

4. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH EDUCATION SCOTLAND

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) and Head of Schools with Education Support advising of a proposed Partnership Agreement with Education Scotland.

Education Scotland was committed to working more closely with all local authorities. To take this forward Education Scotland intended to establish a broad national agreement with all authorities over a period of time. Each agreement would be unique to every authority and would form the basis of the work Education Scotland would undertake within each authority.

West Lothian's Partnership Agreement for session 2013-14 was developed with Education Scotland and was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The partnership agreement :-

- Would be aligned with council priorities and Education Scotland objectives;
- Would have clear, measurable outcomes that would have a positive impact on all learners; and
- Would engage all staff within schools (and other partners) in collaborative work to extend the skills base in our schools.

There were four priorities detailed in the partnership agreement and these were summarised as follows :-

- ❖ Develop a curriculum framework from 3-18 to ensure consistency in approach across all schools. This would include ensuring progression at all stages but in particular from the broad general education into the senior phase;
- ❖ Improve collaborative working within and between schools to enable greater consistency in the learning experiences for children and young people;
- ❖ Build capacity in schools and staff to carry out self evaluation that was rigorous, accurate and positively impacted on outcomes for children and young people; and
- ❖ To improve the quality of education provision as evidenced in Education Scotland inspections and school Validated Self-Evaluations (VSE). This priority was linked to improving the skills of all staff in self evaluation.

The new partnership approach was recommended since it would ensure that there continued to be a clear focus on improved outcomes for children and young people.

It was recommended that the Panel note the report and recommend to the Education Executive that it approve the Partnership Agreement with Education Scotland.

Decision

1. To approve the terms of the report;
2. Noted that the Partnership Agreement for 2014-15 would be presented to a future meeting of the Panel; and
3. Agreed to forward the report to the next appropriate meeting of the Education Executive with the recommendation that it be approved.