



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2021

Report by: Alwyn Jones, GwE Assistant Director

Subject: Parent/Carer Support Strategy

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update Joint Committee members regarding our strategy and the support available to help parents and carers on how best to support their children's learning.

2.0 Background

2.1 Many schools acknowledge that the engagement of parents/carers has been crucial in ensuring effective remote/blended learning. The Directors of Education and the Joint Committee have identified this as being a regional priority.

2.2 In response, GwE and the Local Authorities have provided a range of guidance documents to support parent/carers engagement, including developing resources and good practice.

2.3 In addition, a regional group has been established with representation from every authority to focus on a strategy to help parents/carers to support their children's learning. This group will oversee the regional strategy that needs to be developed to improve parent/carers engagement so that they can effectively support their children's learning throughout and beyond the COVID period.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The regional group will set a strategic direction to the work of supporting parents/carers in GwE's region with their children's learning, overseeing the following aspects:

- Develop a comprehensive pack to support and help parents/carers to transform their understanding of learning and support for their child.
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- Develop a comprehensive course for parents and carers that provides them with the resources, information and confidence to be able to help their children with their learning at home.
 - Provide written guidance including strategies and techniques that parents/carers can use to support their child's learning.
 - Provide practical strategies, activities and techniques that parents/carers can use to help support their children's learning.
 - Develop and adapt resources accordingly to meet the needs of specific groups of parents and carers.
 - Review the provision in place across the region in order to ensure that current resources fully support and meet local and regional needs.
 - Ensure appropriate cohesiveness and capacity to provide high quality regional resources in this area.
 - Ensure that expertise and good practice are disseminated across the region.
- 3.2 The region has been working closely with Mike Gershon, a best-selling author of over forty books on teaching, learning and education, on a project titled 'Help Your Child to Learn', i.e. a series of bilingual on-line teaching resources to support the role of parents/carers in helping their children to learn.
- 3.3 The resources and [website](#) developed by Mike Gershon provide a solid starting block for supporting parents, and we have been working with Mike to ensure that the website is bilingual, free and available to all parents in North Wales.
- 3.4 Mike Gershon has attended meetings of the primary heads' forums and GwE's Team of SIAs is currently sharing the information with clusters. Please find below a link to a bilingual presentation that will be shared at the cluster meetings - [Mike Gershon presentation](#).
- 3.5 As the next developmental step, Mike Gershon will be attending meetings of secondary head teachers' strategic forums to discuss their needs before presenting a further proposal to the regional group.
- 4.0 Recommendations**
- 4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note and accept the report and to support our strategy and the support for schools in relation to parent/carers engagement in north Wales.
- 5.0 Financial Implications**
- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within current financial resources.
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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 the regional Heads' Strategic Forums, representatives from the Local Authorities, Full Team, Management Board and the Joint Committee.

OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Part 5 of the report explains that "there are no financial implications arising from this report" as "GwE will operate within current financial resources". As a result, I have no comments to add regarding financial propriety.