Item 4

22nd November 2022

Glasgow City Region

Education Committee

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Summary of progress in developing the West Partnership programmes:

- **Improving Our Classrooms**
- **Improving Our Schools**
- **Improving Our Departments and Faculties**

Purpose of the briefing

To inform the Committee of the reach, key changes and planned developments in the *Improving Our…* set of programmes.

Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note and comment on the content of the report.

1. Overview

1.1 The West Partnership's (WP) *Improving Our …* programmes are developed by and for teachers and leaders across the eight local authorities (LAs). There are three different programmes and each has the same clear focus on high quality self-evaluation leading to:

- improved learning and teaching;
- the use of data informed targeted interventions;
- improved attainment and achievement; and
- a relentless focus on equity and excellence for all children and young people.

1.2 The programmes are also designed to support collaboration and expand the networks of participants across the West Partnership (WP) area.

2. Improving Our Classrooms

2.1 Improving Our Classrooms (IOC) is a year-long programme for class teachers in the primary, ASN and secondary sectors.

2.2 This is Masters Level (SCQF level 11) professional learning and participants who successfully complete IOC, which is assessed through a 5000 word assignment, gain 30 Masters Credits. Participants also receive Accreditation for Professional Learning from the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS).

2.3 Once participants successfully complete IOC there is an opportunity to become an IOC mentor and support others undertaking the programme. Mentors work through a Delivering Mentorship module which comes with a further 15 Masters Credits.

2.4 IOC has had 422 teachers from 247 schools across the West Partnership take part in the programme over the last three years. This year there are 143 teachers across eight local authorities taking part in IOC and a further 39 mentoring the participants.

3. Improving Our Schools

3.1 Improving Our Schools (IOS) was piloted in session 2021-22 and is running in full this year for the first time. This programme is for primary schools of all sizes, contexts and demographics. IOS works across the whole school involving all teaching staff and others as required.

3.2 IOS uses the same high quality professional learning materials as IOC. It has a much greater degree of flexibility than IOC and the focus is driven by each school's self-evaluation and data. The focus identified becomes a priority in the school improvement plan. The timescale for the programme is decided by each school. The shortest amount of time the programme can run for is one year and it can be run over multiple years to suit local needs.

3.3 Last session there were ten schools with around 170 leaders and teachers who took part in the IOS pilot. This session there are 20 primary schools with around 450 leaders and teachers participating in IOS.

4. Improving Our Departments and Faculties

4.1 Improving Our Departments and Faculties (IOD/F) is being developed by a group of secondary teachers this session. The group come from different local authorities, school contexts, sizes and subjects. This range of expertise and perspective allows for the development work to take account of the multiple contexts of schools across the WP and build a programme that is flexible. IOD/F will be piloted next session.

5. Changing *Improving Our …* to fit the West Partnership context

5.1 IOC has been running in the WP since 2019-20, having originated in Glasgow several years before.

5.2 IOC has undergone very significant changes to meet the needs of the WP as well as expanding the programmes offered to include IOS and IOD/F. The most significant changes that have taken place have focused on:

- developing opportunities for teachers to collaborate across schools and local authorities; and
- updating and streamlining the structure and content of the programmes to make best use of participants' professional learning time.

6. Future plans

6.1 As the number of *Improving Our*… programmes expands consideration is being given to how they work together. A number of next steps have been identified as a result. These are intended to:

- support the sustainability and reach of the programmes; and
- provide opportunities for teachers to move between IOC, IOS and IOD/F over time according to their professional learning requirements.

6.2 Further work is needed to develop opportunities for collaboration. Experienced IOC mentors will train and support new mentors. Teachers who have successfully completed IOC will have the opportunity to work together and support the development of professional learning materials for all programmes.

6.3 Teacher / school leader reference groups will be established for all programmes. These groups will guide and inform ongoing programme development to maintain relevance and ensure they reflect the most up to date evidence on effective learning and teaching.

6.4 Opening up IOC to include teachers who would like to gain Professional Recognition from the GTCS instead of Masters Credits is being explored. This would increase the reach of the programme and improve its articulation, as a programme for individuals, with IOS and IOD/F which work across an establishment.