GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Item 1
7th March 2023

Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2022 by video conference.

Present: Councillor Angela Campbell (Chair), North Lanarkshire Council; Councillor Lynda Williamson, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Andrew Anderson, East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Christina Cannon, Glasgow City Council; Councillor Jim Clocherty, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Emma Rodden, Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Clare Steel, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Apologies: Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Attending: Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Sharon Hayward and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Douglas Hutchison and Lorna Goldie, Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Julie McGrogan, West Dunbartonshire Council (substitute for Laura Mason); Alan Taylor, Head Teacher co-opted representative; Pamela Dinardo, Education Scotland; and Alison Devers, West Partnership.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 22nd September 2022.

West Partnership – Finance update 2022/23 – Position noted.

2 There was submitted a report by the Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on the West Partnership's financial position to quarter 2 for 2022/23, advising that

(1) the Scottish Government had awarded grant funding of £1,515,500 to support the West Partnership's programme of work for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023;

(2) a review had been carried out by the Senior Partnership Officer to review the grant award into the new workstreams and detailing the new planned budgets per workstream, totalling £405,437, all as detailed in the report;

(3) a claim had been made for all expenditure up to 26th August 2022 which was for 26.76% of the overall funding allocated, though the percentage varied across each workstream, with the next claims being due in December 2022 and March 2023; and

(4) there also remained a carry forward of £316,348 from 2021/22, however, there were outstanding invoices identified of £80,000, thereby giving a remainder of £236,348 not allocated in the figures detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard Lorna Goldie, Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, the committee noted the revised work programmes for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and the claim 1 made of £405,437.

West Partnership – Highlight report noted.

3 There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council, summarising the key activities from the West Partnership (WP) highlight report, which was detailed in appendix 1 of the paper and covered the reporting period from June to October 2022, advising

(1) that each workstream had made good progress with taking forward refreshed plans and there was consensus that existing programmes were broadly meeting the needs of officers and practitioners across the WP;

(2) that new users were continuing to be attracted through the WP website, continuing to promote and engage the work of the partnership through social media platforms, and a programme brochure for 2022/23 had been designed and shared across the partnership;

(3) that 3 illustrations had been selected by the Workstream Lead Officers in partnership with the Data and Evaluation Officer, the purpose of each was to showcase specific workstream activity and the impact of this through the 3 drivers, and that taken together, those 3 illustrations had contributed to a cycle of practice change and improvement, as detailed in the report;

(4) of a brief summary of the work currently being undertaken by each of the 3 illustrations, all as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard Steven Quinn, Director of Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council, the committee noted the report.

Summary of progress in developing the West Partnership "Improving Our" set of programmes – Position noted.

4 There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Officer informing the committee of the reach, key changes and planned developments in respect of the West Partnership (WP) "Improving Our" set of programmes, advising

(1) of the background to the 3 "Improving Our" programmes, namely, Improving Our Classrooms (IOC), Improving Our Schools (IOS) and Improving Our Departments and Faculties (IOD/F), all of which had been developed by and for teachers and leaders across the 8 local authorities, with each having the same clear focus on high quality self-evaluation leading to:-

(a) improved learning and teaching;

(b) the use of data informed targeted interventions;

(c) improved attainment and achievement; and

(d) a relentless focus on equity and excellence for all children and young people;

(2) that IOC was a year-long programme for class teachers in the primary, ASN and secondary sectors, was a Masters Level professional learning, with successful participants gaining 30 Masters Credits and that over the last 3 years IOC had had 422 teachers from 247 schools across the WP take part in the programme, with a further 143 teachers across the 8 local authorities taking part in IOC this year and a further 39 mentoring the participants;

(3) that IOS, a programme for primary schools of all sizes, had been piloted in 2020/21 and had a much greater degree of flexibility than IOC with the focus being driven by each school's self-evaluation and data, and that last session there were 10 schools with around 170 leaders and teachers who took part in the IOS pilot, with 20 primary schools and 450 participating in IOS this session;

(4) that IOD/F, which would be piloted next session, was being developed by a group of secondary teachers from different local authorities, school contexts, sizes and subjects, whose range of expertise and perspective would allow for the development work to take account of the multiple contexts of schools across the WP and build a programme that was flexible; and

(5) that as the number of "Improving Our" programmes expanded, consideration would be given to how they worked together and of a number of next steps that had been identified as a result, all as detailed in the report..

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Alison Drever, Workstream Lead Officer, West Partnership, the committee noted the report.

Education Scotland review of West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative Plan 2022/23 – Position noted.

5 There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Officer and Education Scotland, providing an update on the key messages in the Education Scotland Senior Regional Adviser Report to the Scottish Government on the West Partnership (WP) Improvement Plan 2022/23, advising that

(1) the WP Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) continued to have a clear vision, to embed the values of equity, excellence and empowerment in everything they did whilst building a culture of collaborative working across their local authority areas;

(2) the WP continued to drive its communication strategy to maximise the promotion and reach of its offer and during 2021-22 over 3100 practitioners of the 19,000 within the WP had participated in a RIC professional learning session, with 85% reporting an increase in knowledge and 82% reporting increased confidence as a result of associated learning;

(3) the WP Online School (West OS) which was incorporated into the recorded lesson element of Scotland's National e-Learning Offer (NeLO), continued to benefit all authorities across Scotland and throughout session 2021-22 over 40,000 learners had accessed WestOS, with approximately 15,000 of those learners being specifically aligned to local authorities within the west region and all secondary schools had reported usage of WestOS and 66% of primary settings reported engagement with the resource;

(4) as a result of having defined critical indicators in place since 2016, the WP RIC continued to collectively track and monitor attainment of children and young people at local and regional level and these critical indicators were analysed as part of the WP evaluation and reporting processes and influenced improvement planning direction;

(5) in light of the extensive and detailed planning undertaken at the start of session 2021-22, the WP Improvement Plan for 2022-23 broadly illustrated a continuation of existing priorities, including a response and focus for recovery and renewal whilst acknowledging the challenges of supporting improvement as part of the on-going Covid recovery process, and the WP planned to continue to work collaboratively within and across the system to ensure that it responded with agility to the changed circumstances in which we now lived, providing support and developing flexible approaches to learning and teaching across the region;

(6) within the WP Plan for 2022-23 the RIC noted their continued commitment to set an ambitious and aspirational agenda to close the poverty related attainment gap (equity) and improve attainment and achievement for all (excellence), aiming to achieve this through creating the conditions for authentic empowerment, resulting in a shift in the ownership of change that enabled all staff to take collective action to deliver their ambitious vision; and

(7) the RIC would continue to work in partnership with the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change and Education Scotland's West Regional Improvement Team in session 2022-23 to ensure approaches to collaborative learning continued to make the greatest difference to the practitioners and learners they served.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Pamela Dinardo, Senior Regional Adviser, Education Scotland, the committee noted the report.

Schedule of future meetings agreed.

7 The committee agreed the schedule of future meeting dates as undernoted:-

Tuesday, 7th March 2023 at 1030 hours; and
Tuesday, 30th May 2023 at 1030 hours.