



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

21 February 2018

Report by: Chair of the GwE Advisory Board

Subject: GwE Advisory Board

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide a report on the discussions held at the last meeting of the GwE Advisory Board.

2.0 Background

2.1 The role of the GwE Advisory Board is to: challenge in a constructive manner and contribute to developing the strategy in order to strengthen the organisation to meet its objectives; consider and make recommendations to the Joint Committee regarding the annual business plan; monitor and review the performance of managers in order to meet aims and objectives; and monitor the reporting on performance.

2.2 The Advisory Board reports to the Joint Committee on a regular basis

2.3 See report on last meeting (06/02/18) in Appendix 1

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Joint Committee is requested to note the content of the report

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Equalities Impact

5.1 There are no new equalities impacts arising from this report

6.0 Personnel Implications

6.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

7.0 Consultation Undertaken

7.1 None undertaken to date

8.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Report from the meeting 06/02/18

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

No observations from a propriety perspective

Statutory Finance Officer:

No observations from a financial propriety perspective.

Appendix 1

An in-depth discussion was had on two significant issues as regards developing education in North Wales over the coming years:

- i. Dashboard
- ii. Developing the workforce to support Welsh in Education

1. Dashboard - G6

The work initiated by GwE in relation to the dashboard was much appreciated.

The presentation by Llyr Gilmour Jones was appreciated, as was the work undertaken at his former school and now across Denbighshire.

There is an opportunity here to facilitate:

- The collation of information regarding individual schools
- The ability to compare school/school and authority/authority.
- The rapid identification of a school(s) in need of targeting

Several questions were directed at the officers:

- It was asked whether there is certainty that a person within GwE will attend to the procedure to ensure that information is up-to-date. The Advisory Board noted the need to keep on top of this work in the medium and longer term, as such a system is only as good as the accuracy of the data inputted.
- It was asked whether the speed of the system would be compromised with the increasing amount of data being entered. It was confirmed that the company can optimize the system to improve this.
- It was asked whether Advisers were able to use the wide-ranging information hosted on the system in order to accurately target schools' needs.
- It was asked how this could support school Governors in order for them to challenge school leadership
- The possibility of integrating evaluation and impact of training on individuals and the relevant school, was raised. This required further work however there was potential for development.

This platform has the potential to be much more sophisticated than the system currently being trialled. The system will transform that of Authorities, GwE, Heads and the management team as well as school governors in developing wide-ranging information which will allow all stakeholders to support and challenge the work of institutions.

The work is being rolled out to all GwE schools this term.

2. Developing the workforce to support Welsh in Education

An overview was had of the project from Eleri Li.Owen, Project Manager, Esyllt Maelor, Coordinator and Bethan Eleri Roberts, Performance Management Manager, with emphasis placed on developing the capacity of the workforce across North Wales to develop the Welsh language in our learning establishments.

- Several members of the Board boasted very strong expertise, and provided further ideas for the team to act upon: It was essential to ensure close collaboration with the Further Education Colleges

- An extremely constructive discussion ensued on the need to collaborate with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and to develop opportunities for young people to use the Welsh language in the workplace
- It was noted that companies such as Horizon and Airbus recognise the real value of their workforce's bilingualism. Therefore, it is essential that these messages are conveyed to schools and young people quite early on in their school careers so that they see the real value of the Welsh language.
- It was noted that one member of the Board had the names of actively involved key individuals and institutions. This ensured that different projects did not cover the same ground.
- Much discussion was also had on the need to work with other consortia to promote the work.

A few questions were raised for further consideration by the team; for example:

- The nature of the pilot schools was questioned. The Board wanted to ensure a cross-section of schools in the pilot so that the sample did not merely consist of Welsh-enthusiasts. The Board believed that the challenge of working with and developing "less enthusiastic" schools would provide a better picture of the challenge ahead.

A particularly useful session was had with the Board truly acting as an Advisory Board. Board members challenged, questioned and proposed ideas.

The Advisory Board were wholly supportive of these developments.