

Schools Finance Forum 17 February 2025

Education Quality Services

Latest Figures 2025/26

	Cyllideb	Sylwadau
Departmental Management Budget	£669,230	Management of the entire Department, including elements that are likely outside 'standards'.
GwE Core Allocation	£665,370	The 24/25 GwE contribution is £619,960 - inflation of an additional £45,410 now, so the budget is slightly higher.
Standards Grant	£199,439	Standards support grant allocation
Professional Learning	£110,711	Professional Learning support grant allocation
Curriculum	£345,956	Curriculum support grant allocation including £98,533 'additional literacy and numeracy'
Total:	£1,990,706	

What will the structure be from the end of May 2025 onwards?

Assistant Head of School Support (New Role)

In order to lead on the School Improvement work that transfers to us following the dissolution of GwE, and integrate this work to the rest of the Department's school support work, we will move to appoint and establish the role of a new Assistant Head of School Support who will take responsibility for supporting and improving schools in its entirety. The purpose of the post will be to lead the team that will support the leadership, education quality, management and governance of Gwynedd schools. There will be a wide range of duties but in essence there will be a need to ensure that the processes of schools and the authority, in terms of supporting and improving schools, are purposeful and effective. The Assistant Head of School Support will be expected to deputise on behalf of the Head of Education as required.

School Support Officers (New Role)

These posts will report directly to the Assistant Head of School Support, and couple the role of current Education Officers with the role of Improvement Support Advisors who are currently situated in GwE. The purpose of the posts will be to support the leadership, education quality and governance of Gwynedd schools. These officers will spend the vast majority of their time in schools working alongside our schools to overcome challenges and improve the quality of experiences and ensuring the progress of our learners.

All of the officers will be focused on nurturing school-to-school and school cluster collaboration in line with the Welsh Government's vision.

Some will have an expertise in specific fields and, as a result, they will need to lead on some aspects on a cross-county basis.

As a percentage of the posts is grant-funded, they will lead on ensuring that we meet the requirements of the grants highlighted by the Welsh Government in terms of support for:

- Professional Learning and Support for Leadership
- Curriculum Reform
- Cymraeg 2050

The division in terms of experience and sector expertise will be split 40% secondary / lifelong and 60% primary / special.

We will work in partnership with the Anglesey Local Authority to share the expertise of School Support Officers. We are already collaborating on ALN and Inclusion, Data Sharing and Post-16. Roles and responsibilities shared across the proposed partnership are currently being planned and they will be formalised once the change to the staffing structure and transfer of staff is confirmed by both sides.

We will continue to collaborate with other Local Authorities beyond the local partnership arrangement as required. One key area where there is a desire to develop is support for Special Schools.

Over time, the number of School Support Officers is expected to reduce as the school-to-school support work matures; however, we recognise that this could take some time especially here in Gwynedd.

Assistant School Support Officers

These posts will focus on supporting aspects that do not directly affect the quality of education. It may include support for Governors, guidance on dealing with complaints or initial advice on a range of challenges, including human resources matters.

School Support Assistant

This post will offer administrative support for the team as well as provide administrative support for Governing Bodies.

How will we promote school to school work?

We will keep a reserve budget in order to release schools to support other schools. The work will be commissioned from the centre. It is not possible to be certain about the size of the budget at the moment.