



Agenda Item 6

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: 23 January 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 establishment 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 comment and feedback from the Scottish Government and Education Scotland following submission of the initial Regional Improvement Plan to the Scottish Government at the end of January 2018.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting of 7 November 2017 the Education Executive agreed the recommendations contained within the report entitled "Regional Collaborative".
- 3.2 These recommendations included the following initial actions for the collaborative partnership:
- A launch event will be arranged to involve representatives of the four participating councils;

- The Director of Children's Services will arrange a briefing session for all Falkirk elected members on the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives for Education: and
- the Regional Lead Officer submit will submit further report to the next meeting of the Education Executive detailing the initial agreed areas of focus for the work of the collaborative.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 A launch event was held on 1 December 2017 in the new Carrongrange High School. This event was attended by senior elected members, Chief Executives and senior education officers from across the four councils.
- 4.2 At the launch event the Lead Officer delivered a short presentation on the initial aims of the collaborative and outlined the areas of focus for early collaborative work. Elected members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the development of the collaborative with the education representatives from across the four councils.
- 4.3 The Director of Children's Services delivered presentations on the new collaborative and the recent Scottish Government consultation on "Empowering Schools" to elected members of Falkirk Council on 23 November 2017.
- 4.4 During the course of November and December 2017 the Lead Officer worked with senior colleagues from the four councils to agree areas of focus for the initial Regional Improvement Plan, which will be submitted to the Scottish Government and Education Scotland by the end of January 2018.
- 4.5 Through this work five themed areas of work have been identified which reflect the identified priorities of schools across the Regional Collaborative through analysis of each council's National Improvement Framework (NIF) plans.
- 4.6 Working groups, comprised of officers from all four council areas, have been established to take forward each of the five themes and to develop actions and targeted outcomes for inclusion in the Regional Collaborative initial Improvement Plan. It has been agreed that each local authority will lead on one or more of these themes.
- 4.7 The themed areas and lead councils are as follows:
 - 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

- 4.8 A draft initial Improvement Plan for the collaborative has been prepared which reflects the analysis of the four council's NIFs and other key improvement data and consideration of the new National Improvement Framework published in December 2017. This plan will be the subject of consultation with wider stakeholder groups in January 2018.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Lead Officer held meetings with senior civil servants in the Scottish Government and senior representatives of Education Scotland during the course of November and December 2017 regarding the formation of the plan and the aspirations of the collaborative beyond the submission of the initial plan at the end of January 2018.
- 5.2 The Lead Officer has worked closely with the assigned link officer from Education Scotland who will support and challenge the work of the Regional Collaborative.
- 5.3 As referenced in paragraph 4.8 above a Regional Summit has been arranged for Monday 22 January 2018 to enable consultation with a wider group of stakeholders on the draft plan to allow for update and amendment prior to submission to the Scottish Government / Education Scotland.
- 5.4 Attendees at this event will include senior elected members, Chief Executives, senior Civil Servants from the Scottish Government, senior representatives of Education Scotland, parent and senior pupil representatives from across the four councils, 15 head teachers from each of the four councils, and the four senior education officers from each council.
- 5.5 The summit will comprise two key sessions. The first will include contributions from David Istance, who is a senior analyst in the OECD's Education and Skills Directorate and Graeme Logan, Strategic Director, Education Scotland. These contributors will deliver a working session on systemic change in education and the benefits of professional collaboration at all levels to improve attainment and positive outcomes for all children and young people. This session include a roundtable discussion for all attendees focused on the content of the draft Regional Improvement Plan.

The second session will afford the opportunity for front line practitioners from early learning and childcare, primary and secondary from across the four councils to discuss the content of the draft Regional Improvement Plan with the lead officers of each of the five theme working groups.

- 5.6 A further consultation event on the draft Regional Improvement Plan is being arranged to allow for the views of the College and University sectors, NHS, and the third sector to be reflected in the plan submitted to the Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

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 establish the Regional Improvement Collaborative and to develop an initial Regional Improvement Plan.
- 7.2 Arrangements have been put in place to ensure that there has been appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders prior to submission of the plan to the Scottish Government and Education Scotland at the end of January 2018.

- 7.3 A report will be presented to the next meeting of the Education Executive to provide an update on feedback received on the initial plan; progress with the actions within the plan; and next steps in developing future collaborative work and targets for improvement across the collaborative.

Director of Children's Services

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Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

- None