



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2021

Report by: Alwyn Jones – GwE Assistant Director

Subject: Supporting leaders and staff in schools and PRUs to evaluate their provision in response to COVID-19 and to identify what has worked well and the areas that require further work

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 Present the 'Supporting leaders and staff in schools and PRUs to evaluate their provision in response to COVID-19 and to identify what has worked well and the areas that require further work' report to members of the Joint Committee.

2.0 Background

2.1 This report provides an overview of how schools and PRUs in North Wales have responded to COVID-19 and is based on evidence gathered by GwE Supporting Improvement Advisers as part of their work in supporting schools during the spring and summer terms 2021. The main focus during this period was to work in partnership with school and PRUs to support them to evaluate the quality and impact of their provision during the lockdown periods.

2.2 The template included in Appendix 1 was used as a 'prompt' for discussions with the schools which they could also use to record and collate the information gathered. However, there was no obligation for schools to use this template. It was emphasised that the questions presented were only examples of areas and aspects for consideration and not intended to be interpreted as a comprehensive and exhaustive list. The starting point of all discussions was the school's self-evaluation and their processes for gathering evidence.

3.0 **Considerations**

3.1 For each school and PRU, Supporting Improvement Adviser reported on:

- How the school evaluated its provision and impact during lockdown;
- What the school has identified as the key strengths of its provision for teaching and learning during lockdown;
- How the school is planning to build on its successes to develop the new curriculum;
- What improvements in provision and standards the school has identified as a result of targeting their grant spend;
- School evidence for impact of GwE support/involvement and identification of additional support in going forward;
- Areas that needed further development and support.

3.2 The report provides an overview of discussions with schools, as well as areas for further development and support.

3.3 The evaluation process has identified the following high level regional priorities:

- Establish a clear regional strategy to implement the Welsh Government COVID-19 recovery plan: Renew and reform to support learners' wellbeing and progression (first published 16 June 2021).
- Establish development networks for each Area of Learning and Experience (AOLE) at regional and a local level to enable school leaders and practitioners to collaborate to unpack the potential of each AOLE through modelling, designing and sharing curriculum practice.
- Ensure that direct engagement between secondary and primary schools, continues in order to support learner transition irrespective of the timeline for implementing the new curriculum adopted by the secondary school.
- Develop a regional qualitative framework for holistically capturing and evaluating progress in a school / cluster.
- Revise processes for addressing schools causing concern and work with Local Authorities to establish and implement clear regional structures and protocols for identifying, supporting and challenging school causing concern.

- Further strengthen the culture, behaviour, systems and processes so that leaders and teachers are incentivised to adopt a collegiate approach to school improvement.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to accept and approve the content of the report together with the high level regional priorities outlined above.

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 Consultation with GwE Management Board.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Supporting leaders and staff in schools and PRUs to evaluate their provision in response to COVID-19 and to identify what has worked well and the areas that require further work

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 covering report confirms that there are no financial implications arising from the decision sought here.