Item 5
30th May 2023

Glasgow City Region Education Committee

Report by: Professor Chris Chapman, The Robert Owen Centre, Glasgow University

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Robert Owen Centre (ROC) – West Partnership (WP) Evaluation Report

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update of the interim evaluation of the West Partnership's progress, as conducted by Robert Owen Centre, Glasgow university, and identify next steps for the final evaluation.

Recommendations :

The committee is asked to:

- Note the attached ROC - WP Evaluation Report: West Partnership RIC Interim Evaluation Report, Phase 1: Defining and Understanding Impact; and
- Note the next steps.

1. Background

1.1. The ROC – WP Evaluation, 2022-2023 is in three phases. This report is from Phase 1: *Understanding and Defining Impact*, (October 2022-February 2023), within the WP. The main aim of this phase was to scope WP definitions and understanding of impact, 2020-2022, from internal data and from ROC evaluation evidence from the same time frame.

2. Key themes

2.1. The themes coalesced around definitions used and understanding of impact, added value to the WP Local Authorities and building collective agency to drive improvement, within and across the WP.

3. Key findings:

3.1. A sense that more significant impacts or changes occurred in the latter academic year (2021-2022).

3.2. Relationships (across the eight LAs/WP) have been beneficial and strengthened during the pandemic.

3.3. There was a recognisable shift in the degree of added value in 2021-2022. Participants were noticeably clearer about how it had impacted on them, their school, their service, and LA during the worst of the pandemic.

3.4. Added value was also noted from the culture and values of the WP.

3.5. In the second round of evaluation (2021-2022) there was more mention of professional or collaborative learning, particularly in upskilling, of both teachers and LA staff.

3.6. There was also more of a recognition by the evaluation participants, of collective agency being built, through collective capacity and a clearer association as to how this led to, or in some cases, was driving or accelerating improvement.

4. Summary

4.1 Significant impacts have taken place, which have led to systems improvement and impacted on learners.

5. Next steps:

5.1. Findings on defining and understanding impact from Phase 1 have informed the design of survey questions, distributed in March, during Phase 2 *Engagement and Demonstrating Impact,* (February-April 2023).

5.2. The findings from both phases will be used to inform our evaluation design for Phase 3: *Cases of Impact: Insights and Learning,* (May-July 2023).

6. Recommendations

6.1. The Committee is asked to:

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- Note the next steps.