GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Item 1

22nd November 2022

Minutes of meeting held on 22nd September 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 Jim Paterson, Renfrewshire Council (substitute for Councillor Emma Rodden); Councillor Gavin Keatt, South Lanarkshire Council (substitute for Councillor Lynsey Hamilton); and Councillor Clare Steel, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Apologies: Douglas Hutchison (Glasgow City Council); Councillor Emma Rodden, Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, South Lanarkshire Council; and Pamela DiNardo, Education Scotland.

Attending: Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Sharon Hayward and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Andrea Reid, Glasgow City Council (substitute for Douglas Hutchison); Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire Council; and Professor Chris Chapman, University of Glasgow.

Election of Convener approved.

1 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer advising of the requirement to elect a Convener for this committee and of the procedure to be followed.

After consideration, Councillor Clocherty, seconded by Councillor Keatt, moved that the committee appoint Councillor Angela Campbell as Convener of the Glasgow City Region Education Committee. There being no other nominations, the committee agreed unanimously to appoint Councillor Campbell as Convener.

Thereafter Councillor Campbell took the Chair.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

2 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 1st March 2022.

Terms of Reference agreed.

3 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer detailing the prposed Terms of Reference for this committee, as detailed in an appendix to the report.

After consideration, the committee agreed the Terms of Reference as outlined in the report.

West Partnership Evaluation Report 2021/22 – Progress noted.

4 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing an update on the progress that had been made over the academic year 2021/22 towards achieving each of the associated target outcomes and expected impacts, as detailed in the West Partnership Improvement Plan and all as outlined in the West Partnership Evaluation Report 2021/22 which was appended to the report, advising that

(1) each year, the growing benefit of working collaboratively and systematically across the West Partnership area, and the difference this was making to staff, children and young people was clearly evident and the report captured the very good progress made within the West Partnership across the 3 main workstreams, namely, Wellbeing for Learning; Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement; and Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment, which was testament to the dedication and commitment of all staff who had worked to support our children and young people;

(2) throughout the report, there were very strong examples of how the Partnership was improving attainment and achievement for all (excellence) while closing aspects of the poverty related attainment gap (equity), shifting the ownership of change and enabling staff to take collective action to deliver on this (empowerment);

(3) included within the report was an overview of the strengthened evaluation model including the 3 drivers of improvement, showcasing progress in enhancing collaboration, improving knowledge and confidence and changing practice;

(4) 3 main illustrations demonstrated impact in those 3 improvement areas through a range of qualitative and quantitative data and critical indicators had been updated demonstrating progress across the region; and

(5) the work of the West Partnership had also been recognised by external evaluations carried out by the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change, as well as the work highlighted in Research Scotland's national evaluation of Regional Improvement Collaboratives.

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

External Evaluation report by Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change on development of the West Partnership – Position noted etc.

5 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing an update on the external Evaluation report by the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change (ROC) on the development of the West Partnership, advising

(1) of a summary of the key messages from the ROC report which offered insights into the West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative, all as detailed in appendices to the report;

(2) that the team had employed a mixed-methods approach, including a survey of West Partnership groups/networks and strategic in-depth interviews with key personnel, as detailed in the report;

(3) of a number of agreed research questions that had been utilised, as detailed in the report;

(4) that the evaluation had been conducted, in a time of great pressure and uncertainty, particularly for those working in the front line of education, all of which had led to some delays in data collection;

(5) that, in comparison with the interviewing process for the previous evaluation report, there was greater fatigue and disruption in the system which had posed challenges for arranging interviews, eg, those who had been invited to participate were more likely to postpone their arranged interview due to contingencies in their schools, such as staffing absences and more non-responses to interview invitations than in the previous strand of work, however, those who had been interviewed were well placed to provide key information and insights regarding the research questions;

(6) that the evaluation report had noted a shift in mind-sets, culture, and ethos across the West Partnership, propelled by the power of networks and agency within them and the added value (to local authorities) of this approach was evident in the upskilling of staff, individual empowerment and agency, knowledge mobilisation, professional capital, improvements in learning and teaching and networked learning;

(7) that the ROC report had asserted that the West Partnership was in a very good position to build on the momentum gained during the pandemic and the flexibility and agility shown in responding to the needs of the system had been particularly noted as positive and helpful;

(8) that the report had concluded with a range of issues for the West Partnership to consider in planning the next phase of growth, all as detailed in the report; and

(9) that a summary version of the report was currently being prepared by Professors Chris Chapman and Graeme Donaldson that would complement the full report and was intended to reach a wider audience, with a session being planned this term, for the West Partnership Core Team to engage with the report more fully and respond to the issues for consideration.

After consideration and having heard Professor Chris Chapman, University of Glasgow, the committee noted and endorsed the report and the identified next steps as outlined at paragraphs (8) and (9) above.

West Partnership draft Regional Improvement Plan 2022/23 approved etc.

6 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer seeking the committee's endorsement of the West Partnership's draft Regional Improvement Plan 2022/23 (RIP), as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, advising

(1) that since this committee had approved the submission of the West Partnership's RIP to Education Scotland in August 2019, as required by statute, an updated RIP had been prepared outlining future proposed activity based on the revised governance and operational structure previously approved by this committee;

(2) that over the past session, engagement sessions with stakeholders had taken place which complemented the ongoing evaluation activity and had provided a clearer set of qualitative and quantitative data to ensure the Improvement Plan met the needs of practitioners and officers across the West Partnership and that there was a clear consensus that existing programmes and activity had met the needs of officers and practitioners across the West Partnership;

(3) that the feedback gathered from the stakeholder engagements, recommendations from the Robert Owen Centre evaluation and consensus building conversations with workstream sponsors, workstream members, programme participants and Education Scotland, had all contributed to the Improvement Plan 2022/23;

(4) that it was proposed that the Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead and Senior Partnership Officer meet with colleagues from the South West Education Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC), Education Scotland Strategic Director and Senior Regional Advisers to discuss the RIP, and that of SWEIC colleagues; and

(5) of the next steps, which included,

(a) members requiring to report back to their own authorities through appropriate individual local governance arrangements for approval in order to ensure local democratic accountability; and

(b) confirming that, in seeking to ensure that the West Partnership could continue to contribute to the wider work of the Glasgow City Regional

Economic Strategy, a report would be prepared, including the endorsed RIP, and presented to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet by the Regional Lead Officer or Convener of this committee, as appropriate.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, the committee

(i) agreed

(A) to endorse the draft Regional Improvement Plan 2022/23; and

(B) to submit the draft RIP to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet for its consideration; and

(ii) noted that each individual authority would report on the RIP to their appropriate committee for approval, maintaining local democratic oversight.

Schedule of future meetings agreed.

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

Tuesday, 22nd November 2022 at 1030 hours;
Tuesday, 7th March 2023 at 1030 hours; and
Tuesday, 30th May 2023 at 1030 hours.