GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Item 1
12th September 2023

Minutes of meeting held on 30th May 2023 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 Emma Rodden, Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Clare Steel, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Apologies: Douglas Hutchison, Glasgow City Council; Councillor Jim Clocherty, Inverclyde Council; Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; and Alan Taylor, Head Teacher co-opted representative.

Attending: Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Catriona Calvert, Sharon Hayward, Carol McArdle and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Lorna Goldie and Gerry Lyons (substitute for Douglas Hutchison), Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Janie O'Neill (substitute for Derek Brown), North Lanarkshire Council; Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire Council; and Pamela Di Nardo, Education Scotland.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 7th March 2023.

West Partnership – Finance update March 2023 – Position noted.

2 There was submitted a report by the Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, outlining the budget allocations for the West Partnership for 2022/23, including claims made to date and the projected commitments against each programme workstream for the period from 1st April to 30th November 2022, advising

(1) that the financial sub-group had met on 23rd March 2023 to discuss the year end closure process for 2022/23 and each theme lead had been required to determine appropriate costs to support the delivery of the actions for their work programme and that Finance Leads were liaising to ensure the financial projections were correct and relevant claims had now been made;

(2) that all Local Authorities were currently in the process of closing off their accounts for 2022/23 and not all authorities practiced faster closure and a timetable for final claims had been agreed with Finance Officers within the West Partnership;

(3) that authorities had been asked to accrue in the teachers' pay award and resubmit their claims on that basis to ensure consistency;

(4) that as part of the streamlining of processes, it had been agreed that all of the main invoices in relation to certain workstreams would be processed through 1 lead authority, thereby facilitating the planning process and allowing authorities to deal with procurement thresholds for both recurring and one-off spends;

(5) of the financial costings and a summary of the West Partnership's financial commitments to 31st March 2023, which at this stage was an estimate, with the financial year end process to determine true figures, as detailed in the report;

(6) that all claims had been made to the Scottish Government for the West Partnership funding in August and December 2022, with claim 3 being made on 21st March 2023, and that the full budget of £1,515,500 had been claimed; and

(7) that the carry forward from 2021/22 of £316,348 was expected to be fully exhausted and the balance was expected to be used for the teachers' pay award.

After consideration and having heard Lorna Goldie, Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, the committee noted the claims that had been made during 2022/23.

West Partnership – Early Level Specialist Network update noted.

3 There was submitted and noted a report by the Workstream Lead Officer, providing an update regarding the continued development of the Early Level Specialist Network, advising that

(1) in November 2021, discussion had taken place regarding Play Pedagogy at the Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment workstream meeting and it had been agreed that a sub-group, with appropriate decision makers as members be established to co-create a proposal;

(2) from the work of the sub-group, the 'Principles of Effective Learning Through Play and Enquiry' Framework, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, had been co-created and was currently being used across the West Partnership;

(3) representatives had also created and shared video recordings of the West Partnership website to support colleagues in using the framework;

(4) since August 2022, the sub-group had become a specialist network taking forward a proposal from the West Partnership Early Years Group which centred on the opportunity to defer entry to primary school and that the specialist network had agreed to develop coherent guidance and advice which

took into account children's early learning and childcare experiences from August 2023 to ensure that school staff with responsibility for the early level were fully aware of the learner journey and could support a coherent and progressive transition;

(5) the specialist network was currently working across 3 main themes in their plan, namely, Planning for child-centred Pedagogy, Child Development and Transition, as well as focussing on 3 main areas, planning, guidance and self-evaluation, as detailed in the report;

(6) by overtaking priorities in the specialist network plan, representatives were creating clear guidance for school leaders on how to quality assure and maintain high quality experiences for learners that supported their progression and continued to meet the needs of the different developmental stages in the playroom and classroom from June 2023; and

(7) representatives were planning to offer training on using the guidance for leaders and practitioners in 2023/24, which had been discussed and agreed by the West Partnership Early Years Group.

Spotlight on Wellbeing for Learning workstream – Presentation noted etc.

4 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing an update on the progress made across the range of activities in the Wellbeing for Learning workstream and outlining the planned next steps within that workstream, advising

(1) that the Wellbeing for Learning workstream had been added to the West Partnership Implementation Plan following the COVID-19 pandemic to recognise the importance of supporting wellbeing for children and young people in a range of areas, and that a range of programmes, professional learning sessions and specialist networks had supported collaboration across this important area;

(2) that 7 specialist networks had been established consisting of representatives from each local authority with a common remit or purpose, with a short action plan being established for each group to promote collaboration and economy of scale and that 2 new specialist networks had been established this session, based on local authority need and request, namely, Attendance and The Promise;

(3) that workstream activity had been implemented over 8 areas and 2 particular strengths this session had been work on youth participation with the work being undertaken through the new Attendance specialist network, as detailed in the report;

(4) of the proposed next steps, which had included a new opportunity for collaboration using the Collaborative Action Research model supported by the Robert Owen Centre, a new specialist network being established for Personal

and Social Education and an additional specialist network to support local authorities in promoting and implementing United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

After consideration, and having heard a presentation by Catriona Calvert, Workstream Lead Officer, the committee noted

(a) the progress made across the range of activities in the Wellbeing for Learning workstream; and

(b) the planned next steps, as detailed in the report.

Robert Owen Centre – Interim West Partnership Evaluation Report – Position noted.

5 There was submitted and noted a report by Professor Chris Chapman, The Robert Owen Centre (ROC), University of Glasgow, providing an update on the interim evaluation of the West Partnership's progress, as conducted by the ROC and identifying the next steps for the final evaluation, advising

(1) that the ROC West Partnership evaluation, 2022/23 had been in 3 phases, and that this report from Phase 1 entitled 'Understanding and Defining Impact', as detailed in an appendix to the report, aimed to scope West Partnership definitions and understanding of impact, 2020-22, from internal data and from ROC evaluation evidence from the same time frame;

(2) that the key themes had coalesced around definitions used and understanding of impact, added value to the West Partnership local authorities and building collective agency to drive improvement, within and across the Partnership;

(3) of the key findings, as detailed in the report;

(4) that significant impacts had taken place which had led to systems improvement and impacted on learners; and

(5) that findings on defining and understanding impact from Phase 1 had informed the design of survey questions, distributed in March 2023, during Phase 2, 'Engagement and Demonstrating Impact' and that findings from both phases would be used to inform evaluation design for Phase 3, 'Cases of Impact: Insights and Learning'.

After consideration, the committee noted the ROC West Partnership interim evaluation report and the proposed next steps.

Appointment of the new Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead noted etc.

6 The Chair

(1) advised that Tony McDaid would soon be leaving his role as Executive Director of Education, South Lanarkshire Council and that consequently, this would mean that there was now a requirement to fill the role of Regional Lead Officer for the West Partnership and that this process was being led by the Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council on behalf of the Glasgow City Region and that an update would be provided to this committee when this had been concluded;

(2) congratulated Steven Quinn who had been recently appointed Chief Executive of East Renfrewshire Council and that this would be his last meeting of the committee; and

(3) highlighted that the 2 workstream lead officers, Carol McArdle and Cat Calvert would be returning to their posts at the end of their secondment period in June 2023.

After consideration, the committee thanked Tony, Steven, Carol and Cat for their commitment to the committee, acknowledged that their hard work had been integral to the ongoing success and progress of the West Partnership and wished them every success in the future.

Date of next meeting.

7 The committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 12th September 2023 at 1030 hours.