



Glasgow City Council

Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Education Services

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EDUCATION SERVICES DIGITAL LEARNING STRATEGY

Purpose of Report:

To update Committee on the progress of Education Services Digital Learning Strategy

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to consider the progress made to date and ask the Executive Director to present further update reports, as appropriate.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1. Background

- 1.1 Glasgow City Council's Digital Strategy was articulated 3 years before the global coronavirus pandemic. Its vision and ambition, **'to equip all young people with the digital skills and confidence for their futures'**, was significant in mitigating some of the impact of the pandemic. By June 2020 almost all establishments had implemented effective systems for online and hybrid learning and significantly improved communication with learners and families.
- 1.2 1:1 device deployment began in 2019 with the programme accelerated in 2020 to ensure learners and families remained connected to schools when they closed during the COVID 19 Pandemic. 1:1 device deployment to teaching staff completed in July 2020; P7 to S1 deployment was completed by the beginning of 2021 and the planned deployment to early years commenced at this time.
- 1.3 On 3rd July 2020, the Scottish Government announced that they were offering a one-year grant to local authorities to help tackle the digital exclusion of children and young people across Scotland. Education Services submitted a bid for the grant funding and were subsequently awarded £3.1M. A range of equipment was purchased to be disseminated to children and young people across the city via schools.
- 1.4 At this time, due to the successful Connected Learning deployment to P7-S6, only primary 1 to primary 6 pupils were considered for an iPad or Chromebook from the digital inclusion grant.
- 1.5 The Performance Planning & Research team (PPR) worked closely with primary schools to determine the number of children who would benefit from being given one of these devices. This included children who did not have a device at home at all or children who had to share access to a device. Devices were deployed to 65% of the children and young people that schools identified as needing one.
- 1.6 In total 7,240 iPads/Chromebooks and 4,224 internet connectivity devices were purchased. The grant was given on the understanding that these devices were for children and young people to take home and keep.
- 1.7 Internet connectivity devices were offered to all pupils in Glasgow across the primary, Additional Support for Learning (ASL) and secondary estate who did not have fixed access to the internet at home. The demand for the internet connectivity piece was fully met.
- 1.8 12-month data contracts for all the children and young people in this cohort were secured with all secondary pupils given unlimited data for the year and primary and ASL pupils were given 20GB of data per month. A web filtering application was added to ensure children and young people only had access to appropriate content on the internet.
- 1.9 All 7,240 iPads/Chromebooks and 4,224 internet connectivity devices were delivered to schools by early December, ahead of the Scottish Government's timeline.

- 1.10 In January 2021, further funding was announced by the Scottish Government to help local authorities to provide support to schools and families as they dealt with the challenges of remote learning during a further lockdown. Education Services within Glasgow used £1m from this funding on iPads for those children who did not yet have access or sole access to device at home to support their learning. In addition to this, Education Services was given two donations of £35,000 and £10,000 to purchase additional devices. These devices were deployed to learners in P1-6 who did not have sole access to a device at home.
- 1.11 In 2021, the planned deployment of devices to P6 learners, delayed by the pandemic, began and was successfully completed by 2022.
- 1.12 In November 2021 Glasgow hosted COP 26. Our Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC) coordinated and supported several workstreams and projects delivered by Digital Leaders Of Learning (DLOLs) across the city to ensure improved approaches to sustainable digital learning. One of the most successful of these projects was the GCC Book Baton which showcases the many ways technology can transform learner experience.
- 1.13 In June 2020, following feedback from Glasgow City Parents' Forum, action was taken to develop a user-friendly communication resource, 'a wakelet', to support families in the use of the range of communication and workflow tools now being used to support learning and the development of learner on-line portfolios.
- 1.14 From September 2022, CGI (IT business delivery partner) carried out extensive surveys across the estate to ensure the existing infrastructure would provide appropriate speed of access to the internet needed to support this additional device roll out: the need for over 500 additional wireless access points (WAPs) was identified.
- 1.15 In January 2023 the planned deployment of further 1200 devices to all P5 learners across the school estate began and was successfully completed by April 2023 fulfilling Glasgow's vision of a 1:1 device in the hands of every learner aged 9 and above. Deployment of additional WAPs to support the additional 1200 pupil devices began in February 2023 with scheduled completion by June 2023.
- 1.16 By March 2023 over 1200 devices had been deployed to teaching staff and 88000 to learners from P5 to S6 with an additional 12200 shared devices P1-4 deployed at a ratio of 1:5.
- 1.17 By May 2023 the existing 16000 Windows 7 desktops devices were refreshed with Windows 10 devices. Establishments have been given the option to retain equipment which they could manage but would not be supported centrally. All teachers have now received their iPad and also have access to a stand-alone desktop. Clerical staff will retain a desktop PC and senior leaders have options to choose their preferred device.

2 Progress

- 2.1 The Digital Learning Strategy Group (DLSG), first established in 2016-17, has continued to develop and adapt its remit to ensure the deployment of all devices improves outcomes for learners. The group continues to meet monthly analysing data, feedback, device performance, development needs, professional learning needs and, in partnership with CGI, supporting further deployment of technology across the school estate to support inclusive digital practices.
- 2.2 One of the most positive outcomes of the pandemic was the creation and on-going development of West Online School (West OS), a Regional Improvement Collaborative approach to asynchronous learning. The range of recorded lessons accessible to all learners across the partnership has grown exponentially since those lockdowns, delivering hundreds of thousands of lessons to learners.
- 2.3 Acting on feedback from practitioners that there was a continuing need for this type of support post pandemic, West OS live was piloted from February 2022 offering interactive senior phase study support across 37 courses. By the end of the pilot just under 4000 registrations for courses were completed from 27 local authorities across the country. West OS continues to develop and deliver support to tens of thousands of learners across Scotland.
- 2.4 All secondary schools now have 5GB of connectivity with all primary schools guaranteed 1GB.
- 2.5 I-pad deployment to Early Years (EY) was implemented from 2021-22 with all EY establishments receiving shared devices totalling 1100.
- 2.6 A named Digital Leader has been identified in early years centres and schools. Almost all GCC Early Years establishments now have a clearly articulated Digital Strategy.
- 2.7 To date, there are 351 Digital Leaders of Learning (DLOLs) identified across all sectors, one in every establishment. DLOLs are critical in ensuring the Digital Strategy in every establishment is realised through a bespoke establishment level professional development calendar.

3 Impact

- 3.1 Digital Learning practitioner, family and learner questionnaires, first offered in 2017, have continued biennially with the exception of the pandemic year. The analysis of this data is used to determine the extent to which technology in our classrooms is enhancing and transforming learning and helps inform future strategy for Education Services.
- 3.2 Over 80% of young people now report their Ipad has improved how they collaborate with other to learn and has helped them overcome barriers to their learning. Over 90% report working with increased independence.

- 3.3 Almost 90% of GCC establishments now have strategic Digital Leadership in place with the use of technology to support learning having doubled since 2017.
- 3.4 Over 80% of parents/carers report the Ipad is used for everyday learning with over 80% reporting improvements in feedback on learners from staff.
- 3.5 Our RTC in collaboration with XMA (GCC approved supplier) have designed and delivered professional learning across Early Years on a range of themes including Getting to Know Your Ipad to practitioner delivery of 12 days of creativity in Early Years.
- 3.6 Interactive whiteboards have been replaced by an Apple TV in each classroom and playroom to support and enhance interaction between learners and practitioners.
- 3.7 The applications(apps) agreed for the original Ipad build have been reviewed with several impactful additions aimed at improving literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for learners. These apps. have been Privacy Impact Assessed to ensure they are fully compliant with GDPR, the new data protection legislation. The app. approval process has been updated with all application for new apps. scrutinised by the Digital Learning Strategy Group.
- 3.8 GCC provided core workflow apps, SeeSaw and Showbie, to support learning, teaching and assessment alongside improved communication on learner progress to families.
- 3.9 In January 2020, 46 establishments were using SeeSaw. To date, over 200 early years and primary establishments use the app to support the management of classroom-based learning, hybrid learning and reporting to families.
- 3.10 In March 2020, 630 Showbie teacher licences were in use across the city. To date, almost 5000 are used across the city's Secondary School establishments to improve workflow, collaboration, assessment and learner feedback.

4 Professional Learning

- 4.1 The Digital Learning Conference, held annually, provides opportunity for over 400 practitioners to share best practice and undertake further professional learning to enhance experiences in the classrooms and playroom.
- 4.2 A Digital Learning page is available on Glasgow Online, Education Services intranet. Here, practitioners can access guidance, resources and share success.
- 4.3 The GCC Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC) first established in 2017, has continued to develop and now has 50 GCC facilitators who in partnership with XMA design and deliver all digital professional learning across the establishments. A robust professional learning programme is in place with the vision of ensuring all GCC teaching staff achieve Apple Teacher Status. Currently 51% of GCC teaching staff are accredited Apple Teachers.

- 4.4 Three RTC Hub schools have been identified across the city to ensure in person professional learning events are offered in balance with remote and hybrid offers.
- 4.5 To support the development of effective Digital Learning Organisations and strengthen Learning Communities, a Digital Coordinator is being identified in every Learning Community from August of 2023 to facilitate a 'one' team approach in the implementation of GCC's Learning & Teaching Framework and ensure improvement through meaningful collaborative approaches and more localised response.
- 4.6 35 establishments have now been accredited by Education Scotland with a Digital School Award. 5 establishments have been recognised as Apple Distinguished Schools, a significant achievement with only 700 recognised globally.
- 4.7 Throughout 2022 several new professional learning opportunities and accredited Apple Professional learning modules were offered including; Creative Classrooms, Everyone can Create, Everyone Can Code and Apple Portfolio.
- 4.8 Our RTC designed and delivered the first Digital Leadership Academy in 2021, a professional learning event aimed to support senior leadership teams in Glasgow and across the West Partnership. The Leadership Academy event continues to be developed following further success in 2022.
- 4.9 126 staff have completed the recently launched Apple Learning Coach Programme. The ambition is to have a Learning Coach in place in every establishment.
- 4.10 In collaboration with Glasgow's leadership in Learning Team, the RTC and Digital Coordinators will facilitate professional digital development of the key features of effective practice in learning, teaching, assessment, monitoring and tracking. This work is core in the drive to ensure improved pedagogy and the highest quality approaches to learning and teaching are evidenced and supported in every classroom.
- 4.11 Education Services, in partnership with CGI, continue to develop a digital Monitoring & Tracking tool for use across all establishments in the city. The purpose of this tool is to improve pedagogy in learning, teaching & assessment, improve approaches to moderation and analysis of data and improve engagement, attainment and achievement for all.
- 4.12 Between April and June 2023, core members of the Digital Strategy Group and GCC Senior Digital Officers participated in strategic planning facilitated by Apple to articulate the Connected Learning 2.0 vision and strategy. In May 2023, a ten-point plan for consultation was agreed as a first step towards phase 2 of this exciting programme.

5 Summary

- 5.1 The Connected Learning Programme, one of the largest Apple Education Programmes ever undertaken worldwide, has continued to benefit from the engagement of all establishments. The continued work with digital partners has supported the maintenance and on-going upgrade of our infrastructure, the articulation of our strategy, the identification of staff professional learning needs, our practitioner iPad deployment and refreshed AV systems in classrooms/playrooms.
- 5.2 The programme is committed to its aspirational vision of ensuring technology positively touches and improves the lives of all learners by transforming the learning experience in every classroom and playroom. A core priority for the future of the programme is the use of technologies to ensure creativity is nurtured in every learning space and sustainable approaches to learning, teaching, assessment and reporting are at the core of strategic planning.
- 5.3 Improvement through effective collaborative working is at the heart of the Connected Learning vision. The development of collaborative, digital learning organisations and teams in every learning community will ensure every learner's journey is effectively tracked and supported with rich experiences, robust approaches to transitions and improved outcomes for all Glasgow's learners.
- 5.4 Further reports will be provided to the Committee as the project develops.

6 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: Financial provision for investment in infrastructure and service provision was incorporated within the business case for the delivery of ICT in partnership with CGI.

Legal: Associated contractual and regulatory compliance requirements are in place.

Personnel: Training and development needs of staff are included in the delivery plan.

Procurement: CPU and legal services input to the procurement framework are in place.

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

GC Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities.

GC Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens.

GC Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow

GC Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative, and efficient way for our communities.

Commitments:

All Education commitments within the council plan are now aligned within the action plan which has aligned to All Learners All Achieving. On occasion commitments with the wider council family are also written up within the action plan as actions.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Yes, and links with all protected characteristics work across Education Services.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Advancing equality of opportunity. Inclusive workforce and improved mental health and wellbeing.

Positive impact – removing barriers to inclusion and wellbeing – as above.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Raised attainment providing improved life chances and choice.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

Yes
Theme 2 Just and Inclusive Place
Theme 3 Well Connected and Thriving City

What are the potential climate impacts as a

Continued decrease in paper use and photocopying

*result of this
proposal?*

*Will the proposal
contribute to
Glasgow's net zero
carbon target?*

Yes

**Privacy and Data
Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential
data protection impacts
as a result of this report?

No. Compliance with data sharing and
information security requirements will be
embedded into the associated technical
solutions and operational practice

7 Recommendations:

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

Note the progress made to date and ask the Executive Director to present further update reports, as appropriate, to Committee.