
Report to Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 9 November 2017

**Subject: Education Governance: Forth Valley and West Lothian
Improvement Collaborative**

Report by: Chief Education Officer

1.0 Purpose

This report provides an update to Council on the Scottish Government's Education Governance Review and the progress made in establishing the Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Council endorses the establishment of the Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative and the active involvement of Clackmannanshire Council.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The Education Governance Review consultation (Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity – a governance review) ran from 13 September 2016 to 6 January 2017.

3.2 The Scottish Government published the analysis of the consultation responses: (Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity – a Governance Review: An analysis of consultation responses) on 15 June 2017.

3.3 Simultaneously, the Government launched 'Education Governance: Next Steps - Empowering Our Teachers, Parents and Communities to Delivery Excellence and Equity for Our Children' which proposed the establishment of collaboratives with the following key functions:

- to support teachers through dedicated teams of professionals, drawing on Education Scotland staff, local authority staff and others;
- to provide focus across through the delivery of an annual regional plan and work programme, and
- to deliver collaborative working, including sharing best practice.

- 3.4 Thereafter engagement took place between a range of partners - specifically Scottish Government, SOLACE, ADES and CoSLA that led to the setting up of 3 officer working groups looking at 3 work streams; Principles, Function and Accountabilities.
- 3.5 The Scottish Government and CoSLA produced a joint report on regional collaboration which was approved at the CoSLA Leaders meeting on September 29th 2017. As a result of this work the number and membership of the collaboratives was agreed. Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative(IC) is one of 6 Regional ICs and is made up of Clackmannanshire, Stirling, Falkirk and West Lothian Councils.
- 3.6 On October 3rd 2017 the Deputy First Minister set out next steps relating to reforming how Education Services across Scotland will work collaboratively:
- Regional Improvement Leads will be required to be appointed in 6 regions by the 31st of October 2017
 - The Regional Improvement Lead will be selected jointly by the Local Authority Chief Executives that make up the individual improvement collaboratives and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland
 - Each Collaborative will have a detailed improvement plan in place by January 2018. The Improvement Plans and the Workforce Plans will be formulated at local level but will require to be agreed with Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland
 - The Scottish Government and has commissioned an external review of local authorities' progress in establishing Regional Improvement Collaboratives and in assessing progress in fulfilling their potential in April 2018 and 12-18 months thereafter.
- 3.7 Forth Valley and West Lothian IC will identify the particular areas for improvement within the region and ensure that interventions are put in place to address them.

4.0 Current Position

- 4.1 The Collaborative was required to be in place by the end of October 2017 and to enable this to happen, each Collaborative had to appoint a lead officer. The post was ring fenced to employees working within Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and West Lothian Councils at Director, Head of Service, and Quality Improvement Manager level. The initial post a full time 6 month secondment.
- 4.2 Forth Valley and West Lothian IC is now required to have an improvement plan in place by January 2018. Four areas have been identified as shared priorities and this work will be taken forward by the Lead Officer alongside the authority Chief Education Officers.
- Data and performance; Sponsor - West Lothian
 - Improvement in Numeracy; Sponsor- Clackmannanshire

- Professional Learning; Sponsor- Falkirk
- Early Learning and Childcare; Sponsor- Stirling

4.3 An initial meeting involving elected members from each of the four Councils took place on 18th October 2017 and the following was agreed:

- to formally launch the Forth Valley and West Lothian IC as soon as possible; and
- to establish an elected members forum

5.0 Sustainability Implications

5.1 n/a

6.0 Resource Implications

6.1 There are likely to be costs in respect of our share of the IC Lead officer and related administrative support. The IC is seeking funding from the Scottish Government.

7.0 Exempt Reports

7.1 Is this report exempt? No

8.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) Our Priorities

People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment

(2) Council Policies (Please detail)

Local Outcome Improvement Plan

Education Service Business Plan

9.0 Equalities Impact

9.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

No – n/a

10.0 Legality

10.1 In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

Yes

11.0 Appendices

Nil


12.0 Background Papers

- 1 'Education Governance: Next Steps - Empowering Our Teachers, Parents and Communities to Delivery Excellence and Equity for Our Children' – Scottish Government Publication
- 2 Education Governance & Regional Collaboration – CoSLA Publication to Leaders' Meeting of 29 September, 2017

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Approved by

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