



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 JULY 2015

Report by: GwE Managing Director

Subject: GwE Main Priorities

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update Joint Committee members on the main priorities within the service.

2.0 Background

2.1 Improving schools through regional consortia – Estyn & Wales Audit Office reports

The Welsh Government asked Estyn to undertake a survey in order to report on the progress being made by regional education consortia to provide school improvement services. Separately, the Auditor General for Wales asked Wales Audit Office staff to carry out a study on the Welsh Government's approach to improving schools through regional consortia.

Estyn and Wales Audit Office staff carried out fieldwork visits to each regional consortium in partnership and evidence was shared between the two organisations.

The fieldwork visits involved interviews with key staff from each consortium and its related local authorities. The GwE visit took place during the second week in January 2015. The survey also involved scrutiny of a wide range of evidence from schools, local authorities, diocesan authorities, regional consortia and the Welsh Government

2.2 TOWARDS EXCELLENCE: Developing a self-improving school system across the North Wales region

To aim of the model is to establish a refined way of working for the region that builds capacity within our schools to develop a sustainable self-improving school system through a process of co-challenge and co-support.

2.3 Leadership Development Programme

GwE identified the need to develop an effective and consistent leadership development programme (LDP) across the region. The programme aims to ensure quality CPD for practitioners in North Wales, providing specific leadership development experiences consistent with Welsh Government's leadership pathway. It is a priority to ensure that the GwE LDP meets the requirements of Qualified For Life - Objective 4 - and continues to develop the mindset of a self-improving school system.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 In response to the Estyn & Wales Audit Office reports & recommendations, all priorities are to be included in the 3 year Business Plan that is under development. These have been identified as priorities in year 1. The presentation gives further details regarding what is to be achieved (appendix C).

3.2 The Welsh Government's National Model for Regional Working aims to increase the autonomy for our best schools. GwE is committed to developing a self-improving school system born from a belief that the best source of support often lies within other schools. As a region, GwE intends to adapt a refined model of working that builds capacity for self-improvement by utilising the expertise that we have within our schools and moving that knowledge around. . The presentation gives further details regarding what is to be achieved (appendix D).

3.3 The presentation (appendix E) gives further detail regarding the challenges, opportunities & current situation.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

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 The GwE Advisory Board, GwE Management Board & GwE User Group have been consulted.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix A: Estyn report – Improving schools through regional consortia – June 2015

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/360387.3/improving-schools-through-regional-education-consortia-june-2015/?navmap=30,163>,

9.2 Appendix B: Wales Audit Office report – Achieving improvement in support to schools through regional education consortia – an early view <http://www.audit.wales/publication/achieving-improvement-support-schools-through-regional-education-consortia-%E2%80%93-early-view>

9.3 Appendix C: Response to Estyn & WAO – the challenges and the opportunities

9.4 Appendix D: GwE Challenge & Support – 2015/16

9.5 Appendix E: GwE Leadership Development Programme

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Comments will be made, as appropriate, at the meeting.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Comments will be made, as appropriate, at the meeting.