

GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Item 2
7th December 2021

Minutes of meeting held on 23rd November 2021 by video conference.

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

Apologies: Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; and Gerry Lyons, Glasgow City Council

Attending: Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Sharon Hayward and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Maureen McKenna and David McClelland, Glasgow City Council; Michael Roach, Inverclyde Council (substitute for Ruth Binks); Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire 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 24th August 2021.

West Partnership – Finance update 2021/22 – Position noted.

2 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer, providing an update on the West Partnership's bid for Scottish Government awarded grant funding for the period August 2020 to March 2021, advising

- (1) that following Scottish Government approval of the West Partnership budget bid for 2021/22, the formal award of grant funding of £1,526,500 had been received on 6th May 2021, the highest level of annual funding received since the Regional Improvement Collaboratives had been established in 2017/18;
- (2) of the bid detail across each workstream, all as detailed in the report;
- (3) that expenditure to date totalled £913,670, which was lower than forecast, largely as a result of staff savings following the recruitment cycle for new secondees at the end of the last academic session; and
- (4) that the Partnership Board at its meeting on 1st October 2021, had agreed to increase workstream activity across coaching and leadership, specialist networks and training events over the remainder of the year in order to further support delivery of the approved workplan.

After consideration and having heard David McClelland, Glasgow City Council, the committee noted the financial update for 2020/21.

Education Scotland review of Regional Improvement Collaborative Plan 2021/22 – Position noted.

3 There was submitted a report by Education Scotland, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, providing an update on the key messages in the Education Scotland Senior Regional Adviser Report to the Scottish Government on the West Partnership Improvement Plan 2021/22, advising that

- (1) the report had taken account of the context, particularly in relation to the pandemic, noting the recovery plan as well as consultation with stakeholders, resulting in 'ground level' staff being reached;
- (2) the clarity of vision within the Partnership had been highlighted within the report and that 6 key areas had been discussed, all as detailed in the report;
- (3) the next steps presented in the report recognised the need for the Partnership to recruit and induct new staff to the majority of roles, which would require time to assume their new roles and to begin augmenting the strategic implementation plan and developing this at an operational level;
- (4) new links with Education Scotland's Regional Improvement Team required to be established given the significant change in personnel;
- (5) considerable time had been invested in providing changes to the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes across all 3 workstreams, ensuring greater rigour and mitigating to protect lost programme knowledge, given the seconded nature of the core team; and
- (6) evaluation of the efficacy of the Operational Delivery Group had led to it being replaced by the new Implementation Group, as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Pamela DiNardo, Education Scotland, the committee noted the report.

West Partnership – Highlight report noted.

4 There was submitted a report by the Director of Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council summarising the key activities from the West Partnership highlight report, which was detailed in appendix 1 of the paper and covered the reporting period from August to October 2021, advising that

- (1) the annual evaluation report had been published this session highlighting the Partnership's successes and achievements, and the Improvement Plan, which set out the vision and aims for this year, had also recently been published;

- (2) 3 new Workstream Lead Officers (WLOs), a Programme Manager and a Business Manager had been welcomed to lead and support the Partnership activities and workstreams;
- (3) an updated communications plan had been agreed for each workstream and programme and aimed to reach as many stakeholders as possible, showcasing the excellent work and impact of the Partnership;
- (4) WLOs had been engaged in the planning and development of their workstream activity, a revised planning process had supported the WLOs with the development of workstream outcomes and project plans, and a data planner had supported the overall collation of internal evaluation data which would be presented in the highlight reports;
- (5) all workstreams were making very good progress developing their plans, networks and relationships and engagement from the 8 local authorities had been positive; and
- (6) this year, the report would focus on the added value of the Partnership's activities, aiming to clearly define and evidence this concept, whilst the Programme wide risks would be monitored via risk register.

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

The work of the West Partnership's Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment workstream – Presentation noted etc.

5 There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Officer providing an update on the West Partnership's Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment 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 continued to face, most engagement with West Partnership activity was taking place online, although it was hoped that some face to face meetings would be able to take place during the course of the session;
- (3) that the Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment workstream builds upon previous work to ensure maximum impact for teachers and learners, however, this session, there were also several new areas of focus that had been included as a result of consultation with key stakeholders, all as detailed in the report; and
- (4) of a number of workstream progress highlights, including:-

- (a) work on a Primary Curriculum Refreshed Narrative which had now started in partnership with Education Scotland and the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change and which currently involved sixty schools with one hundred and twenty participants;
- (b) that in partnership with Stirling University, 5 sessions had been completed for the Secondary Curriculum Programme;
- (c) that Education Scotland and the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change would support the delivery of the Primary and Secondary Pedagogy, which was being developed and delivered in conjunction with classroom practitioners;
- (d) the work of West OS this session; and
- (e) that assessment and moderation activity was building on the work of the previous sessions through subject areas in the Senior Phase, as well as further development on the assessment portal.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, the committee noted the progress of the Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment workstream.

Chair's remarks.

6 Having heard the Chair advise that Maureen McKenna would shortly be retiring from her post of Executive Director of Education Services, Glasgow City Council, the committee thanked Maureen for her commitment and contribution to the work of this committee and wished her well for the future.

Date of next meeting.

7 The committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 1st March 2022 at 1030 hours.