



Agenda Item 8

Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative – Progress Report

Falkirk Council

Title: Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative – Progress Report

Meeting: Education Executive

Date: 10 April 2018

Submitted By: Director of Children’s Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report provides an update for the Education Executive on the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative for Education involving Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and West Lothian Councils, as agreed at the meeting of the Education Executive on 7 November 2017.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Education Executive is asked to:

- (1) note the progress made to date in establishing the Regional Improvement Collaborative; and**
- (2) agree that the Regional Lead Officer submit a further report to the next meeting of the Education Executive detailing further progress.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting of 23 January 2018 the Education Executive agreed that the Lead Officer should bring a report on the progress of the Regional Improvement Collaborative following submission of the initial improvement plan to the Scottish Government and Education Scotland at the end of January 2018.
- 3.2 The initial plan was submitted at the end of January 2018. It outlined actions to progress work in the five themed areas previously reported to the Education Executive.

The five themed areas and council leads included are:

- Career Long Professional Learning Lead council Falkirk
- Performance and Improvement Lead council West Lothian
- Early Learning and Childcare Lead council Stirling
- Numeracy Lead council Clackmannanshire
- Literacy Lead council West Lothian

4. Considerations

Education Scotland Feedback

- 4.1 Education Scotland provided feedback to the Lead Officer in February 2018. The feedback noted that the collaborative had made significant progress in a relatively short period of time to identify and take forward the various workstreams identified. It also provided useful comment on updating and further developing the work of the collaborative.
- 4.2 Education Scotland have advised that a Phase 2 plan should be submitted by 3 September 2018. They have also advised that there will be an independent review and evaluation of the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives after six months with a further review to follow some 12-18 months thereafter. When further information is received regarding this review process it will be reported to a future meeting of the Education Executive.
- 4.3 The Lead Officer has met with the Education Scotland link officer for the collaborative to discuss the next steps for the collaborative and the development of the phase 2 plan.

National Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Fund Event – Falkirk

- 4.4 The Lead Officer chaired one of six national Scottish Attainment Challenge – PEF Head Teachers Events held in Falkirk on 7 February 2018. This event was organised by Education Scotland and the Forth Valley and West Lothian (FVWL) Regional Improvement Collaborative. Each of the five other Regional Collaboratives held similar events later in February and in early March 2018.
- 4.5 The event brought together 240 Head Teachers from across the four councils to hear about the establishment of the Regional Improvement Collaborative from the Lead Officer, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Chief Executive of Education Scotland.
- 4.6 The event also provided delegates with the opportunity to attend workshops delivered by colleagues from across the collaborative on best practice examples of ongoing work to:
 - raise attainment; and
 - close the poverty related attainment gap.

Each of the four councils delivered workshops and in addition a workshop on Participatory Budgeting was delivered by colleagues from the Scottish Government.

- 4.7 The workshops delivered at the event are set out in the table below.

Workshop Title	Delivered by
Focus on Wellbeing	Wallace High School - Stirling
Family Literacy Support	Bridgend Primary School – West Lothian
Trying different approaches to support our most vulnerable young people	Falkirk High School - Falkirk
Language Is Fun together (LIFT)	Redwell Primary School - Clackmannanshire
Larbert High School PEF Strategy	Larbert High School - Falkirk
Closing the spoken language and attainment gap in Falkirk	Bankier Primary School – Falkirk & NHS Forth Valley Speech and Language Service
Promoting Family Learning at Borestone Primary School	Borestone Primary School - Stirling
Participatory Budgeting	Scottish Government

4.8 The event was positively evaluated by delegates. The evaluation feedback from Education Scotland showed that 75% of those attending reported that they had found the workshops very useful.

4.9 The Lead Officer has discussed with senior officers from across the four councils the potential to organise similar events in future to ensure that there is a regular forum to enable the wider sharing of good practice examples as they are identified.

Next Steps

4.10 Following discussion with the senior education officers of the four councils actions have been identified to develop our joint working arrangement and to identify specific improvement measures to track the progress made in the five themed areas outlined at paragraph 3.2 above.
Further discussions will identify additional areas where collaborative work will be of benefit to each of the four councils and these will be reported to the next meeting of the Education Executive.

5. Consultation

5.1 The initial plan was developed in collaboration across all four local authority areas. A major event, *Building a Collaborative Culture*, held on 22 January 2018 in Alva Academy, allowed for consultation with Headteachers, Early Years Heads, Parents, Young People, Elected Members, LNCT members, practitioners and Senior Officers.

- 5.2 The Lead Officer also engaged with wider stakeholders from each Council's Community Planning Partnerships to ensure that they were sighted on the initial plan and to agree the establishment of a wider stakeholder engagement group.
- 5.3 Further consultation will be undertaken with all key stakeholders as the phase 2 plan is developed. This will include engagement with:
- Practitioners;
 - Headteachers and Heads of Establishment;
 - Children and Young People;
 - Partners and Third Sector; and
 - Elected Members.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 All work undertaken to date has been met from within the existing resources of the four participating councils.

Resources

- 6.2 The staff resources of the four participating councils have been allocated as appropriate by the senior education officers of each council to achieve the necessary progress to develop the initial Regional Improvement Plan.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Risk

- 6.4 No risk implications have been identified.

Equalities

- 6.5 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 There are no implications for sustainability or environmental impact arising from this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Considerable work has been undertaken since the last meeting of the Education Executive to further establish the Regional Improvement Collaborative and to develop phase 2 of the Improvement Plan.
- 7.2 The various themed groups, led by officers from across the four councils are continuing to develop more detailed plans and to engage with stakeholders on developing activities and interventions for improvement.
- 7.3 A report will be presented to the next meeting of the Education Executive to provide a further update on progress.

Director of Children's Services

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

- None