



## REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

5 October 2022

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

**Subject:** The Reform Journey: Progress report

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### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present Joint Committee members with a further progress report on schools' preparations for Curriculum for Wales work in light of the renew and reform agenda.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 Since 2015 and the release of Successful Futures, an independent review by Professor Graham Donaldson offering 68 recommendations to improve education within Wales, Welsh Government have embarked on a significant cycle of change to realise a new Curriculum for Wales.

2.2 Schools and settings across the region have been supported to engage with this substantial reform journey since 2017 in line with the region's Curriculum for Wales strategy. Examples of such activities include developing effective pedagogy, considering purposeful assessment including assessment for learning, developing peer review and leading change in line with the work of schools as a learning organisation.

2.3 Since March 2020, Covid-19 has undoubtedly impacted on schools' ability and capacity to engage with the reform journey. As schools prioritised responding to the pandemic, most of their original timelines and plans to prepare for the implementation of the new curriculum were disrupted. Covid-19 continues to be a challenge as cases rise and fall with leaders facing staff absences and limited availability of supply teachers.

2.4 This report, Appendix 1, builds upon the previous progress report from the Autumn term 2021 which considered how schools were responding to the Curriculum for Wales work in light of the renew and reform agenda during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It provides an outline of where schools and PRUs are currently at as they have continued to prepare for the Curriculum for Wales and is based on evidence gathered by GwE Supporting Improvement Advisers as part of their work in supporting schools during the Spring and Summer terms 2022.

### 3.0 **Matters for consideration**

3.1 The aspects in the list below have been agreed with Welsh Government and the regions/partnerships as the processes that schools and educational settings need to undertake to be prepared for curriculum realisation in September 2022. These aspects align fully with the steps outlined in the 'Journey to curriculum rollout' document. Each region/partnership has contributed to the overall national picture shared with the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. Progress has been captured on the following:

- Identify the school's unique factors and how these contribute to the four purposes.
- Review the vision, values and behaviours to support the realisation of the curriculum.
- Understanding of curriculum design considerations including mandated elements and the school's linguistic policy.
- Review curriculum design models and investigate their suitability for the school.
- Consider the role of progression, assessment and pedagogy in the curriculum and local context.
- Design, plan and pilot the proposed curriculum models, evaluate the initial designs and develop plans for the medium term.

3.2 During the Spring and Summer terms 2022, all Supporting Improvement Advisers have visited schools and PRUs with a focus on Curriculum for Wales. Supporting Improvement Advisers have worked alongside school leaders to co-construct an overview and to capture the progress the school has made in preparing for the new curriculum. This report captures the information that has been gathered from these visits at a regional level.

3.3 The report also summarises the GwE Professional Learning Offer and support provided for schools. The areas for further development and support and the high-level regional priorities are also summarised. These priorities will inform the regional business plans and GwE's work programme for the Autumn Term 2022 onwards.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to accept and approve the report.

#### **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 and Joint Committee.

#### **9.0 Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1 - Progress Report on Reform Journey: Summer Term 2022

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### **OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS**

#### **Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

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

I note that part 5 of the 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.

