



## REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

24 FEBRUARY 2021

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

**Subject:** Supporting Schools

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### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To present information to Joint Committee members regarding the main focus of GwE's work over the next two terms.

### **2.0 Background**

2.1 GwE staff have adapted their work in order to continue to provide services and support all our schools and their communities. Over the next two terms, our work will primarily focus on supporting school leaders and staff to identify achievements and outstanding matters for attention.

### **3.0 Matters for consideration**

3.1 The service will support school leaders and staff so as to ensure all schools are in a strong position to:

- report on pupil standards and progress [including vulnerable groups] during lockdown
- develop and further improve experiences and learning outcomes for learners
- further develop effective practice in blended learning and distance learning
- promote and further support the wellbeing of learners and staff
- report with confidence on the impact of grant expenditure and support
- prioritise with confidence and accuracy the courses of action for 2021-22

- identify with confidence the exact aspects for which additional support is required
- maximise opportunities for peer engagement

3.2 Working with the link school will allow all Link Supporting Improvement Advisers [SIA] to:

- understand the school's position in regard to progress, strengths and areas for further attention
- understand how grants are used and their impact on standards and quality
- understand the school's position in relation to CfW/ALN/y Gymraeg milestones
- know what the school requires in terms of further support
- understand how peer work is developing and its impact to date
- be aware of good practice, to be shared more widely
- be in a strong position to respond to scrutiny enquires regarding the school from the Core Lead or from Estyn in any proposed inspection in 2021-22

3.3 All SIAs will uphold the following principles in their engagement with link schools:

- not regard the work as a '*re-categorisation of schools*' or '*a pseudo-inspection*' the school
- implementation will be a '*process*' and not an '*event*'
- a process that is undertaken '*with*' schools rather than '*to*' schools and the starting point will be the school's own evaluation and sources of evidence
- ensure diagnostic collaboration and discussions over a period of time and not regard the exercise as a '*tick-in-the-box exercise*'
- remember that the aim is quality enhancement not quality assurance
- where appropriate and desirable, promote '*peer*' input to the work
- ideally, discussions should involve other staff members, rather than merely the Headteacher
- in the secondary, the Link SIA will need to ensure further input from the Subject SIA
- in some instances, there will be a need to work with the school to develop processes, or to collate and summarise evidence
- for the majority, the work will span two terms but it is acknowledged that some schools will be in a more mature position to discuss over a shorter period of time

3.4 The work programme will be continually reviewed in response to the Covid-19 situation and Government guidelines and regulations, and be approved by GwE's Management Board and Joint Committee. In addition, the work programme and its delivery will be discussed and agreed with Headteachers and schools.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 Joint Committee members are asked to approve the content of the report and main focus of GwE's work over the next two terms.

#### **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 took place with GwE Management Board and the Joint Committee.

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### **OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS**

#### **Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

#### **Statutory Finance Officer:**

I appreciate that the work program has been revised to respond to the Covid-19 situation, and that this has been thoroughly planned, is inclusive, and is to be delivered within GwE's existing resources.