



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2021

Report by: Alwyn Jones, GwE Assistant Director

Subject: GwE Annual Report 2020-21

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the GwE 2020-2021 Annual Report to the Joint Committee.

2.0 Background

2.1 As is stated in the GwE Inter Authority Agreement, GwE will report annually on the performance of the service in delivering the service functions and key aims.

2.2 This year's GwE Annual Report outlines how GwE have repurposed several times during the COVID pandemic to provide effective services and support for all their school communities and how it has responded to Estyn recommendations provided to local authorities and regional consortium in their thematic report. It also describes how schools are been supported to implement the reform journey and prepare for the new curriculum, and identifies strategic and regional priorities for 2021-22.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 Staff in the Local Authorities and GwE have adapted their work over the last year in order to continue to provide effective services and support for all their school communities during the COVID pandemic. During this very difficult period, GwE have kept true to their vision and

values as an organisation that is continually learning. The OECD's transversal themes of Trust, Thinking together, Time and Technology have remained at the heart of the work with schools and partners. The service in its entirety has re focused several times during this period to meet the needs of the range of stakeholders. The ability to be flexible and agile and to work effectively together in different teams, often cross sector, has had significant impact on organisational behaviour and external perception.

3.2 Enclosed is the annual report which provides an overview of the following areas:

- Background and context
- GwE work programme
- Main impact of GwE work during Covid-19 Pandemic
- Estyn Thematic Review: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19
- GwE response to Estyn recommendations from thematic report
- Support during the pandemic that has provided growth points in
- Preparation for the new curriculum
- Business matters
- Business plan priorities for 2021-2022

3.3 Our strategic objectives reflects the current regional and national priorities and the main areas for development were identified through the service's self-evaluation process. The overarching priorities for 2021-2022 were agreed with the Joint Committee on the 24 February 2021. The business plan was formally agreed by the Chief Education Officers of each Local Authority, the Joint Committee and the Lead Chief Executive at the Joint Committee meeting on 26 May 2021.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve and accept the Annual Report for 2020-2021.

4.2 Determine if there are any aspects of the report that they wish to discuss further at future meetings.

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 with County Quality Boards, Headteachers Strategic Forums, GwE Management Board and Joint Committee.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 GwE Annual Report 2020-21.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

I confirm that that the GwE Managing Director is required, in accordance with the inter authority agreement, to present an annual report on the performance of the service to the Joint Committee and the Councils.

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.