



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

16/02/2022

Report by: GwE Assistant Director

Subject: Progress Report on the Reform Journey Autumn Term 2021

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present information to members of the Joint-Committee with regards to where schools and PRUs are currently at as they address the renew and reform agenda and is based on evidence gathered by GwE Supporting Improvement Advisers as part of their work in supporting schools during the autumn term 2021.

2.0 Background

2.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that even in the most challenging of circumstances positive change is possible. In North Wales, GwE, the Local Authorities, Schools and PRUs have seized opportunities to explore innovative ways of working. Schools have delivered meaningful teaching and learning experiences through a creative blended learning approach. These experiences need to be built upon to avoid a 'snap back,' keeping the positive learning that has been developed during this time and preparing for the future. The four transversal themes of the learning organisation of time, trust, thinking together and technology have developed as strong foundations of a collaborative way of working as we move forward with the renew and reform agenda. However, the response to COVID-19 has of course had a significant impact on schools and is likely to have disrupted some of their plans for preparation and implementing the new curriculum.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 For each school and PRU, Supporting Improvement Adviser reported on:

Primary and special sectors

- How does the school capture and measure progress in areas such as literacy, numeracy, basic skills, well-being, learners who are vulnerable to learning?
- What is the information that comes out of this summative or qualitative data?

Secondary sector including relevant special schools and PRUs

- How have secondary schools used 2021 Centre Determined Grades for GCSE and A level to undertake self-evaluation to support continuous improvement?

Curriculum for Wales (CfW)

- What are your school priorities for CfW during the Autumn term?
- What are your cluster priorities for CfW during the Autumn term?
- How are you engaging further with the resources from the CfW professional learning offer?
 - Leading change
 - Developing a shared vision
 - Curriculum reform
- What will be the role and contribution of your SIA and extended GwE team members in supporting this work?
- What are your initial approaches to developing curriculum design within your school and across your cluster?

ALN Reform and Progress Towards Implementation

- How will the regional and local networks support your school/cluster?
- What are your priorities for ALN Transformation as a school/cluster for the Autumn term?

Professional Learning

- Have you identified further areas/aspects for professional learning?

Accountability

- What should accountability look like?
- How will you measure progress and the impact of your work?
- What will reporting look like?

3.2 The report provides an overview of discussions with schools, a summary of the GwE professional learning offer and support to schools, as well as identifying areas for further development and support.

3.3 The evaluation process has identified the following high level regional priorities:

1. Ensure that all schools will be ready to roll out the curriculum and are addressing mandatory/statutory requirements for planned delivery in 2022 or 2023 (secondary sector option).

The rollout will be supported by:

- Providing regional and local networks with clear guidance on curriculum design, planning, assessment and progression through modelling and exemplifying curriculum practice;
 - Promoting learner transition by ensuring effective direct engagement between secondary and primary schools;
 - Working in tandem with leaders to ensure that all settings have a clear plan to effectively respond to the guidance delivered in the Curriculum for Wales Professional Learning Programme;
 - Ensuring all settings adopt and publish a summary for key stakeholders of their curriculum and assessment arrangements as outlined by the 'Journey to Rollout' guidance.
2. Implement processes addressing schools causing concern and work with Local Authorities to ensure schools have the appropriate level of support and challenge for their improvement.
 3. Further strengthen and embed peer review especially within secondary alliances to strengthen self-evaluation and the improvement planning.
 4. Support the Local Authorities in the delivery of ALN Transformation by providing Professional Learning to improve teaching and learning.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to accept and approve the content of the report together with the high-level priorities outlined above.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within current financial resources.

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 GwE Management Board.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Progress Report on the Reform Journey Autumn Term 2021

OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

“I note that part 5 of the covering report confirms that there are no financial implications arising from the report, and that GwE will operate within their current financial resources. Therefore, I have nothing to add to the report from the perspective of financial propriety.”
