



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER 2020

Report by: Arwyn Thomas, GwE Managing Director

Subject: Blended Learning Resources

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To share information with Joint Committee members regarding our strategy and the support available to schools to ensure continuity of learning.

2.0 Background

2.1 In order to prepare for any further possible disruptions in the coming weeks and months, we would like to see schools working together, and with us, to prepare for the multitude of possible situations that could arise. Our main priority will be working with schools to ensure continuity of learning.

2.2. The GwE Support Centre has been established where all the resources created in response to the lockdown are to be found. During this next phase, we are keen to work with schools across the region to further develop this approach, and expand the collection of resources available to schools in the coming months. This will include sharing resources that are already available and preparing additional resources where gaps have been identified. It is hoped that this will lessen the workload for schools, and allow them to prepare for any eventuality.

2.3 Our approach, along with the supplementary resources, will further strengthen our efforts to:

- develop better consistency and quality in the 'universal' offer available for the age range
 - target groups of learners effectively in the short term
 - develop literacy and numeracy skills effectively across the curriculum
 - provide effective blended learning models
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- plan for the new Curriculum for Wales

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 Primary schools will work together and support each other within their natural clusters. With the uncertainty surrounding how qualifications in KS4 and KS5 are to be awarded, there will be opportunities for secondary schools, special schools and PRUs to form alliances in order to address any gaps in provision and to consider other methods of delivery in response to any other lockdowns. These alliances could be in the form of triads, or any other form best suited to ensure continuity of learning. The aim is for clusters and alliances to identify appropriate and required levels of support in all the various situations.
- 3.2 Each cluster / alliance will receive funding to facilitate their requirements locally. Each cluster or alliance is also expected to share plans and resources developed with other clusters and alliances. Thus, we will have a significant collection of resources for each age group in schools in North Wales.
- 3.3. There will be a library of blended learning resources available, created by teachers, for teachers. Clusters and alliances are in the process of gathering, co-constructing and sharing resources with each other and across the region.
- 3.4 This resource will be available via the GwE Support Centre and includes resources from the Foundation Phase up to Key Stage 5. In addition, an information page for Governors has also been established.
- 3.5 This resource will allow schools to continue their strong joint working practices by sharing the resources developed. It will be a means to support colleagues across north Wales during this challenging time, and beyond.
- 3.6 In addition, so as to promote implementation of the Professional Offer, specific funding to develop work in terms of the Welsh language, ALN Transformation, Curriculum and LAC will continue via the catchment area clusters.
- 3.7 So that we can meet the reporting requirements of Welsh Government, each cluster or alliance will be expected to submit a specific plan. GwE SIAs will be available to

facilitate and support this. It is hoped that this will lessen the workload, and allow schools to prepare for any eventuality.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note and accept the content of the report and to support the regional approach and model so as to ensure continuity of learning in North Wales.

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.

OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I note that part 5.1 of the report confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report. Therefore, I have nothing to add to the report from a financial propriety perspective.

