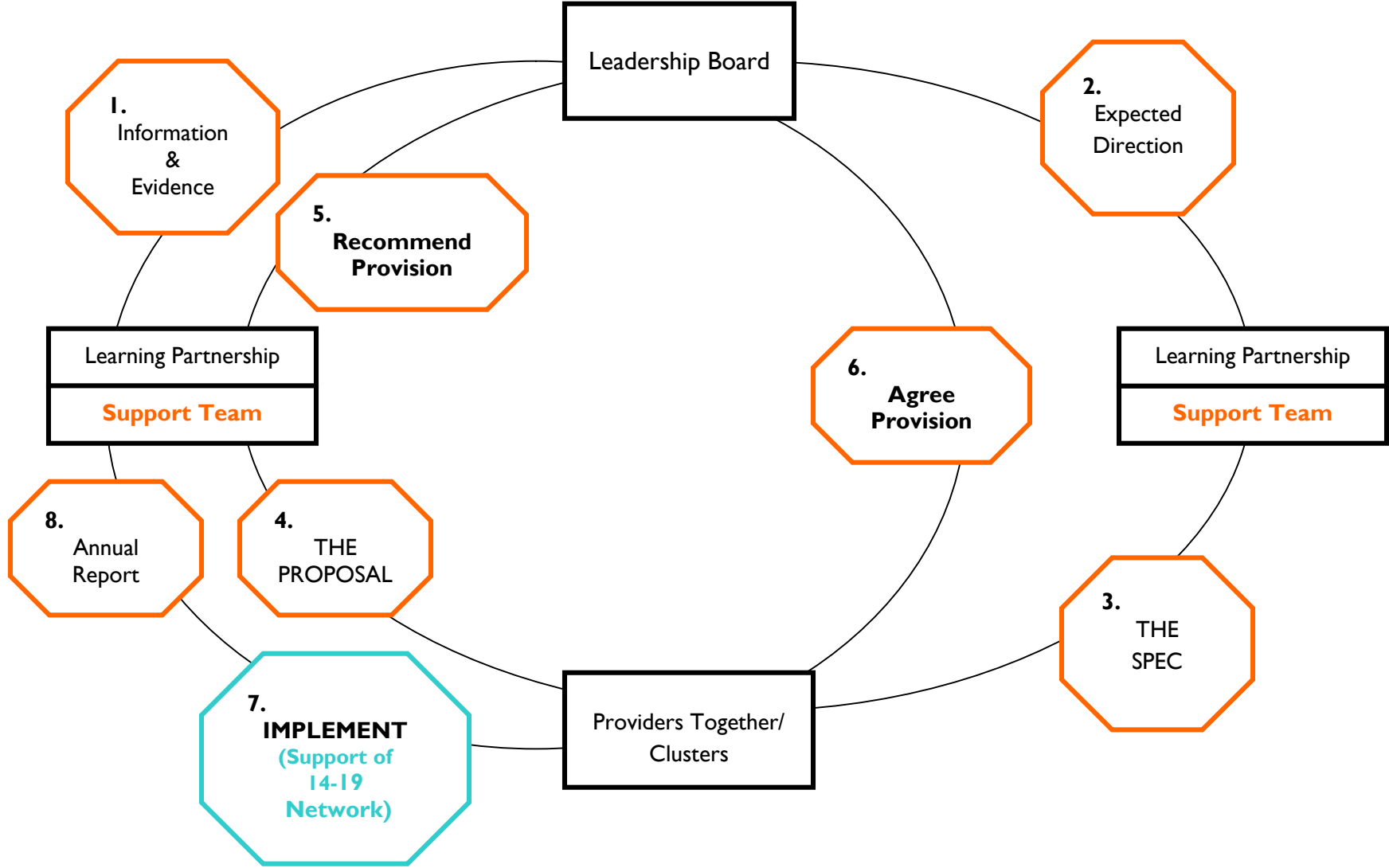


THE CONSORTIUM MODEL
THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING CYCLE



THE CONSORTIUM MODEL: THE PLANNING, DELIVERY AND MONITORING CYCLE

Description of Action Steps

Step 1: Information and Evidence

The joint-strategic planning and delivery of post-16 learning will be based on data and evidence.

PDGYM (The Learning Partnership) will gather information and evidence in order to identify the area's learning needs;

This information will include the area's current achievement as regards Consortium objectives and trends, as well as including more detailed data relating to the present provision, the nature and quality of learning and learner achievement;

It will also include an analysis of the requirements of the local economy and employers, growth sectors, and those sectors that will offer high value job opportunities in the future;

Also, Welsh Government expectations and the wider national policy agenda will be identified and noted;

In gathering this information the Partnership will hold discussions with professional fora in the area of education and training; with careers and work agencies; with employer and business fora and will seek the views of young people.

The information and chief messages will be presented to the Leadership Board.

Step 2 : Setting the Strategic Direction

The Leadership Board will consider the information and chief messages presented by the Learning Partnership, and on the basis of evidence the Leadership Board will note their expectations as regards the strategic direction.

A possible example of such a strategic expectation would be the need to give specific attention to extending Welsh-medium provision, or to vocational aspects in, say Llŷn local area. Another possible example would be the identification of the need to give particular attention to developing learning provision for specific fields or skills sectors in order to fill a gap or to meet an economic need or opportunity.

The expected Strategic Direction will be transferred to the Learning Partnership in order to lay the strategic basis for shaping the Specification (The Spec).

Step 3: The Spec

The Spec will be formulated by the Learning Partnership in order to address the needs, opportunities and strategic expectations identified through Steps 1 and 2;

The document will lay the strategic framework for the joint-working between providers;

This is the document that will lay the basis for the joint Proposal/s by the providers working together, and it will summarise the information required for planning the area provision, and will specify the Criteria to be used in considering the Proposal/s.

The Spec will summarise area ambitions and objectives; the area's current performance; strengths and weaknesses; trends; where course duplication exists at present or where there are particularly small learning groups; any specific gaps as regards a field of learning or a smaller area within Gwynedd and Ynys Môn; economic requirements etc.

Any specific requirements as regards reaching area objectives over time will be noted clearly (and especially for the time-frame of this bid), together with any directive as regards giving attention to issues of quality, the type and medium of learning; the language of learning; inclusion and equality; and to efficiency and effectiveness aspects.

The Spec will be presented to the providers to allow them to undertake the task of the joint shaping of their curricular Proposal/s.

Step 4 : The Proposal

There is already a requirement for providers to develop a curricular proposal for presentation to the Minister. Preparatory co-operative efforts around this task have developed over the last year or so, but there is no consistent arrangement in place to ensure that an integrated curriculum is available in the area. The Proposal document by the joint-providers will establish the curricular offer in an integrated way and on the basis of need and the strategic direction for the area.

The Proposal will be a means for the joint-providers to note how they have considered the requirements of the Spec and how the Proposal content responds to these requirements.

The Proposal will include which courses should be available in the area and at which locations – it will be the providers (not the Learning Partnership nor the Leadership Board) that will plot this jointly and across schools and college establishments.

The Proposal will detail e.g. quality aspects; the type and medium of learning be that academic or vocational, be it e.g. face to face or digital; language of learning; resource and cost aspects; aspects of efficiency and effectiveness including any transport or travel requirements etc. To all intents and purposes this document will be a delivery plan.

The Proposal may be on the basis of smaller joint-working areas within Gwynedd and Ynys Môn, but the requirements as regards content will be the same.

The Proposal will be presented to the Learning Partnership.

Step 5: Recommending the Provision

The Learning Partnership will consider every Proposal against the Criteria in order to identify if the Proposal/s correspond to area requirements, including verifying that there is no unnecessary duplication or possible gaps in the provision proposed e.g. as regards the courses or locations;

Whilst considering the Proposal/s, should there be any lack of clarity or if a problem is foreseen the Learning Partnership will hold further discussions with the proposer/s in order to reach resolution. The intention is to keep in touch with providers as the Proposal/s are developed, and in this way come to an early recognition of any problems and their solutions.

In considering the Proposal/s the Learning Partnership will discuss with both education authorities, and invite their formal professional observations. These formal professional observations will be presented to the Leadership Board with the recommendations of the Learning Partnership;

The Learning Partnership will present its recommendations to the Leadership Board together with the reasons for the recommendations made.

Step 6: Agreeing the Provision

The Leadership Board will consider the recommendations of the Learning Partnership and come to an agreement on the provision for Gwynedd and Ynys Môn.

In coming to its decision on the provision the Leadership Board will discuss their professional observations with the two education authorities.

The agreement on the provision will be presented to the Minister and to the providers for implementation.

Step 7: Implementation

The joint-providers will act to deliver the learning provision in accordance with what is agreed by the Leadership Board and the Minister;

The providers will provide the necessary finance to fund the provision agreed by the Leadership Board and the Minister, and also in accordance with the funding protocols put in place by the Consortium.

Step 8: Annual Report

At the end of each year the joint-providers will write an Annual Report that will note the performance against the elements detailed in the Spec, any other successes and any other learning aspects identified as being in need of further attention.

The Annual Report will be presented to the Learning Partnership and, moving forward, will become part of the information and evidence gathered in Step 1 of the Planning, Delivery and Monitoring Cycle.