



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 JULY 2020

Report by: Arwyn Thomas, GwE Managing Director & Claire Homard, Chair of GwE Management Board

Subject: Re-starting learning model for North Wales

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present a discussion paper to the Joint Committee members in relation to a re-starting learning model for North Wales.

2.0 Background

2.1 On 3 June 2020, the Welsh Government (WG) announced that there would be a phased opening of schools from 29 June 2020 to give all pupils the opportunity to “check in, catch up and prepare.”

2.2 Welsh Government have published a Learning Guidance, which gives schools considerable flexibility to exercise their professional judgement in how they will plan their offer to their pupils. Welsh Government will be publishing more detailed guidance and expectations for learning in the autumn term in due course.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 Enclosed is a discussion paper in relation to a re-starting learning model for North Wales. The document has been co-authored by Warwick and Bangor Universities and the North Wales Region.

3.2 All learners will ‘restart’ their learning during the autumn academic term 2020 following an offer of check in and catch up period in the last three/four weeks of the 2019-2020 academic year. Schools need to assess the fitness of learning of their pupils before introducing new learning.

3.3 As outlined in the paper, the school's preparedness or approach to ensure learning for all pupils, would need to initially focus on three inter-related components that would assess pupils' fitness for learning:

- Emotional and mental well-being;
- Health and physical fitness; and
- Core skills of numeracy and literacy, independence skills, and readiness for new learning

3.4 Schools need to ensure that they can offer provision for their learners against each area to ensure equity and equality. Responsibility for supporting schools to deliver each element would be agreed between LAs, GwE and other agencies to collectively plan appropriate provision to meet all learners needs as they are identified, understanding that is both a short and longer term approach.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to support the regional approach and model, with GwE, Local Authorities and schools working in partnership to ensure that the individual needs of learners are met in an individualised local context.

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 undertaken with the GwE Management Board

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Re-starting learning model for North Wales.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from the propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Nothing to add to the report from a financial propriety perspective.