



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

12 NOVEMBER 2015

Report by: GwE Lead Director / Chair of the Management Board & Managing Director

Subject: Estyn Recommendations 2015 – Progress Update Report (June – October 2015)

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update Joint Committee members on progress against the recommendations made by Estyn (June 2015).

2.0 Background

2.1 In June 2015, Estyn (at the request of Welsh Government) published a report on the progress being made by regional education consortia to provide school improvement services. In 2014, the Welsh Government published a guidance document 'National Model for Regional Working', which outlines the government's vision of regional consortia

2.2 Estyn and Wales Audit Office staff carried out fieldwork visits to each regional consortium in partnership and evidence was shared between the two organisations. The fieldwork visits involved interviews with key staff from each consortium and its related local authorities. The visit to GwE took place in January 2015. The survey also involved scrutiny of a wide range of evidence from schools, local authorities, diocesan authorities, regional consortia and the Welsh Government.

2.3 The following recommendations were identified:

- R1 Improve performance management arrangements by:
 - planning for the medium term to ensure a strategic approach to school improvement
 - ensuring that plans contain actions that are specific and measurable, with appropriate targets, costings and milestones for delivery
 - capturing, sharing and using data (from pupil level up) efficiently and effectively
 - monitoring the progress of pupils and schools regularly
-

- taking a more robust approach to identifying and managing risks
- realistically self-evaluating their strengths and shortcomings
- tightly managing the individual performance of their staff
- R2 Secure greater consistency in the quality of challenge advisers' evaluations of schools, particularly in relation to teaching and leadership
- R3 Develop clearer strategies to address the impact of deprivation upon education outcomes and ensure that all actions are coherent in this purpose
- R4 Improve the quality and range of support for schools and in particular:
 - develop clearer strategies for maximising the potential of school-to-school support
 - provide or broker better support for teaching and learning in non-core subject areas
- R5 Involve diocesan authorities effectively in the strategic planning and evaluation of regional services

Local authorities should:

- R6 Support their regional consortium to develop medium-term business plans and ensure that all plans take account of the needs of their local schools
- R7 Develop formal working arrangements between scrutiny committees in their consortium in order to scrutinise the work and impact of their regional consortium

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The Progress Update Report details the following against each recommendation:

- Action taken;
- Evidence of impact
- Further actions needed (including by who & when);
- Risk assessment based on the following colour indicators

 Completed/ahead of schedule	 Needs attention	 Requires urgent attention
---	---	---

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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 The GwE Management Board & Advisory have been consulted during the development of the document.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Estyn Recommendations 2015 – Progress Update (June – October 2015)

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

No observations from propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Generally, I support the further actions proposed, such as putting the Business Plan priorities into a revised formal risk register and appropriate monitoring, which makes sense.