



## REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

26 MAY 2021

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**Report by:** Arwyn Thomas – GwE Managing Director

**Subject:** Collection of 'Think Pieces' to support The Reform Journey

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### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present a series of Think Pieces considering the aspects of leadership, vision, pedagogy, assessment and curriculum design to Joint Committee members. This collection has been written collaboratively by members of the GwE team, working under the guidance and support of Professor Graham Donaldson. These Think Pieces aim to stimulate discussion and support schools with their preparations towards Curriculum for Wales (see Appendix 1).

### 2.0 Background

2.1 In order to effectively support all schools to prepare for the new Curriculum, a clear and consistent understanding across the regional service team is imperative. As part of this, GwE have committed to regular professional learning for Supporting Improvement Advisers, engaging in full team discussions and supporting a common understanding for all under the guidance of Professor Graham Donaldson.

2.2 Working in small teams, GwE have led the co-creation of a series of Think Pieces, which focus on individual aspects of the Reform Journey namely leadership, vision, pedagogy, assessment and curriculum design. Each Think Piece considers what is changing, how it is changing and fundamentally, why it is changing. The Think Pieces also offer the perspectives of stakeholders for example leaders, teachers, learners, parents. Colleagues from Local Authorities, Estyn, Bangor University, Welsh Government and other Regional Consortia have had the opportunity to collaborate with GwE to refine and redraft these Think Pieces.

2.3 Furthermore, working through the Covid-19 pandemic has also had an impact on schools' preparations for the Curriculum for Wales and some newer ways of working have emerged. These Think Pieces offer an opportunity for schools to consider how best to reengage with the new curriculum and in particular how the Four Purposes can be a foundation for supporting learners as they return back to school.

### **3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1 The collection of Think Pieces will sit alongside the professional learning offer to schools and aligns with the Journey to 2022 guidance that supports schools in their preparations for the new curriculum. We acknowledge that schools will be approaching the Reform Journey in a variety of ways to reflect their own school and cluster and these Think Pieces aim to provide a stimulus for schools and clusters to reflect on their current practice; to identify what is already working effectively and what can be developed further.
- 3.2 A key principle sitting within the Think Pieces is the use of language to empower school leaders to take ownership of their local curriculum. The role of Supporting Improvement Advisers in asking questions and facilitating discussions within and across schools will be key in helping schools with their preparations as leaders implement change locally to realise the Four Purposes. A further key principle is the importance of collaboration and the Think Pieces offer schools the opportunity to reflect and build upon their existing strong collaborative links across their networks.
- 3.3 The Think Pieces will be shared with schools through a variety of formats to include a recorded webinar, through cluster meetings and discussions with Supporting Improvement Advisers.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

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

### **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 has taken place with middle tier partners through collaborative sessions. Further consultation has taken place with GwE Management Board and the Joint Committee.

### **9.0 Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1: The Reform Journey – Think Pieces

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**OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS**

**Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

**Statutory Finance Officer:**

I note that part 5.1 of the report confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report, and that GwE will operate within their current financial resources.