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.