



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

8 July 2019

Report by: GwE Assistant Director

Subject: Developing a Peer Engagement Model for North Wales

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present a paper on the development of a Peer Engagement Model for North Wales to the Joint Committee for approval.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The national mission for Wales is both ambitious and innovative and requires stakeholders at all levels to collaborate and cooperate to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap and deliver an education system that is a source of national pride and confidence.
- 2.2 The transformational reform required to deliver on these aims provides a challenging environment for all school. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that leaders and staff in every establishment are encouraged and supported in the work of forging strong and effective partnerships within and across the education system. Developing multi-level and multi-tiered peer-engagement, forged and owned by the schools themselves, will also allow for establishments to adopt an integrated approach to the national reform journey. The integrated approach will be effectively supported by the local authority and GwE.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 This paper sets out a potential blueprint for the development of a meaningful peer engagement model for the North Wales region, one that adopts an integrated approach to
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the reform journey but which also allows for flexibility in how collaboration is defined within the key areas of the reform journey.

3.2 The regional approach has already adopted a cluster working model to support key transformational reform areas such as curriculum development and ALN. To fully integrate all areas of the reform journey, similar approaches are in the process of being formalised for the other key areas of accountability, digital and Welsh Language.

3.3 The paper articulates the approach within the 'accountability' aspect of the reform journey. It details how peer engagement can be used to underpin a rigorous cycle of continuous development and improvement, and how peer engagement and support should be an integral part of school improvement in moving to a self-improving system whilst also supporting those schools that are causing concern.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the development of a Peer Engagement Model for North Wales as outlined in Appendix 1.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within the 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 undertaken with the GwE Management Board and head teacher representation.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - Developing a Peer Engagement model for North Wales

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Section 5 of the report clarifies that “there are no financial implications arising from this report” as “GwE will operate within their current financial resources”. Consequently, I have no observations to add from a financial propriety perspective.