

REGIONAL CONSORTIA SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT EDUCATION

1. Background

1.1 On 1st April 2015, The Education Improvement Grant (EIG) was created after the Welsh Government joined the following grants:

- Foundation Phase
- 14-19 Learning Pathways
- School Effectiveness Grant (GEY)
- Welsh in Education Grant
- Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant
- Education of Gypsy Children and Traveller Children
- Induction of Newly Qualified Teachers
- Higher Level Teaching Assistants
- Lead and Emerging Schools
- Support for Reading and Numeracy Tests
- Funding for Band 4 and 5 Schools

1.2 The EIG has now been incorporated into a new 'Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant'. The purpose of the grant is to improve educational outcomes for all learners and reduce the impact of deprivation on learner outcomes.

1.3 The core principle of the grant is that the vast majority is used for front-line provision with the terms and conditions of the 2019-20 grant stating that a minimum of 80% of the total (RCSIG) is devolved directly to schools. Gwynedd Council is the host authority for RCSIG and the Local Education Consortium, GwE is responsible for ensuring that schools meet the grant requirements and support the schools to this end.

2. Purpose and Scope of Audit

2.1 The purpose of the audit was to ensure that there were appropriate internal controls in place for the administration of the 2019-20 RCSIG, in order to mitigate risks in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant as well as to confirm the figures presented on Gwynedd Council and GwE's expenditure statements in relation to the grant, by tracing the figures to their source in order to confirm their accuracy and propriety.

3. Audit Level of Assurance

3.1 The controls for risk mitigation were examined. The auditor's assessment concludes that the level of assurance of the audit is as follows:

Assurance Level	Description
HIGH	Certainty of propriety can be stated as internal controls can be relied upon to achieve objectives.

4. Main Findings

4.1 Assurances can be expressed of the accuracy of Gwynedd Council and GwE's expenditure statements in relation to the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant. A sample of figures were traced back to the Council's financial ledger, and found to be accurate, reasonable and in line with the objectives of the grant.

4.2 Good arrangements appear to exist for the administration of the RCSIG. It was seen that the appropriate percentage of gross funding had been delegated directly to the schools and that the appropriate percentage of grant funding had been retained for the purpose of administration in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.