

GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meeting held on 2nd March 2021 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; and Councillor Katy Loudon, South Lanarkshire Council.
- Apologies:** Jacqueline MacDonald and Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Frank McNally and Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Karen Conaghan and Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire Council.
- Attending:** Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Gerry Lyons and Maureen McKenna, Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Gerard McLaughlin, North Lanarkshire Council (substitute for Derek Brown); Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Julie McGrogan, West Dunbartonshire Council (substitute for Laura Mason); Alan Taylor, Head Teacher co-opted representative; Patricia Watson, Education Scotland; and Professor Chris Chapman, University of Glasgow.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

- 1** There was submitted and approved the minutes of 17th November 2020.

West Partnership – Draft Interim Action Plan – Position agreed etc.

- 2** There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing the committee with an opportunity to examine the West Partnership's draft Interim Action Plan (IAP) and seeking endorsement of the Plan, advising that

- (1) in September 2020 the West Partnership Improvement Plan, 'The Road to Renewal: Our Response to COVID-19' had been drawn up outlining the Partnership's priorities for session 2020-23 and which aimed to support activities during the period of recovery from the pandemic, as well aiming to address both recovery and renewal;
- (2) the Plan had been organised under 3 key areas, together with a fourth workstream on Evaluation and Reporting, all as detailed in the report;
- (3) in January 2021, a further IAP, as detailed in an appendix to the report, had been drawn up at the request of Directors in order to address the challenges of the current and immediately foreseeable education landscape; and
- (4) the IAP, while based almost entirely on the existing 2020-23 Plan, had recognised the need to prioritise and accelerate certain aspects of that Plan,

having identified 7 priority projects, each of which had a specific relevance during the pandemic restrictions, and which had included:-

- (a) important and heavily subscribed leadership activities;
- (b) supporting learners with additional needs;
- (c) tracking learners' wellbeing; and
- (d) the significant contribution to the national digital learning offer, West Online School.

After consideration and having heard Tony McDaid, Regional Lead Officer, the Committee

- (i) noted and endorsed the draft IAP; and
- (ii) agreed
 - (A) that the draft IAP be submitted to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet for consideration; and
 - (B) to report to each individual Member Authority on the IAP, where appropriate.

West Partnership – Highlight report noted.

3 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 2020 to January 2021, advising that

- (1) this session, Lead Officers had focused on implementing the priorities detailed in the revised improvement plan for 2020-23, however, following the Christmas break, the Scottish Government had announced further restrictions which had resulted in the majority of children and young people learning remotely, ultimately resulting in Lead Officers prioritising their plans to ensure that activity was focused and streamlined to respond to the fast-changing landscape;
- (2) very good progress had been made in communications, with the consistent and continual activity via social media and the newly launched website having a demonstrable impact on raising awareness and engagement;
- (2) all workstreams were making very good progress in taking forward revised plans and positive feedback had been received from practitioners who had engaged in Partnership activity, all as detailed throughout the report;

- (3) the Partnership continued to have strong collaboration with a range of partners, including the Robert Owen Centre and Education Scotland;
- (4) as a result of continued restriction, there remained programme challenges, risks and slippage, as detailed in the report;
- (5) all officers within the extended West Partnership team, including link Board members, had demonstrated flexibility and responsiveness in their planning and key activities, ensuring that the work of the Partnership remained focused and based on the needs of practitioners and learners; and
- (6) there remained a focus on the recruitment of colleagues with the aim of increasing capacity and support for the Partnership.

After consideration and having heard Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council, the Committee noted the report.

West Online School – Ongoing development and presentation noted.

4 With reference to the minutes of 17th November 2020 noting a report which provided the background to the creation of the West Online School (West OS) and of the work which had been undertaken since West OS had commenced in June 2020, there was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing an updated position on the ongoing work of the West OS, advising that

- (1) in order to support teachers and children and young people during the period of the current lockdown, activity to support West OS had been prioritised and accelerated, resulting in all local authorities within the West Partnership now having access to an ever increasing library of lessons;
- (2) currently, over one thousand pre-recorded lessons, ranging across the Broad General Education into the Senior Phase were now available, and initial information gathered on the usage of West OS during the lockdown period had been very positive, showing that the lessons were being used by teachers and pupils; and
- (3) as West OS was now part of a national E-learning offer working in partnership with E-Sgoil, Education Scotland and other Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) in extending and developing the resources available, lessons could now be utilised by teachers and pupils from across all thirty two local authorities, with teachers from across all RICs making an important contribution to the development of content.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Gerry Lyons, Glasgow City Council, the committee noted the report.

Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change on the development of the West Partnership – Update and presentation noted etc.

5 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer summarising the key messages from the report by the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change on the development of the West Partnership, a copy of which was detailed in an appendix to the report, advising

- (1) that the report offered insights into the developments of the West Partnership (WP) and Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) and drew on evidence collected for the external evaluation since its inception in January 2018 until October 2020;
- (2) that the main aim of the evaluation had been to address 3 key research questions which centred on the contribution of the RIC to the local authorities, the contribution of Education Scotland's Regional Improvement Team to the RIC and the extent to which the RICs learning system had built collective agency to accelerate improvement;
- (3) that key findings from the report had suggested that the WP strategic vision and aims and objectives were clear and expressed in relation to attainment, learning and teaching and building capacity;
- (4) of various key factors which had enabled progress, as detailed in the report, with the report further recognising that, whilst the impact on learning and teaching and positive outcomes for children and young people took time, there were signs that these were occurring;
- (5) of a number of other key areas that were supporting progress, including:-
 - (a) increased opportunities for knowledge mobilisation and empowerment;
 - (b) workstream lead officers driving development and providing neutral support and advice; and
 - (c) access to expanding networks to share ideas and advice to help deal with the effects of the pandemic;
- (6) that the report had also recognised some challenges that the WP had faced, including:-
 - (a) initial progress at strategic level taking time to build consensus on approach, purpose and vision and agreeing respective roles and responsibilities; and
 - (b) the need to sustain and embed the initial successes and to invest in independent evaluation and monitoring for understanding the impact of the WP; and

- (7) of the next steps that had been identified which would form the basis of discussion across the WP on the ongoing development of the WP strategic priorities, all as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Professor Chris Chapman, University of Glasgow, the committee noted and endorsed the report, together with the identified next steps.

Recruitment process for the post of Senior Partnership Officer noted.

6 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing an update on the recruitment process for the seconded post of Senior Partnership Officer (SPO), advising

- (1) of the background to the review of governance and operational structures which had led to the secondment of workstream lead officers in August 2019, all of who had made a strong impact in driving forward workstream activities under the guidance and leadership of designated Board members;
- (2) that an interim SPO had been appointed in July 2020 for an expected period of around 3 months, with the post continuing on a part-time arrangement, and which came to an end in February 2021;
- (3) that a recruitment activity had now been initiated for a 1.0 FTE SPO secondment of up to twenty three months, with the current funding model for the West Partnership in place until March 2021, however, the Scottish Government had agreed that funding of a similar level now be available from April 2021 until March 2022; and
- (4) of the proposed timeline for the recruitment process which was being overseen by the Regional Lead Officer with support from East Renfrewshire Council, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee noted the report.

Dates of future meetings agreed.

7 The committee, having previously noted that the date of the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 25th May 2021 at 1030 hours, further agreed the undernoted committee dates for the remainder of 2021:-

Tuesday, 24th August 2021 at 1030 hours; and
Tuesday, 23rd November 2021 at 1030 hours.