



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 FEBRUARY 2022

Report by: Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director
Subject: Written Statement: School improvement and the information landscape
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To present information to Joint Committee members regarding a Written Statement by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In June 2022, school improvement guidance was published to introduce a new way for the education system to work together to support schools in their improvement, build confidence in the system and retain a clear focus on supporting all learners to progress through their education.
- 2.2 In July 2022, Welsh Government published the report [Scoping study for the evaluation of the curriculum and assessment reforms in Wales](#), setting out recommendations regarding how we will know that our new curriculum improves learning in Wales.
- 2.3 On 19 January 2023, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language released a written statement: 'School improvement and the information landscape' outlining the next steps in terms of developing a new data and information ecosystem/landscape. [Written Statement: School improvement and the information landscape \(19 January 2023\)](#).
- 2.4 Also on 19 January 2023, a report was published, Developing a new data and information ecosystem that supports the reformed school system in Wales' [Research exploring a new information system for schools](#). The report notes recommendations for methods of using data and information in ways that will enable partners across the system to work together to help learners achieve their potential, regardless of their background.
- 2.5 In a Statement by HMCI Owen Evans regarding the publication of 'Developing a new information ecosystem' by Welsh Government, plans to develop a wider range of information to support improved arrangements for evaluation and improvement were welcomed. [Statement from HMCI Owen Evans re: today's publication of Welsh Government's 'Developing a new data and information ecosystem' | Estyn](#)
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3.0 Considerations

3.1 The report outlines the different information needs within the system and proposes developing a broader suite of information on areas such as wellbeing (both learner and staff) and the development of learners' skills integral to the four purposes.

3.2 Building on the findings of today's report, Welsh Government will now work with practitioners across Wales to develop a shared set of information which can help to support learning by understanding learner progress, attainment and the components which drive them. This will be informed by the eight factors which support curriculum realisation set out in the school improvement guidance. There will be a particular focus on improving understanding of progress of disadvantaged learners. The Minister for Education is keen to gain the views of parents in this work, to understand what information they will find useful.

3.3 Welsh Government will work with local authorities, regional consortia and partnerships alongside this to seek to build a coherent and consistent approach across Wales which supports learning and minimises workload for teachers and schools. Welsh Government will be writing to schools in the coming weeks to provide further details, and providing further updates as this work progresses.

4.0 Recommendations

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

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equalities Impact

6.1.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

7.1.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation undertaken

8.1 Consultation with GwE Management Board.

OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Nothing to add to the report from the perspective of financial propriety.