

## **SOUTH EAST IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE OVERSIGHT GROUP**

Minute of the South East Improvement Collaborative Oversight Group held on Friday 22 June 2018 at 9.00 am in Edinburgh City Chambers.

**Present:** Cllr. Ian Perry, Education Convener, City of Edinburgh Council (Chair)  
Cllr. Fay Sinclair, Education Convener, Fife Council  
Cllr. Jim Muirhead, Education Convener, Midlothian Council  
Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council  
Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director, Fife Council  
Grace Vickers, Head of Education, Midlothian Council  
Andy Gray, Head of Schools & Lifelong Learning, City of Edinburgh Council  
Philip Barr, Executive Director, Scottish Borders Council  
Lesley Brown, Quality Improvement Manager, East Lothian Council  
Jill McArthur, Project Officer, Fife Council (Minute-taker)

**Apologies:** Angela Leitch, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council  
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council  
Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council  
Tracey Logan, Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council  
Cllr. Carol Hamilton, Scottish Borders Council  
Cllr. Fiona Dugdale, East Lothian Council  
Cllr. Linda Erskine, Fife Council  
Fiona Robertson, Head of Education, East Lothian Council  
Michelle Strong, Chief Officer – Education, Scottish Borders Council  
Cllr. Shamin Akhtar, Education Convener, East Lothian  
Cllr. Alison Dickie, Education Vice-Convener, City of Edinburgh Council

### **1. Welcome / Introduction**

Cllr. Perry welcomed the meeting, apologies were noted and introductions made.

- Philip Barr represented Scottish Borders Council.
- Lesley Brown represented East Lothian Council.

### **2. Previous Minute and Matters Arising – 25 January 2018**

Cllr. Akhtar requested additional wording in the previous minute to reflect the discussion. Jill has amended the minute as per email from Cllr. Akhtar.

Cllr. Sinclair queried where the minutes from the Oversight Group are published. C Lindsay advised Education Scotland are looking at a national site for Regional Improvement Collaborative documentation.

### **Action**

The group agreed an interim measure is for each local authority to upload minutes to their own website. Each Head of Education to ensure minutes are uploaded to the site.

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### 3. **SEIC Plan Phase 2 Update**

#### Feedback from Education Scotland

C Lindsay highlighted the feedback from Education Scotland in relation to phase 1 of the plan. The feedback was positive and the areas of improvement had already been highlighted by SEIC.

Cllr. Akhtar raised concern via email to the group relating to the finance and resources section of the feedback. The concern centres around lack of funding and staff to fully take forward the work of the RIC.

It was agreed resources will be required for the SEIC to develop the plan therefore a bid to the Scottish Government for additional resources will be made to add value to what is already ongoing.

#### SEIC Collaborative Plan – Phase 2

C Lindsay advised engagement sessions have been held with Headteachers and Officers and feedback from these sessions is being collated to ensure phase 2 of the plan is on the right track.

A children and young people event was recently held with all local authorities represented. Feedback will be gathered from this.

The workstreams continue to take forward their areas of focus and networks have also been established.

The SEIC Board have asked local authorities to identify areas of interest for inclusion in the plan. Good examples have been received from Midlothian and Edinburgh.

Cllr. Perry noted inclusion should be an area of focus within phase 2 of the plan.

Cllr. Muirhead referred to the email from Cllr. Akhtar which refers to some collaborative events being charged for. The group discussed this and it was agreed collaborative events will not be charged for. However, if a local authority charges for a course internally then there will be a charge for staff outwith the authority. It was agreed to carry out a mapping exercise to demonstrate the types of events which have a cost.

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C Lindsay suggested having a core offer from each local authority for events that are free. However, there may be other events people want to access that have a small charge.

#### Outline of Phase 2 Plan

The paper attempts to outline the structure of the phase 2 plan. The structure includes the vision/background, the school improvement and local authority priorities, analysis of performance data and staff survey/views of children and young people. One of the key areas highlighted for phase 2 is mental and emotional wellbeing and it was suggested establishing a workstream for this.

Throughout the discussions with Headteachers it was apparent they would like to share resources, such as strategies.

#### **4. Education Bill – Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs)**

The Education Bill was discussed at the CoSLA Leaders meeting before going to CoSLA Children and Young People's meeting. The Bill outlines what is expected from Regional Improvement Collaboratives and states all local authorities will be required to be part of a RIC. Cllr. Perry highlighted the need for all political parties to have sight of the Education Bill. The consultation period for the Bill is unknown as yet.

The planning cycles will be reviewed but it was acknowledged there is a fine line between local authority plans and RIC plans. It was agreed an annual plan would be too soon and this point has been raised at CoSLA.

The group were in agreement that the workstreams should determine how long it will take to see outcomes from their area of focus. The SEIC want to keep their own local authority plans and collaborate with parts of the plans to add value.

#### **5. Resourcing Request – Education Scotland**

The Workstreams were asked to identify what support they require from Education Scotland to support the work of SEIC. Discussions with Education Scotland are ongoing but it has been suggested Education Scotland may provide a core team of people to support each RIC. This would consist of Attainment Advisors, specific officer support, subject specialists.

The role of Education Scotland will be to support and advise RICs. Cllr. Perry queried if the Oversight Group need to agree what type of support should be provided to ensure added value.

L Brown noted the principles of added value and terms of reference are critical to the work of the RICs. Also, measures of success need to be collective from the workstreams.

C Lindsay advised CoSLA, RIC Leads and the Scottish Government have established a group where these issues are discussed. C Lindsay to check where this group feeds into and reports to.

CL

## **6. Resourcing Request – Budget**

S Grimmond previously submitted a request for resources to support the work of the RICs. It has been indicated that there will be funding available to support this work. C Lindsay has asked for an estimation of what SEIC will receive for 2018/19 but advised the decision will be made by the CoSLA Distributions Group over the next couple of weeks.

Education Scotland are currently recruiting for the posts to support the RIC work therefore it is likely to be October-December before these posts are filled.

## **7. Use of SEIC Logo**

The Heads of Education have discussed how to get staff to associate the work of the collaborative with SEIC. It seems Teachers are not attributing work directly with the collaborative. If there was a logo for SEIC then staff would see that they are part of the collaborative.

The group discussed the possibility of a logo or branding for SEIC. However, there is mixed views within the group if this is necessary. Representatives from Midlothian and East Lothian feel it is unnecessary as the 5 local authority logos can be put on any documentation.

C Lindsay acknowledged the view points from the group but highlighted having a branding would strengthen the connections staff make with the work they are doing as part of SEIC. If staff are unaware of the difference between local authority work and SEIC work then the impact may not be attributed to SEIC when questions are asked by Education Scotland and CoSLA. The plan will be evaluated within 6 months and part of this will be speaking to Teachers within schools. Some kind of branding would be useful for staff to identify they are part of the RIC.

Cllr Perry suggested the group may need to give further thought to branding considering the discussion regarding demonstrating the impact of SEIC. A branding may be required if it means staff can easily identify added value. S Grimmond suggested using the words of SEIC rather than an actual logo.

P Barr agreed and highlighted the need to get a balance of being able to show the impact of SEIC as well as what each local authority is doing.

Cllr. Perry would like further detail on how the RIC will be assessed. C Lindsay to gather information on this as well as identifying if other RICs are using branding. CL

**8. Any Other Competent Business**

No other business.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30 August 2018 at 2.00 pm in the SNP Group Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh.