



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Response to the Estyn thematic report on
managed moves: effective use of managed moves
by local authorities and schools**

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.



Digital ISBN 978 1 78903 530 8
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WG30290

Report title:

Managed moves: Effective use of managed moves by local authorities and schools

Report details:

The report was commissioned by the Welsh Government's Education Directorate to establish the effectiveness of local authority and maintained school procedures for managed moves between schools including pupil referral units. This includes the use of the Welsh Government's non-statutory guidance and model documents for the managed moves process. The report is intended to help inform the implementation of the Education Otherwise than at School (EOTAS) Framework for Action.

Summary of main findings:

With the assistance of the Welsh Government guidance, most local authorities have introduced appropriate protocols that help pupils to move successfully to a new school, rather than becoming excluded. However, some local authorities have since amended their managed move protocols and as a result they no longer reflect the ethos or philosophy of a managed move. The local processes of 'managed exits' remove pupils' entitlement to return to their home school, should the transfer not be successful. These processes are generally informal and inconsistently applied across Wales. In some cases a 'managed exit' is used instead of a permanent exclusion and as such the legal protections in place for excluded learners are bypassed. As managed moves are not defined in legislation, data collection by local authorities regarding managed moves is unreliable; this results in insufficient analysis of the characteristics of those learners using the process and their reasons for doing so. Learners with additional learning needs often do not access the specialist assessments they need to identify underlying learning and communication needs quickly enough and so some managed moves may be inappropriate.

Recommendations:**The Welsh Government should:**

R1 - Provide clear, up-to-date guidance to local authorities, schools and PRUs on the use of managed moves and of Pastoral Support Plans (PSPs), especially around part-time timetables.

Welsh Government response:

Accept The Welsh Government will explore options for revising the current information document for managed moves; particularly in respect of clarifying what the Welsh Government considers unacceptable practice. We will also seek to clarify guidance on the legal responsibilities of both local authorities

and schools throughout the managed move process.

The guidance on the use of PSPs will not be revised at this time as the existing guidance was reviewed in 2016 as part of the revision of the Inclusion and Pupil Support guidance. However, the Welsh Government is currently developing guidance for EOTAS referrals which will highlight the need for schools and local authorities to undertake an appropriate graduated response to learner behaviour; this includes the use of PSPs.

R2 - Strengthen legal protection and protective measures around managed moves to reflect those currently available for pupils that are permanently excluded.

Welsh Government response:

Reject: The legal protections that currently apply to learners who have been permanently excluded are in place because the process through which a learner is permanently excluded has been prescribed in law. As managed moves are not defined in law, those specific legal protections cannot be applied to learners who are undergoing a managed move.

Learners who are using the managed move process should not be removed from the roll of their original maintained school until such time as all parties confirm that the move is a success. At this point the learner transfers to the roll of the new school. As such, throughout the process of managed move process the legal protections that are in place for all learners must apply. In revising the managed move information document, the Welsh Government will clarify the existing legal protections in place for learners in a managed move.

R3 - Collect and publish managed move and exclusion data at local authority and national level.

Welsh Government response:

Reject: The Welsh Government has previously explored the possibility of collecting and publishing data on managed moves. As managed moves are not defined in law, the Welsh Government does not have a legal basis to require this information from schools and local authorities. Recommendation seven of this report advises LAs to collect information on managed moves for use at a local level. However due to the varying practices across Wales, if this information were to be made available to the Welsh Government on a voluntary basis, it is unlikely to be sufficiently robust to publish.

The Welsh Government already collects and publishes exclusions data on a local authority and national level.

R4 - Consider broadening performance measures, particularly at key stage 4, to promote inclusive practice at school and local authority level.

Welsh Government response:

Accept : The Welsh Government is working in partnership with key stakeholders to develop a new evaluation system that will promote wider welfare issues rather than focussing on attainment. The new framework will

promote equity, inclusion, choice, and individual pathways to learning, without losing sight of the learner. Assessment and evaluation will drive improvement for all learners and there will be reliance on self-evaluation for all tiers of the system. It will be aligned to new curriculum and focussed on the creation of learners that are ambitious, capable, creative, ethical and confident.

We must ensure a coherent approach that avoids unintended consequences and contributes towards the raising of standards in every classroom and for all our learners. Raising standards, reducing the attainment gap and ensuring a system that enjoys public confidence and is a source of national pride is at the heart of our action plan.

Local authorities should:

R5 - Provide pupils and their families with access to impartial information, advice and guidance prior and during the managed move process

R6 - Monitor the use and appropriateness of PSPs at school level

R7 - Collect data on managed moves and use this information to evaluate the effectiveness of PSPs

R8 - Promote the development and use of school-to-school managed moves protocols wherever possible

R9 - Ensure that pupils and their families have access to specialist advice and assessments in a timely manner to stabilise home school placements whenever possible

Schools should:

R10 - Ensure that pupils and their families have access to impartial information, advice and guidance

R11 - Review the use of PSPs in light of national and local guidance at an early stage in the process of managed moves

R12 - Ensure that key information is shared with the receiving school during the initial meeting

The Education Directorate's Support for Learners Division will write to local authorities to draw their attention to the recommendations placed on them and on schools by this report.

Publication details:

The report was published on 29 March 2018 and can be found on Estyn's website: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales>