GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Item 1
30th May 2023

Minutes of meeting held on 7th March 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 Jim Clocherty, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Emma Rodden, Renfrewshire Council; and Councillor Gavin Keatt, South Lanarkshire Council (substitute for Councillor Lynsey Hamilton).

Apologies: Douglas Hutchison, Glasgow City Council; Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, South Lanarkshire Council; Councillor Clare Steel and Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire Council; and Pamela Di Nardo, Education Scotland.

Attending: Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Sharon Hayward, Carol McArdle and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Lorna Goldie and Gerry Lyons, Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Andrew Brown, West Dunbartonshire Council (substitute for Laura Mason); and Alan Taylor, Head Teacher co-opted representative.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 22nd November 2022.

West Partnership – Finance update March 2023 – Position noted.

2 There was submitted a report by the Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on the West Partnership's financial position, 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 Scottish Government had awarded grant funding of £1,515,500 to support the West Partnership's programme of work for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023;

(2) that a financial subgroup, made up of officers from each member authority, had required each theme lead to determine appropriate costs to support the delivery of the actions for their work programme;

(3) of 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 determining true figures, as detailed in the report;

(4) that in December 2022 a claim had been made for all expenditure up to 30th November 2022, with 1 remaining claim for March 2023, projected to be a full spend, currently still being finalised;

(4) 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 teacher's pay award, that had yet to be agreed, and other non-recurring costs.

After consideration and having heard Lorna Goldie, Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, the committee noted the claim to December 2022 and the financial projection for 2022/23.

West Partnership – Highlight report noted.

3 There was submitted a report by the Evaluation Lead Officer, regarding progress on the Collective Impact and Highlight Report during the period from October 2022 to January 2023, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, including exemplars from the 3 workstreams, advising

(1) that the focus of this session had been on the delivery of a range of professional learning opportunities, collaborative action research, improvement and curriculum development throughout the West Partnership (WP);

(2) that the Workstream Lead Officers (WLOs) had engaged with local authority central officers, head teachers, staff, children and young people, and that through this activity, the WP was improving knowledge and confidence, encouraging collaboration and networking and influencing practice change which had a positive impact on the outcomes of learners;

(3) that, a review of the critical indicators had been undertaken, with some indicators having been removed due to their relevance, as well as a few additions to better demonstrate equity in the partnership, thereby creating an alignment between the critical indicators and the partnership values, namely, excellence, equity and empowerment;

(4) that 3 illustrations had been selected by the WLOs in partnership with the Data and Evaluation Officer, the purpose of each was to showcase specific workstream activity and the impact of this through the 3 drivers, and that taken together, those 3 illustrations had contributed to a cycle of practice change and improvement, as detailed in the report; and

(5) of a brief summary of the work currently being undertaken by each of the 3 illustrations, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, and having heard Steven Quinn, Head of Children's Services,

Renfrewshire Council, the committee noted

(a) the progress of the partnership in relation to the 3 drivers for improvement; and

(b) the progress of each workstream's programmes for the period from October 2022 to January 2023, together with the amendments to the critical indicators.

Developing the West Partnership Improvement Plan priorities 2023/24 – Position noted.

4 There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Officer providing an outline of the consultation process for updating the West Partnership Improvement Plan 2023/24, advising

(1) that during the 2021/22 session, the core team had worked together to establish a new Theory of Change model, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, that had identified 3 key strategic drivers of improvement, namely, collaboration, practitioner development and changes to practice;

(2) that the new model had allowed highlight and evaluation reports to include evaluative detail on the progress of each workstream individually and also provided a more holistic evaluation of the added value of partnership work, with evaluation reports being used to help identify the partnership's priorities for the year;

(3) that Workstream Lead Officers had facilitated consensus-building conversations around the work of their workstream across a wide range of stakeholders and had identified areas where programmes had required modification, and in some instances new activities had been suggested to meet needs identified in those conversations or that had been highlighted in gathered evidence;

(4) of the work that was continuing with the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change and as its interim report was completed, this would be used as a lens through which to view progress of the partnership, as detailed in the report;

(5) that following the model of the 2022/23 consultation process, a similar model had been adopted this session with a review of the evidence relating to the 3 drivers of improvement having shown that this year's Plan would benefit from continued focus on generating evidence of impact within driver 3, 'change to practice', and this would be a clear priority across all 3 workstreams;

(6) that a number of draft priorities had been discussed with the Senior Partnership Officer, individual workstream sponsors and with the Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead, with further suggestions and advice being taken into account as the new Plan was developed; and

(7) that, as a number of the West Partnership core team were coming to the end of their secondments in August 2023, the improvement planning process had been expedited to ensure continuity, sustainability and effective transition, thereby minimising any risk to the pace or progress of the Plan for 2023/24.

After consideration, and having heard Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, the committee noted the evaluation processes relating to the current West Partnership Improvement Plan and consultation activity in establishing the new Plan.

West Online School – Update noted.

5 There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Service, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on the ongoing work of the West Online School (West OS), as it continued to diversify and evolve, advising

(1) that the West OS video content had encouraged independent learning by enabling learners to work at their own pace while undertaking independent study and exam preparation;

(2) that the high-quality online resources were available to practitioners to enhance teaching and learning and were a welcome addition to a practitioner toolkit;

(3) that whilst the recorded element produced by teachers remained at the heart of West OS, it had been necessary to extend the range of resources to ensure West OS continued to add value to the work of schools and to support teachers and young people, and had included a selection of careers videos and brochures that provided advice on navigating primary to secondary transition;

(4) that West OS had also created a series of short films that aimed to empower learners with the information required before moving to the next stage of their journey;

(5) of information on the Podcast series, Westcast, that reflected key points in the school year by having episodes which supported key moments such as transition, college and university applications and exam preparations, with the Podcast page having been reviewed over 500 times since its release;

(6) of information regarding usage and traffic on the website in respect of a variety of new learning materials that were being developed;

(7) of information on the West OS interactive study webinars that were popular with young people as it was a new and innovative way to learn and which were guided by the SQA course reports, meaning that tricky or complex content was the focus that could help to build confidence; and

(8) of a number of future initiatives that would add to the continued development of West OS, which had included the launch of a Parent Channel to support

parents and carers with the use of West OS, as well as the production of more digital content such as Masterclasses and Podcasts that could be used to enrich learning experiences.

After consideration, and having heard Gerry Lyons, Head of Service, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, the committee noted the continued development, reach and impact of West OS.

Keep Scotland Beautiful: Upstream Battle on the Clyde – Position noted.

6 There was submitted a report by the Workstream Lead Officer providing an update on the 'Upstream Battle on the Clyde' programme across the West Partnership (WP) and of its development for 2023/24, advising

(1) that the WP had worked with Keep Scotland Beautiful to extend the 'Upstream Battle on the Clyde' project, with funding of £40,000 having allowed the WP to appoint a Development Officer to lead 4 key projects between March 2022 to March 2023 (Phase 3);

(2) that Upstream Battle presented a relevant and accessible context for developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills, learning about sustainability, and deepening understanding of the climate emergency and circular economy;

(3) of the 4 key projects within Phase 3 of the programme (namely, 'Marine Litter art competition', Career-long Professional Learning course', STEM the Flow' and 'Young Reporters for the Environment') that had so far resulted in engaging with 63 schools, across all education sectors and in all 8 local authorities of the WP, with this number expected to increase with additional programme strands being delivered in the spring term;

(4) of a summary evaluation regarding each of the 4 projects, as detailed in the report; and

(5) that moving into session 2023/24, it was important to review the added value of the Keep Scotland Beautiful offer, and evaluations, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, had suggested that the Development Officer continued to be part-funded from Keep Scotland Beautiful to lead the programme, specifically to establish a sustainable model for STEM the Flow programme, which had had the most impact on WP young people.

After consideration, and having heard Carol McArdle, Workstream Lead Officer, the committee noted

(a) the progress of the Upstream Battle on the Clyde programme; and

(b) the development of the work for the 2023/24 Improvement Plan.

Date of next meeting.

7 The committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 30th May 2023 at 1030 hours.