Government funding.