



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 JULY 2020

Report by: Alwyn Jones - GwE Assistant Director

Subject: GwE Work Programme

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present a report to the Joint Committee members on GwE Work Programme covering the period of 23 March 2020 to 22 May 2020.

2.0 Background

2.1 The response to COVID-19 has dramatically changed our lives. In this challenging context, the education system and schooling has been significantly disrupted. On 23 March 2020, schools were re-purposed to support children of key workers and some vulnerable learners. School leaders have worked tirelessly to adapt to new arrangements and develop processes to support the learners and families within their homes and communities.

2.2 GwE staff have also adapted their work in order to continue to provide services and support for all our school communities.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 We believe that the most important thing for each school in this time of unprecedented change and disruption is the safety and well-being of our children and our workforce, and doing all we can to support the physical and mental well-being of our children and young people throughout this period.

3.2 Our main priorities and work streams during this period have been as follows:

- Phase 1: Pre-lockdown
 - Phase 2: Supporting schools at the beginning of lockdown
 - Phase 3: Distance Learning
 - Phase 4: Supporting schools to re-open
 - Phase 5: Blended Learning
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- 3.3 The attached report (Appendix 1) details the activities, outcomes and impact of our work since the lockdown began, covering the period 23 March 2020 to 22 May 2020 (Phase 1 – 4).

The activities are divided into the following categories:

- Supporting and working with schools
- Regional and Local Authority work
- Support for Professional Learning
- National Continuity of Learning
- Other

- 3.4 We see that Supporting Improvement Advisers (SIAs) will have an evolving role over the coming months in supporting schools with the following aspects:

- Supporting distance learning and developing a blended approach to encompass distance learning and face to face learning
- Supporting the repurposing of schools
- Supporting Professional Learning (PL)

A further report will be presented to the Joint Committee in September 2020.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve 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 Consultation with the GwE Management Board and Joint Committee.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - GwE Work Programme report

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

In the challenging context of Covid-19 and restrictions, GwE must adapt, evolve and prioritise support from within existing resources.