

**GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**

Meeting held on 26th February 2019, at the City Chambers, Glasgow.

**Present:** Councillor Jim Paterson (Chair), Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Jim Goodall, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Paul O'Kane, East Renfrewshire 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.

**Apology:** Councillor Frank McNally, North Lanarkshire Council.

**Attending:** Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Mhairi Shaw and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Maureen McKenna, David McClelland and Graeme Hay, Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; Carole McKenzie, South Lanarkshire Council; Claire Cusick, West Dunbartonshire Council; and Alistair Brown, Education Scotland.

**Minutes of previous meeting approved.**

- 1** There was submitted and approved the minutes of 20th November 2018.

**Phase Two Improvement Plan – Position noted etc.**

**2** With reference to the minutes of 28th August 2018 noting and endorsing the Phase Two Regional Improvement Plan, there was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing an update on the progress being made with the Plan, advising that

- (1) an Improvement Plan tracker, detailed in an appendix to the report, had been developed to monitor progress with actions, which were discussed at each six-weekly Board meeting;
- (2) any actions at risk of being missed were considered by the Board and mitigating steps, including any change of expected data where necessary, were agreed;
- (3) theme leads had reconsidered original actions, brought alternative suggestions to the Board for discussion and, where required, sought agreement for a course of action;
- (4) progress was also being made in other areas of work, such as through the development of external communication channels, the proposed development of a West Partnership website, and the West Partnership Twitter account now had approximately 1,100 followers, with over 70,000 Tweet impressions per month; and

- (5) good progress was being made with the Phase Two Improvement Plan actions, all as highlighted in the tracker.

After consideration, the Committee

- (a) noted the progress being made with the Phase Two Implementation Plan and in other areas of work, all as detailed in the report; and
- (b) instructed the Regional Lead Officer to submit future updates to the committee.

### **Financial framework and proposed allocation of West Partnership's grant – Position noted etc.**

**3** There was submitted a report by the Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on the West Partnership's financial framework and the proposed allocation of grant, advising

- (1) that in June 2018, the Scottish Government had announced a funding package to support the development of Regional Improvement Collaboratives across Scotland and the West Partnership's Phase Two Improvement Plan had outlined a series of actions to be undertaken with an initial funding request of £759,000 to support the delivery of the plan;
- (2) that in November 2018, the West Partnership had received notification of a total grant award of £828,488 for the period from 1st August 2018 to 31st July 2019;
- (3) that a Financial Sub-Group, chaired by David McClelland, Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council (GCC) had been established to administer and manage the grant award, all as detailed in the report;
- (4) that GCC would be responsible for providing a quarterly summary to each of the officers on the Sub-Group and to the West Partnership Board, with any emerging material project over/under spend being raised with GCC to ensure that any variance be initiated with the Board, and individual host authorities would be responsible for monitoring progress and ensuring local compliance with grant conditions;
- (5) of the West Partnership's current financial commitments in seeking to deliver the agreed actions which had been set out in the Phase Two Improvement plan, all as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (6) that the Regional Lead Officer would continue to engage with COSLA and the Scottish Government to devise an appropriate funding formula to support the work of the West Partnership and the delivery of future Improvement Plans.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the financial framework established through the West Partnership's Financial Sub-Group and the proposed allocation of the Partnership's grant of £828,488 for the academic year 2018/19; and
- (b) after having heard Mhairi Shaw make reference to a forthcoming meeting with COSLA regarding discussions around future funding proposals, agreed that a formula based allocation be favoured, comprising elements of poverty and rurality.

#### **Interim review of Regional Improvement Collaboratives noted.**

**4** There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer regarding the outcome of the recent interim review of Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) for Scottish Government, advising

- (1) that the report, which had been published on 6th February 2019, and was detailed in an appendix, set out the findings of a review of the establishment of the RICs and would ultimately inform and support further development of the RICs whilst providing a baseline for future review;
- (2) that the interim review had involved in-depth discussions with regional and national stakeholders and school staff, including 39 head teachers and 8 other teachers from within 42 schools across Scotland;
- (3) of the key findings of the report;
- (4) that all stakeholders had indicated that it would take time to see an impact, however, some school staff had given very positive early examples of sharing best practice, skills development and influencing practice around areas of leadership, self-evaluation, moderation of assessment, improvement methodologies, parental engagement, mathematics, early literacy and equality; and
- (5) of the next steps, which included:-
  - (a) further developing stakeholder engagement to ensure that the plan reflected the needs and priorities of school improvement plans; and
  - (b) plans to enhance stakeholder understanding of the vision and purpose and how that work complemented the work of local authorities, with a number of Head Teacher events planned in March 2019 to reflect this.

After consideration, the committee noted the national progress being made with the establishment of the RICs.

## **Update on attainment data – Presentation noted etc.**

**5** The committee heard a presentation by Mark Ratter, Head of Education (Quality Improvement and Performance), East Renfrewshire Council, providing an update on the West Partnership Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and Senior Phase attainment data, during which he highlighted:-

- (1) detailed data on a range of critical indicators in literacy and numeracy;
- (2) statistics in respect of average total cumulative insight points by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD);
- (3) that CfE performance was in line with, or better than, the national average in both primary and secondary establishments;
- (4) that the Senior phase had consistently outperformed the national average for all key indicators;
- (5) that across the Broad General Education, the proportion of pupils from SIMD deciles 1 and 2 achieving the expected levels had increased; and
- (6) the next steps, which included:-
  - (a) data sharing agreement;
  - (b) further analysis in terms of key equity groups; and
  - (c) ongoing opportunities for leaders and staff to improve assessment and moderation.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) noted and thanked Mr Ratter for his presentation; and
- (ii) agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this committee providing information on the work undertaken to improve assessment and moderation across the region.

## **Date of next meeting noted.**

**6** The committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 28th May 2019 at 1000 hours within the City Chambers, Glasgow.