**Item 3**
**12th September 2023**

**Glasgow City Region**

**Education Committee**

**Report by: Mark Ratter, Regional Lead Officer**

**Contact: Sharon Hayward**

**West Partnership:**
**Draft Regional Improvement Plan 2023-2024**

## Purpose of the briefing

To provide the Committee with the opportunity to examine the West Partnership's Draft Improvement Plan and to seek the Committee's endorsement of the attached plan.

## Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

(i) Note and endorse the Draft Improvement Plan;
(ii) Note that each individual authority will report on the Improvement Plan to their appropriate Committee for approval, maintaining local democratic oversight; and
(iii) Agree that the approved Improvement Plan be presented to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, for noting.

## 1. Overview:

1.1. In September 2022, the Regional Education Committee approved the submission of the West Partnership's Regional Improvement Plan to Education Scotland, as required by the Education Governance Strategic Report from the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, SOLACE, ADES and COSLA.

1.2. The West Partnership has prepared an updated Regional Improvement Plan (Appendix 1), outlining future proposed activity, based on the revised governance and operational structure previously approved by the Regional Education Committee.

1.3. The West Partnership has continued to seek to emphasise the importance of maintaining local democratic accountability, and to enhance and support the existing improvement measures being implemented by individual education authorities.

## 2. The West Partnership Regional Improvement Plan

2.1. Committed to professional reflection and rigorous evaluation, a framework of evaluation activities provides a range of evidence to inform next steps in improvement planning.

2.2. Over the past session, a comprehensive range of engagements with stakeholders took place, complementing the ongoing evaluation activity; giving a clearer set of qualitative and quantitative data to ensure the new Improvement Plan meets the needs of practitioners and officers across the West Partnership.

2.3. 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 colleagues, all contributed to the Improvement Plan 2023-24.

2.4. Taking account of all consultation to date, there is clear consensus that existing programmes and activity are broadly meeting the needs of officers and practitioners across the West Partnership. It is suggested most programmes continue, following review and in some cases, augmentation.

2.5. These reviews have allowed the West Partnership to plan for greater reach, more collaborative opportunities and to include activity to support new cohorts of colleagues.

2.6. Discussion at the West Partnership Board meeting in June 2023, also identified activity in the areas of Supporting Improvement, to be developed within the Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement workstream, and Artificial Intelligence, to be developed with the West OS Team. Proposals for these are being developed and will be taken to the relevant workstream meetings in September.

## 3. Regional Improvement Collaborative Peer Review Process

3.1. In recent years, Education Scotland have facilitated a peer review process, leading to a report on progress which is presented to the Cabinet Secretary.

3.2. To assist in the process and strengthen approaches to self-evaluation, senior colleagues from across the Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) have worked over the course of the year to establish a draft self-evaluation framework. A version of this framework will be used as part of the evidence considered by the Scottish Government in their review of RICs.

## 4. Next Steps

4.1. The Committee's Terms of Reference, as agreed in September 2022, require the Committee to examine and endorse the draft Improvement Plan. In addition, in seeking to ensure local democratic accountability, members will be required to report back to their own authorities through appropriate individual local governance arrangements for approval.

4.2. In seeking to ensure that the West Partnership can continue to contribute to the wider work of the Glasgow City Regional Economic Strategy, the West Partnership is required to report to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet. A report will be prepared, including the endorsed Regional Improvement Plan, and presented to the Cabinet by the Regional Lead Officer or Convener of the Regional Education Committee (as appropriate).

## 5. Recommendations:

5.1. It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note and endorse the Draft Improvement Plan;
- Note that each individual authority will report on the Improvement Plan to their appropriate Committee for approval, maintaining local democratic oversight; and
- Agree that the approved Improvement Plan be presented to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, for noting.