GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Item 2
22nd September 2022

Minutes of meeting held on 1st March 2022 by video conference.

Present: Councillor Jim Paterson (Chair), Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Jim Goodall, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Chris Cunningham, Glasgow City Council; Councillor Jim Clocherty, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Katy Loudon, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Karen Conaghan, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Apologies: Councillor Frank McNally and Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; and Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Attending: Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Sharon Hayward and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Douglas Hutchison, Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Janie O'Neill, North Lanarkshire Council (substitute for Derek Brown); Steven Quinn and Lauren Johnston, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Alan Taylor, Head Teacher co-opted representative; and Pamela Di Nardo, Education Scotland.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 23rd November 2021.

West Partnership – Highlight report and presentation noted.

2 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer summarising the key workstream activities from the West Partnership highlight report, which was detailed in appendix 1 of the paper and covered the reporting period from November 2021 to January 2022, advising

(1) that previous highlight reports had focused mainly on the immediate impact of individual workstream activity, however this report aimed to focus on the collective and long-term impact of the programme through evidenced themes;

(2) that through the evaluation strategy, three collective impact themes had been identified through discussions at the Progress and Impact meetings, including, collaboration, increased knowledge/confidence and practice change, all as detailed in the report;

(3) that all workstreams were continuing to make very good progress with the delivery of plans and activities and the core team continued to work closely with a range of partners, including Education Scotland, the Robert Owen Centre, Stirling University and the Mudd Partnership, as detailed in the report;

(4) of a number of highlights during this session, which had included:-

(a) the delivery of three Virtual Learning Networks that had resulted in the sharing of information, enhanced knowledge and awareness and simulated self-evaluation and practice change;

(b) the delivery of professional learning activities in a range of Personal and Social Education, such as Gambling and Gaming, as well as train the trainer in UNCRC; and

(c) Senior Leaders having completed the first five sessions of the Critical Collaborative Professional Enquiry programme, and over 250 participants having signed up for the Pedagogy for All programme;

(5) that West Online Schools had continued to support practitioners and pupils in their teaching and learning and this was evidenced by the growth of a number of measures during this reporting period; and

(6) of the next steps for the partnership, as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Lauren Johnston, Renfrewshire Council, the committee noted the report.

The work of the West Partnership's Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement workstream – Presentation noted etc.

3 There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Officer providing an update on the West Partnership's Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement workstream, advising

(1) that the West Partnership Improvement Plan, 2021/22, set out the driving vision for Equity, Excellence and Empowerment across all eight partner authorities;

(2) that in light of the significant challenges that schools and establishments had faced over the last two years, it had been anticipated that this would affect face to face and online attendance at planned activities, direct interaction with planned programmes and completion of both online/offline tasks, which had been the case with almost all activities being virtual/online;

(3) that within the Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement workstream, activity had been planned and delivered across six key areas, all as detailed in the report; and

(4) of a number of workstream progress highlights, including work that had been undertaken in respect of Virtual Leadership Networks, as well as the Thinking About Headship and Improving Our Classroom programmes, as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Sharon Hayward, Senior

Partnership Officer, the committee noted the progress of the Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement workstream.

The evaluation of the impact of 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare noted.

4 There was submitted a report by the Chief Education Officer, West Dunbartonshire Council providing an update on the West Partnership evaluation of the implementation of 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), advising

(1) of the background to the Scottish Government's transformational agenda for ELC which had been published in 2017, which aimed to almost double the entitlement of free ELC from 600 to 1400 hours per year by 2020 for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds, all of which had been underpinned by the key principles of Quality, Flexibility, Accessibility and Affordability;

(2) that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government had set a new implementation statutory duty date of August 2021, however, during session 2020/21, all 8 local authorities who made up the west Partnership had begun to provide 1140 hours of ELC prior to the revised statutory duty date, with most providing from August 2020;

(3) that it was now the intention to evaluate the implementation of the 1140 hours of ELC across all 8 local authority areas, focussing on 2 primary areas, namely, outcomes for children and experiences of stakeholders, as detailed in the report;

(4) of the two overarching research questions of the proposed evaluation, together with the wider themes to be explored, as detailed in the report; and

(5) that, in order to answer these questions, a variety of quantitative and qualitative methods would be implemented, supported by a research assistant, and that an advisory group would be established to advise on the direction of this work with regular updates being presented to the Early Years Network and the West Partnership Governance Board, all as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard Tony McDaid, Regional Lead Officer, the committee noted the report.

West Online Schools update noted.

5 There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Officer updating the committee on the progress and evolution of West Online Schools (West OS) and of plans for evolving the West OS offer to support schools further, advising

(1) of the origin and aim of West OS and whilst acknowledging the importance of recorded lessons continuing to be developed and extended, West OS

required to evolve further in order to support and deliver learning through a wider range of media and in targeted ways, to better meet the needs of young people's learning and link directly to the work that was taking place within school settings;

(2) that significant progress had been made in a number of areas and the first West OS Live, which offered real time, interactive study support webinars to provide additional support to learners within the Senior Phase, would run this term, as detailed in the report;

(3) that West OS Live aimed to extend the time learners could access live study support already available through the National e-Learning Offer and E-Sgoil who currently offered a wide range of study support between 5pm and 8pm, with a West OS Live Easter revision programme also being planned;

(4) that West OS was also exploring the development of curriculum packages, a process which was currently underway in a number of curricular areas within West OS to enhance the learner experience, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report;

(5) of a number of other areas being rolled out, including, Masterclasses/Guest Lectures and Theme days/weeks as contexts for learning in the Broad General Education, as detailed in the report; and

(6) that the West OS team was designing a self-evaluation approach to the curriculum packages and would be approaching a range of schools across all local authorities to be focus schools for the new curricular packages, as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, the committee noted the report.