DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

West Lothian Council

EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH EDUCATION SCOTLAND

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE) AND HEAD OF SCHOOLS WITH EDUCATION SUPPORT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To bring to the Panel's attention Education Services' proposed Partnership Agreement with Education Scotland for 2014-15.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The panel is asked to note the report and recommend to the Education Executive that it approves the Partnership Agreement with Education Scotland 2014-15.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	**Council Values**	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Making best use of our resources; Working in partnership
II	**Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)**	Standards in Scotland's schools etc. Act 2000 Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended.
III	**Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers**	None
IV	**Impact on performance and performance Indicators**	Education Scotland quality indicators are used to measure the performance of schools.
V	**Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement**	Our young people are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities.
VI	**Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)**	Within existing resources.
VII	**Consideration at PDSP**	This report is for consideration at PDSP.
VIII	**Other consultations**	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Local Partnership Agreement, Education Scotland and West Lothian Council 2014-15

This partnership agreement sets out a number of areas of development support and activity between Education Scotland and West Lothian Council which will assist both organisations in taking forward priority objectives designed to improve outcomes for learners, families and communities.

West Lothian Council and Education Scotland worked together on a Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE). The report was published in September 2013. HM inspectors expressed a high degree of confidence in West Lothian's approach to quality improvement in schools. As a result of the VSE, West Lothian officers undertook work to develop a new improvement strategy, applying some of the principles of validated self-evaluation. This work provides a sound basis for developing a culture of effective partnership working between West Lothian Council and Education Scotland focusing on improving outcomes.

West Lothian's Partnership Agreement for session 2014-15 was developed with Education Scotland and is attached as Appendix 1.

The priorities will focus on:

1. Planned action to secure improvement through effective self-evaluation with partners.

2. Developing capacity for effective self-evaluation and planning for improvement in specific secondary schools.

3. Support for Community Learning and Development (CLD) and learning community partnerships and building capacity to implement CLD regulations.

4. Improving the capacity for effective curriculum planning and recognising the clear leadership role required to design and deliver an effective curriculum.

5. Enabling clusters and schools to achieve coherent planning, assessment and reporting practices which ensure that all learners make appropriate progress in their learning, taking account of national guidance.

E. CONCLUSION

The Council will continue to work closely with Education to develop this partnership approach for continuous improvement to ensure positive outcomes for West Lothian's children and young people.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: One

Appendix 1 : Local Partnership Agreement Improvement, Assurance and Support Plan - Education Scotland and West Lothian Council 2014-15

Contact Person: Elaine Cook, Head of Education (Quality Assurance)
Email: Elaine.cook@westlothian.gov.uk Tel: 01506 283050

Elaine Cook, Head of Education (Quality Assurance)
James Cameron, Head of Schools with Education Support

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