



Glasgow City Region – City Deal

Cabinet

Report by Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative

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Item 2

10th April 2018

Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative – Progress Report

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the progress of the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative and the proposed next steps.

Recommendations :

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- notes the update on the three workstreams from the GCREIC Improvement Plan;
- notes the feedback provided on the Improvement Plan from Education Scotland; and
- supports the proposed next steps on the development of the GCREIC's future Improvement Plan for September 2018.

1. Background

- 1.1. Following the submission of the Improvement Plan in January 2018, the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative (GCREIC), known as the West Partnership, has been working to develop actions across the three initial workstreams outlined in the plan.
- 1.2. Each of the workstreams is led by a member of the Partnership: Maureen McKenna (Glasgow City Council), leading the improvement workstream; Tony McDaid (South Lanarkshire Council), leading the learner journey workstream; and Laura Mason (West Dunbartonshire Council), leading the early learning and childcare workstream.
- 1.3. The workstreams have established a number of working groups, reporting to the appointed lead officer. The working groups are comprised of a mix of officers and teaching staff from across the eight partner authorities. Each working group is developing a series of action plans to achieve the aims set out in the initial Improvement Plan.
- 1.4. In addition, alongside Education Scotland, the West Partnership has held two one-day conferences with senior teaching staff from across the region, allowing opportunities to discuss the Improvement Plan. Feedback from these conferences will inform future Improvement Plan development.

2. Workstreams – Progress Report

- 2.1. The improvement workstream, led by Maureen McKenna, has been working to develop a number of activities, particularly focusing on the support offered to teaching and support staff and the use of performance data to support improvement activities. In particular, the group has been working alongside Education Scotland to seek to develop a series of conferences, designed and tailored to the needs of school staff across the region.
- 2.2. In addition, the Improvement workstream has been seeking to work with authorities from across the region to develop a 'best practice' approach to LNCT agreements. Importantly, local agreements will continue to be negotiated at authority level, however, this activity ensures individual authorities can draw on the experience and practice of partners.
- 2.3. The learner journey workstream, led by Tony McDaid, has initially focussed on the senior phase of the curriculum, however, it is intended to widen this out further. The workstream is seeking to establish links with the regional college boards, ensuring a wider view of the entire learner journey.
- 2.4. The early learning and childcare workstream, led by Laura Mason, has built on the existing strong networks of staff across the region. In recent years, a group of senior early years staff from across the partner authorities have worked together, particularly around the expansion programme, and have provided a strong base for the development of future activity.

- 2.5. The workstream is developing a series of specific actions tailored to the needs of early learning and childcare providers whilst also recognising the expansion priorities facing each authority. This has included the development of a West Partnership specific quality measure and the intention to develop a regional approach to supporting outdoor learning across early years.
- 2.6. A fourth group is working to establish baselines and targets, reflecting the critical indicators approved by the Regional Education Committee. There are ongoing discussions with the Scottish Government regarding the release of data to support this work; however, and in the meantime, the group has drafted an agreement to allow each constituent education authority to share data to complete this initial exercise.
- 2.7. Baselines have been established, which will be shared with the Regional Education Committee, with the intention that these and targets will be included in phase two of the Improvement Plan.
- 2.8. A full report on the activity of each workstream will be provided to the Education Committee at the next meeting on the 17th April 2018.

3. Improvement Plan – Education Scotland Feedback

- 3.1. Following the submission of the Improvement Plan in January, Education Scotland has provided feedback, identifying the strengths and areas for improvement to inform future plan development. Education Scotland's feedback recognises the clarity and strategic intent of the Partnership's initial Improvement Plan. The feedback highlights the strong links between the plan and the National Improvement Framework and the Regional Economic Strategy.
- 3.2. In addition, the feedback particularly praises the robust governance arrangements which have been established, noting the local democratic oversight provided by the Glasgow City Region Education Committee.
- 3.3. Given the scale of the Glasgow City Region, Education Scotland has recognised the likely challenges in consulting with educational establishments across the region. In response to these challenges, the Partnership has been working with staff across the region to explore the opportunities for consultation and will be seeking to develop tools to support stakeholder engagement in the coming months as it develops the phase two of the Improvement Plan.
- 3.4. A full report on the Improvement Plan feedback will be submitted to the next meeting of the Education Committee on 17th April 2018 for consideration.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. A second, updated version of the Improvement Plan is required to be submitted to Education Scotland by 3rd September 2018. This second version of the plan should seek to address the comments provided by Education

Scotland, as may be deemed appropriate, and reflect the updated improvement priorities identified by schools and early years settings across the region.

- 4.2. In addition to the feedback provided by Education Scotland, the West Partnership will also develop the updated plan based on the feedback from staff at the conferences last month. This feedback will ensure greater consultation with staff to address the concerns previously raised by Education Scotland.
- 4.3. Given the detailed actions now being devised, phase two of the Improvement Plan will also identify the necessary resources to fully implement it. It is intended that a bid to the Scottish Government will be made as a consequence.
- 4.4. The individual workstreams will continue to develop action plans, reflecting the priorities outlined in the Improvement Plan, reporting to the Education Committee and, subsequently, Cabinet.
- 4.5. The West Partnership will continue to provide regular updates to Cabinet as required, alongside the Glasgow City Region Education Committee.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - notes the update on the three workstreams from the GCREIC Improvement Plan;
 - notes the feedback provided on the Improvement Plan from Education Scotland; and
 - supports the proposed next steps on the development of the GCREIC's future Improvement Plan for September 2018.