

The West Partnership Plan 2020-23

*The Road to Renewal: Our Response to Covid-19*

**Interim Action Plan**

January 2021

**Immediate priorities: adapting the West Partnership Improvement Plan**

**Interim Action Plan**

**Background**

In response to rising infection rates and concerns relating to the new variant of Covid-19, it was announced on 4 January 2021 that most children and young people would not return to school and early years establishments until 1 February at the earliest, and that from 11 January 2021 children would access their learning remotely. The fundamental premise nevertheless is that education should continue on a full-time basis for all learners from 11 January 2021. This would comprise a combination of direct interaction, on-line and offline tasks/activities and tutorial support.

Local authorities within the West Partnership have already prepared detailed plans for the delivery of remote learning, provision of emergency childcare and support for vulnerable learners.

The West Partnership Improvement Plan, *The Road to Renewal: Our Response to Covid-19*, outlines the partnership’s priorities for session 2020/23 and confirms that, as a Regional Improvement Collaborative, we are fully aware of the pressures that education staff across the West Partnership are facing as a result of Covid-19. A broad range of activities has taken place within each workstream since August 2020, including further evaluation and reporting activities, and progress updates have been provided at the most recent West Partnership Board and the Glasgow City Region Education Committee meetings in November 2020. However, in light of the immediate circumstances, it is particularly essential that the work of the West Partnership is seen to be both relevant and that it adds value to colleagues across local authorities where it matters most.

This Interim Action Plan has been drawn up at the request of Directors (15 January 2021) to address the challenges of the current and immediately foreseeable educational landscape. The plan recognises the need to prioritise and accelerate certain aspects of the West Partnership’s Plan 2020-23, *The Road to Renewal: Our Response to Covid-19*, and accepts that other aspects will temporarily be paused. Almost all projects identified in the Interim Action Plan have been taken from the West Partnership’s 2020-23 plan. Provision has also been made for additional projects to be included at the request of the Board.

**Responsibilities**

Governance and partnership links remain as agreed for the West Partnership’s Plan 2020-23, *The Road to Renewal: Our Response to Covid-19.* These are outlined, below. In addition, the Senior Partnership Officer maintains an overview of each workstream’s progress.

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| **Workstream** | **Lead officer** | **WP Board links** | **Educ. Scotland links** |
| Leadership, empowerment and improvement | Jennifer Crocket | Laura Mason  Maureen McKenna | Pamela Di Nardo  Michael Halbert |
| Curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment | John Stuart | Jacqui MacDonald  Tony McDaid | Lorna Aitken  Robyn McIlroy |
| Collaborative Learning Networks | Helen Brown | Ruth Binks  Mark Ratter | Ian Menzies  Craig Melrose |
| Evaluation and Reporting | Lauren Johnston | Derek Brown  Steven Quinn | Patricia Watson |

**Immediate priorities**

The 7 projects, below, have been identified by the West Partnership’s Board and core officer team as high priority during the period January to February / March 2021, and possibly beyond depending on restrictions resulting from current Covid-19 guidelines.

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| **Interim Action Plan: January 2021.**  **Priority projects** | |
| **Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement** | |
| 1. | Headteacher Mentoring Scheme |
| 2. | Leadership Learning Sets |
| 3. | Virtual Leadership Networks |
| **Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment** | |
| 4. | West OS |
| 5. | Support for practitioners through curriculum networks |
| **Collaborative Learning Networks** | |
| 6. | Health and Wellbeing - Tracking learners’ wellbeing |
| 7. | Supporting learners with Additional Support Needs |

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| **Workstream:** | **Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement** | | | | | |
|  | **What are we planning to do?**  **(Key tasks only)** | **What do we hope to achieve?** | **Who will be responsible / involved?** | **What is the expected timescale?** | **Resource**  **implications?** | **Any further information?** |
| **Project title** | **Specific tasks** | **Expected outcomes** | **Participants** | **Timescale** | **Resources** | **Notes** |
| **1. Headteacher Mentoring Scheme** | Match allocated funding to enable mentoring for appropriate school leaders, as identified by local authorities.  Confirm further funding beyond March 31st 2021.  Reallocation of unspent funding (from authorities who have not participated during this financial year).  Consideration and organisation of enhanced provision delivered by The Mudd Partnership. | Continued, and enhanced mentoring support for senior leaders enabling a focus on agreed, specific areas of leadership.  Introduction of *Executive Coaching* programme addressing leadership challenges within the current context of Covid-19. | J Crocket / EA Workstream reps  J Crocket / D McLelland  J Crocket / D McLelland / EA Finance reps  J Crocket / The Mudd Partnership | Ongoing- by March 31st 2021  By Jan 31st 2021  By Jan 31st 2021  By Jan 31st 2021 | Availability of HT Mentors  Workstream Budget  Workstream Budget  Potential reallocation of existing workstream budget from other projects. | Ongoing within 5/8 LAs  JC / DM in communication  JC to contact DM asap  See note 1 in the section, “Further Information”, below. |
| **2. Leadership Learning Sets** | Continue to facilitate planned sessions for existing two cohorts of HTs.  Consider themes to be explored in order to address specifically the leadership challenges faced within the current context.  Plan facilitation training for EA nominees. | Ongoing support and professional learning for HTs already engaged with the programme.  Increased relevance of materials and activities in order to offer specific learning and support related to the current context of Covid-19.  This will allow the WP to plan towards a more sustainable model of Learning Sets. Authorities will benefit from having key staff trained to undertake facilitation roles within their own area. | J Crocket / J Mudd / S Ali  J Crocket / J Mudd / S Ali  J Crocket / J Mudd Workstream reps Nominated EA staff | Ongoing as outlined in 20-23 Plan  By 31st Jan 2021 and following discussion with participants  By May 2021 | Workstream Budget  Workstream Budget  Workstream Budget | 15 HTs from across 7 EAs involved.  See note 2 in the section, “Further Information”, below.  This training is already an agreed part of the work commissioned with The Mudd Partnership. |
| **3. Virtual Leadership Networks** | Continue to facilitate planned sessions for both DHT and HTs from across the West Partnership.  Consider the themes for planned events to ensure the needs of leaders are being met in relation to current challenges faced with context of Covid-19.  Continue to facilitate programme of planned ‘masterclasses’ to offer specific expertise on a range of topics which will support school leaders within their strategic roles. | Development of supportive network for school leaders which addresses challenges faced and provides the opportunity for peer support & collaboration.  VLN events will be relevant to school leaders and offer added value to members of the VLN networks.  VLN network members will feel supported in their roles in relation to specific, current challenges and will allow them to consider and plan strategic and operational improvements for their establishment/CYP. | J Crocket  WP Core team  ES Volunteer facilitators  WP Peer facilitators  J Crocket / WP Core Team  ES workstream links    J Crocket / WP Core Team Facilitating partners from relevant organisations eg Microsoft Education. | Ongoing  Ongoing and following participant evaluation of each event.  Ongoing and following VLN members being consulted. | Time commitment from all involved.  None  Possible budget required to engage facilitators for future masterclass sessions dependant on theme. | Risk that peer facilitators from establishments may not be able to commit due to current challenges.  All VLN events continue to be planned based on feedback from previous events.  Consultation of VLN members to take place w/c 18th January 2021. |

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| **Further information:** | |
| Note 1 | Potential use of reallocated workstream budget from other projects.  (unused LA funding for HT mentoring; unused funding for *Thinking About Headship*; unused funding for Diversity in Teaching etc)  A draft plan has been prepared for this to include 5 x 60 minute sessions for each nominated HT between Feb-June 2021. The Mudd Partnership has capacity to deliver this if we feel it is required and valuable. Available budgets would determine how many HTs could be supported. It is likely that around 20 HTs could be supported from a possible 20k budget). |
| Note 2 | De-brief and forward planning sessions are already factored into the work with The Mudd Partnership. These take place between each Learning Set session. This will not incur any extra time or work. |

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| **Workstream:** | **Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment** | | | | | | |
|  | **What are we planning to do?**  **(Key tasks only)** | **What do we hope to achieve?** | **Who will be responsible / involved?** | | **What is the expected timescale?** | **Resource**  **implications?** | **Any further information?** |
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| **4. West OS** | Accelerate the provision of lessons within West OS.  Continue to work with RICs, LAs, Education Scotland and other partners to ensure maximum possible curriculum coverage during interim action plan period.  Develop and implement communications plan. Delivered through West Partnership team, in partnership with LAs, Ed Scot, E-Sgoil and other partners, including ClickView. | Target to get content uploaded for all top 10 senior phase subject areas. Relevant units and courses targeted.  Primary BGE material also commissioned and sourced through LAs.  All teaching staff and learners are aware of West OS and its role in the National e-Learning Offer  All teaching staff and learners know the specific lessons from each subject which are on West OS | West OS core  In addition:  other RIC reps,  Ed Scot team, coordinators  and practitioners  West OS core team, and WP comms team, ES comms, LA comms teams | Deadlines have been set for each subject within the agreed priority areas of the curriculum.  (Spreadsheet drawn up).  Comms plan updated by 22 Jan 2021  Intensive Comms delivery 20 Jan – mid Feb | | Time for commissioned staff to produce material or time sourced from contractual time.  Additional capacity for core team. Three posts pending appointment.  Support from LA comms teams and ES comms teams to plan and deliver comms plan and liaise with national press etc | See note 1 in the section, “Further Information”, below.  Key role for Directors and EAs in supporting comms and in getting information about West OS to schools. |
|  | Increase the number of West OS users across all sectors and schools within West Partnership and nationally.  Qualitative data collected via interviews, questionnaires and other feedback sources, including social media. | 200% increase from mid-Jan baseline (tbc) in the number of users of West OS.  10% WP teachers and learners are using West OS by February mid-term.  Qualitative evidence of impact of collaboration on the Scottish learning system. Over 80% of users rate the resources on West OS as having a positive impact on remote learning. | WP Data information officer, ClickView-provided analytics,  ES and glow data  Feedback from West OS creators and users. Support from ROC | Fortnightly tracking of content next due 27 Jan.  Base line of data by 25Jan.  Evaluation by end Feb.  Interim evaluation of qualitative data end Feb. | | Business manager for West OS to be appointed.  ClickView to provide analytics as required. | See note 2 in the section, “Further Information”, below. |
| 1. **Support for practitioners through curriculum networks** | Provide virtual networks and professional learning opportunities:   * Use of curriculum network teams as space for sharing approaches and resources, eg SQA updates. * Deliver webinars focused on digital pedagogy. * Collaborate with EAs, network members, Ed Scot to support and facilitate moderation opportunities as requested by EAs or members, particularly for minority subjects. | Enhance learners’ experiences through support for curriculum networks to meet urgent priorities. Impact of CLPL evaluated through practitioner feedback:   * Staff continue to use WP Curriculum Teams to share practice. * Effective pedagogy (particular focus on digital) – staff attending WP CLPL will have improved skills to teach remotely, including use of West OS. * Add value to EA work re senior phase assessment and moderation – with Ed Scot, support inter-authority moderation virtual meetings for minority subjects, as requested by senior phase moderation group. | Curriculum network leads, supported by JS and Ed Scot to organise curriculum network meetings as requested by team members or EA officers.  PD to link with Ed Scot re digital skills CLPL activity in curriculum networks.  Ed Scot delivering themed webinars on pedagogy and inclusion & wellbeing.  JS to facilitate moderation activity for minority subjects by request. | Teams sharing activity ongoing Jan – Feb  Webinar on digital approaches with Digi Scot 27 Jan  Curriculum network events re digital pedagogy during Feb.  Themed webinars during Feb. | | Teams currently established  The challenge to facilitating this project will ease once additional West OS appointments are in place.  Collaboration with Ed Scot is making a positive impact. | Assessment and Moderation post, required re-advertising due to very small number of applicants.  Interview dates for 3 posts in Feb, therefore additional staffing capacity possibly by early March. |

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| **Further information:** | |
| Note 1 | It remains challenging to secure time to release staff to produce material.  Accelerated teams in place for a number of subject areas and sector teams. PD, JS and GL negotiating with practitioners and HT for time.  New arrangements with EA pedagogy teams bringing some benefits. |
| Note 2 | Issue with ClickView providing analytics – expected sharing of initial data Dec 2020. Still pending as of 20 Jan.  ClickView committed to outline solution at meeting 22 Jan.  Targets for increases in numbers of users will be confirmed once robust baseline data is available. |

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| **Workstream:** | **Collaborative Learning Networks** | | | | | |
|  | **What are we planning to do?**  **(Key tasks only)** | **What do we hope to achieve?** | **Who will be responsible / involved?** | **What is the expected timescale?** | **Resource**  **implications?** | **Any further information?** |
| **Project title** | **Specific tasks** | **Expected outcomes** | **Participants** | **Timescale** | **Resources** | **Notes** |
| **6. Supporting Health and Wellbeing with a particular focus on Tracking Learners’ Wellbeing** | 1. Create a matrix of tools for tracking learners’ wellbeing  2. Identify and interview schools/ELCs to create storyboards to share practice.  3. Share storyboards through social media and the website.  4. Produce a commentary sharing lessons learned about tracking learners’ wellbeing.  5. Collaboration with Ed Scot to run themed series of webinars on pedagogy, inclusion and wellbeing. | Schools and ELCs will have access to a matrix of tools to support them in selecting the most appropriate tool.  3 storyboards will be available to schools and ELCs that share practice about how schools have tracked learners’ wellbeing.  A commentary will be published collating the lessons learned and key principles in tracking learners’ wellbeing.  In collaboration with ES and HWB EA Officers CLPL activities offered that develop understanding of inclusion and wellbeing | Learner Wellbeing Network and their nominated schools and ELCs. | Feb 2021 | Time from WP Core team:  Helen Brown  James Bowness  Rachael Boyle  Interviews take 1 hour per school/ELC  Time from ES Colleagues | See note 1 in the section, “Further Information”, below. |

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| **7. Supporting learners with Additional Support Needs** | 1. Engage with the ASN Officers’ Network to identify practice that can be shared about supporting children with ASN during Covid-19.  2. Identify and interview schools/ELCs to create storyboards to share practice.  3. Share storyboards through social media and the website.  4. Arrange open discussions for ASN and EAL practitioners to share practice and challenges. | 3 storyboards will be available to schools and ELCs that share practice about how schools have supported children with additional needs during Covid-19.  ASN and EAL practitioners will have had the opportunity to share experiences and expertise in their specific field. | ASN Officers Network and their nominated schools | Mar 2021  ASN Open Discussion  Mar 2021  EAL Open Discussion 26th Jan | Time from WP Core team:  Helen Brown  James Bowness  Rachael Boyle  Interviews take 1 hour per school/ELC |  |

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| **Further information:** | |
| Note 1 | Identified schools and ELCs to develop storyboards will be agreed in partnership with the relevant established Officers’ Network:  Collaborative Learning Network Workstream Members  Families and Communities Officers’ Network  CLD Managers’ Network  Engaging Families in Transitions Network  Learner Wellbeing Network  ASN Officers’ Network |