



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

12 JULY 2023

Report by: Alwyn Jones, GwE Assistant Director

Subject: Evaluation and impact strategy

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present information, and for Joint Committee members to approve our 'Evaluation and impact strategy'.

2.0 Background

2.1 Since 2015, Welsh Government have embarked on a significant cycle of change to realise a new Curriculum for Wales. Welsh Government recognise that for successful realisation, it is crucial that all aspects of the school system are aligned with, and support, the Curriculum for Wales and its underlying principles.

2.2 In June 2022, Welsh Government published the new guidance and information on school improvement and the new framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability. This guidance applies to schools, PRUs, Local Authorities, diocesan authorities, regional consortia and Estyn and outlines expectations of all in contributing to sustainable school improvement. All stakeholders within the Welsh education system will therefore need to work within this new School Improvement Framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability.

2.3 GwE need to be able to clearly evaluate and capture impact of its work in line with its core school improvement function and to enable it to fully meet the expectations as outlined in the School Improvement Guidance.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 The purpose of this strategy (see Appendix 1) is to articulate clearly how GwE captures impact as part of its ongoing evaluation processes in line with its commitment to developing a culture of continuous improvement as a learning organisation. The self-evaluation processes draw upon a range of sources and information that are both qualitative and quantitative which support schools in working towards the national priorities.
- 3.2 Across North Wales, GwE and the 6 Local Authorities have developed strong and effective collaborative partnerships for school improvement. This enables coherence in the way GwE and the Local Authority capture the impact of all school improvement provision and support offered to schools. Consideration will also be given as to how impact at individual school level and system level will be captured across the region, in the short, medium and longer term.
- 3.3 In line with the recommendation within Successful Futures, GwE will employ a sampling methodology as part of this strategy. Careful planning and consideration will be given to ensure that the sampling approaches are appropriate and purposeful, allowing for coverage of settings, learners and practitioners to form a representative regional sample.
- 3.4 A further aim of the strategy is to ensure that information is shared at timely intervals throughout the year to a wide range of stakeholders, giving confidence and clarity on the quality and impact of the wide range of work undertaken. This strategy will allow transparency to stakeholders and the wider public and demonstrate value for money.
- 3.5 The strategy will also enable GwE and Local Authorities to identify and understand effective practice within its own provision. In implementing national policy, the strategy enables GwE to capture impact of practice at both a local and regional level. In this way, self-evaluation findings will feed into regional and local business planning priorities and inform future national policy where appropriate.
- 3.6 Key principles underpin the strategy, fully aligning with the behaviours identified in the new school improvement framework and in line with GwE working as a learning organisation.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to accept and approve the 'Evaluation and impact strategy'.

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 took place with, representatives from the Local Authorities, Full Team, and GwE Management Board.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - Evaluation and impact strategy

OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I am satisfied that adopting the Evaluation and Impact Strategy will not create a new spending commitment, therefore I have no objection to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.