



## REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

22 MAY 2024

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**Report by:** Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director

**Subject:** GwE Professional Learning Support

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### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To share information with Joint Committee members regarding our Professional Learning Offer for the current financial year.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 GwE produces a comprehensive Professional Learning offer that is varied and fit for purpose. Schools appreciate this Offer and it supports our other support streams.

2.2 In accordance with the statement from the former Minister for Education and Welsh Language on 31 January 2024, local authorities continue to support and fund the regional consortia to provide a professional learning offer for this academic year via the Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG). GwE's Professional Learning Offer will respond specifically to the terms and conditions of this grant; we will therefore offer provision to support the following aspects:

- Reform - support for Curriculum Reform
- Reform - support for Professional Learning and Leadership
- Cymraeg 2050

2.3 This new Professional Learning offer replaces the previous offer, which was to continue until the end of the summer term originally.

2.4 The Offer is free to all practitioners in north Wales in the form of a catalogue that is updated on a regular basis. Schools receive a Bulletin every fortnight to remind them of current Professional Learning and provide information regarding registration. The Professional Learning Offer may be accessed from our website: [GwE Professional Offer](#)

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### 3.0 **Matters for consideration**

3.1 In accordance with the expectation of the Grant, the offer has been created to support schools in two parts:

- 1. Regional Professional Learning Offer - support for Curriculum Reform - with a specific focus on supporting learners to make progress across the curriculum in the mandatory cross-curricular skills (literacy, numeracy and digital competence) and support for multilingualism through developing provision for international languages.
- 2. National Professional Learning Offer - Professional Learning and Leadership. Practitioners will be able to access National Professional Learning Programmes via any methods agreed nationally. We will continue to encourage schools and signpost them to national projects and programmes.

3.2 In line with schools' wishes it was intended to scale back the next Professional Learning Offer in order to ensure support for schools that is more incisive and focused. With the change to a service commissioned by the authorities, to meet the terms and conditions of the grant, this has occurred naturally with this new Offer.

3.3 It is intended to run these sessions more frequently on a more local level, and developing networks is a core part of this. Practitioners will also be expected to take responsibility for their own Professional Learning by completing inter-sessional tasks.

3.4 We will evaluate the effectiveness of our Offer by means of our Business Plan biannual monitoring processes. We have evolved our monitoring processes to capture the overall impact of our Offer on different levels, noting an expectation, as noted above, that individuals who attend implement what they have learned from the support.

3.5 With professional learning funding now released directly to schools, it is also intended to provide an opportunity for a school, or schools, to commission GwE to provide additional professional learning or support.

3.6 Through this commissioning process, it is intended to offer focused support that is tailored to specific needs. It is anticipated we can offer focused support for different:

- Sectors: Secondary, Primary, Special
- Organisations: Individual schools, Catchment area/Cluster/Alliance, group of schools
- Audiences: Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Middle Leaders, Practitioners
- Timings: Full day, half day, twilight session/staff meeting, INSET

3.7 There is a clear process for schools to follow to request a commission from GwE. The process has been created to ensure that schools receive support that is specifically tailored to their needs and that they get good value for money. GwE will draw up a contract with any school that requests a commission so that accountability is clear.

### 4.0 **Recommendations**

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the content of the report and the new Professional Learning Plan.

**5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 GwE will operate within current financial resources.

**6.0 Equalities Impact**

6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

**7.0 Personnel Implications**

7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

**8.0 Consultation undertaken**

8.1 Consultation with GwE Management Board.

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**VIEW OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS**

**Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

**Statutory Finance Officer:**

I note that part 5 of the report confirms that GwE will operate within their existing resources. Therefore, I have nothing to add to the report from the perspective of financial propriety.

