



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

22 September 2021

Report by: Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director

Subject: Regional strategy - Renew and reform: supporting learners' wellbeing and progression

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present information, and for Joint Committee members to approve our 'Regional strategy - Renew and reform: supporting learners' wellbeing and progression'.

2.0 Background

2.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that even in the most challenging of circumstances positive change is possible. In North Wales, GwE, the Local Authorities, Schools and PRUs have seized opportunities to explore innovative ways of working.

2.2 As we undertake national reform, it's clear that we are in a different place to the one that we imagined when the guidance for the Curriculum for Wales was published 18 months ago. We recognise that some of the preparation time for the curriculum will have been devoted to managing the impact of the pandemic over the past year. On the other hand, with an even stronger focus on well-being and significant investment in teaching and learning, the values underpinning the curriculum have been at the heart of how schools have been working. GwE is fully committed to supporting schools and PRUs to maintain this momentum to ensure that every learner in north Wales is offered provision of the highest standard.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 Attached (Appendix 1) is our 'Regional strategy - Renew and reform: supporting learners' wellbeing and progression', which sets out the strategic direction of our work during the

next stage. Through working with partners and key stakeholders and listening to them, we have identified the following themes to support our aim of ensuring that every pupil in north Wales benefits from provision of the highest possible standard. These themes are noted in our Business Plans and implemented through partnership programmes and an offer of generic and differentiated bespoke support to our schools and PRUs.

- The Reform Journey / Curriculum Realisation
- Re-igniting learning (Recruit, Restore and Raise Standards) [RRRS]
- Strategy to support parents / carers to help their children to learn
- Learner and whole school well-being
- The well-being of the workforce (GwE and schools)
- Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- Y Gymraeg
- Leadership Development
- Digital
- Professional Learning

3.2 In addition, it is outlined how we will evolve the regional model, developments in terms of the schools partnership programme, peer review and school to school support, along with the structures and processes at work to identify and support schools causing concern.

3.3 In North Wales, GwE and the six Local Authorities are committed to work in partnership with schools to develop a robust accountability system that has the confidence of all key stakeholders and holds each partner fully accountable for their role in developing our learners. System expectations in north Wales are clearly outlined, and what we aim to achieve by September 2024.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to accept and approve the Regional Strategy

4.2 To decide whether there are any aspects they wish to discuss further in future meetings.

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 took place with the regional Headteachers' Strategic Forums, representatives from the Local Authorities, Full Team, Management Board and the Joint Committee.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Regional strategy - Renew and reform: supporting learners' wellbeing and progression
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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 covering report confirms there are no financial implications arising from the approval of the regional Strategy, as GwE will operate within their current financial resources.