



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

5 October 2022

Report by: Arwyn Thomas – GwE Managing Director

Subject: GwE Work Programme Autumn and Spring Term 2022-23

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To present information for Joint Committee members on the main focus of our work programme for the Autumn term and beyond.

2.0 Background

The new national school improvement guidance outlines the Welsh Government's expectations of all stakeholders in contributing to school improvement. The guidance sets out a framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability that will deliver sustainable school improvement and drive behaviours and practices that are required by the new curriculum and assessment arrangements.

Our work programme, starting from September 2022, will support schools and settings as they evolve their processes and practice to effectively address the requirements and expectations of the new framework.

The main focus of engagement with schools will include support to:

- further develop and enhance self-evaluation and improvement planning processes and systems.
- develop their Curriculum for Wales offer.
- further strengthen the quality of teaching and learning and assessment across the school.
- further strengthen the quality of leadership across the school.
- effectively engage with alliance / cluster collaboration.

In their engagement with link schools, Supporting Improvement Advisers will ensure that:

- they have a comprehensive and accurate assessment of strengths and areas for improvement in the school based on evaluation of data/information and regular participation in scrutiny activities.
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- all link schools are effectively supported via a bespoke Support Plan which is closely aligned to self-evaluation findings and School Improvement Priorities, that progress is monitored and that early intervention is targeted where underperformance or stagnation is identified.
- bespoke Support Plans are shared with governing bodies and that a meaningful and purposeful dialogue is undertaken with governors on the school's self-evaluation processes and improvement priorities; the school's strengths which could be used to support other schools and any particular issues governors need to be aware of and monitor in the school.
- effective commissioning strategies are applied to address school improvements when required i.e. when necessary expertise or capacity does not reside within team.

Supporting Improvement Advisers will also undertake a link role with alliances/clusters which will include:

- contributions to meetings and facilitation of additional support where required.
- supporting alliances/clusters to respond to the new national school improvement guidance by further developing collaboration to enhance self-evaluation and improvement planning processes and systems in each school.
- supporting plans for continuity and progression in Curriculum for Wales development.
- supporting alliances/clusters to identify contributions for regional/local professional learning offer to peers

Collaboration with schools and clusters to develop a comprehensive and accurate assessment of strengths and areas for improvement will include joint-exploration of how schools:

- evaluate GCSE and A Level examination results [secondary] and standards and progress in areas such as literacy, numeracy, basic skills, wellbeing, learners who are vulnerable to learning [primary and secondary].
- hone their self-evaluation and improvement planning processes and systems to meet the requirements of the new School Improvement Guidance and how peer contribution to those processes could evolve.
- are supporting all learners to develop a secure foundation for their learning and skills development and progression and how specific barriers are addressed.
- bridge the learning experience for all year groups to ensure continuity and progress and to alleviate any pressures and uncertainties which might worry some learners.
- are working within their clusters to ensure effective transition from primary to secondary.
- are benefiting from, and contributing to, professional learning at regional and local level.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 In North Wales, GwE and the six Local Authorities are committed to working in partnership with schools to ensure that we have robust and purposeful systems and processes in place to adhere to national expectations. Our approach will ensure that we have the confidence and support of all key stakeholders and that each partner will take full accountability for undertaking their role and contribution with transparency, effectiveness and efficiency.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note and accept the content of 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 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 and discussions have been held with GwE Management Board and regional head teachers via Headteachers' Strategic Forums and the GwE Conference for senior leaders held at Venue Cymru on 22 and 23 September, 2022.

OPINION OF THE 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.