



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Report by: Alwyn Jones - GwE Assistant Director

Subject: GwE Professional Learning Offer in response to Covid-19

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present a report to the Joint Committee members on the GwE Professional Learning Offer in response to Covid-19.

2.0 Background

2.1 The response to COVID-19 has dramatically changed our lives. In this challenging context, the education system and schooling has been significantly disrupted but remains of central importance. Staff in the local authorities and GwE have adapted and repurposed their work in order to continue to provide effective services and support for their school communities.

2.2 Under normal circumstances, GwE's Professional Learning (PL) offer is both comprehensive and wide-ranging providing effective professional learning opportunities for all school staff. During the COVID-19 pandemic the health and wellbeing of all learners and teaching staff has been prioritised by GwE and the LAs. The 'normal' professional offer has been modified to ensure that schools and settings receive relevant and purposeful support. This has enabled them to successfully deal and adapt to the challenging circumstances that they find themselves in. The regional approach of supporting collaboration through cluster working has continued throughout this period.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The Professional Learning offer prioritised supporting schools to improve the digital skills of their staff and enabling them to develop effective Distance and Blended Learning approaches and more effective learner engagement. The development and sharing of distance and blended learning exemplar models were very warmly received by schools and ensured that we had higher levels of consistency in the quality of provision and delivery across the region.

3.2 The new Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership form the basis of the PL and support teaching staff and leaders with pedagogy, collaboration, leadership, innovation and their professional learning.

3.3 The six local authorities and GwE have also taken a collegiate and collective regional approach in developing a supportive framework to ensure that all regional schools had the right policies in place together with a comprehensive risk assessment in order to create a safe environment to welcome the children back into schools.

3.4 The Local Authorities and GwE have worked collaboratively to ensure extensive professional learning to support the repurposing of schools.

3.5 This report (Appendix 1) outlines the professional learning offer to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides summaries and links to the resources developed and shared with schools as well as a brief outline of the professional learning opportunities that have been offered.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the content of the report and the GwE Professional Learning Offer in response to Covid-19.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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 the GwE Management Board and Joint Committee.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - GwE Professional Learning Offer in response to Covid-19.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I note that part 5.1 of the report above confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.