

Education and Welsh Language Progress reports – November 2021

Our national Mission [updates against ongoing high level objectives]

ID	RAG	ONM 2020 Commitment	Complete / Ongoing	Rationale / update
Transformational Curriculum				
492		Develop the first resources and supporting materials by summer 2021 to help practitioners realise Curriculum for Wales	Ongoing	Developing a set of principles and supporting information which will guide others in their efforts to develop appropriate guidance and resources to support practitioners to realise the Curriculum for Wales. Action is delayed from the summer. The National Network brings together teaching professionals, experts, stakeholders, policy makers and enabling partners to identify and address barriers to and opportunities for the implementation of Curriculum for Wales. The focus of the Network conversations in November will include what resources and materials practitioners feel they want to support curriculum design, teaching and learning. The conversation will inform our guidance for the development of resources. A number of resources and supporting materials workstreams are rated amber to capacity issues in progressing these aspects of business. Recruitment to vacancies has been agreed and is being actioned.
493		Develop and publish additional curriculum guidance to support practitioners in specific key areas by September 2021.	Ongoing	Reported annually – next report due December 22 Work on additional guidance is now intense, Draft statutory guidance has been prepared in line with the draft Relationships and Sexuality Education Code. The draft RSE guidance has been agreed by the Minister, and is being shared with Members of the Senedd for information prior to debate on the draft Code on 14 December. Subject to agreement on the Code, the guidance will be made available in the scheduled update to the Curriculum for Wales framework guidance on 10 January. Most other workstreams are producing cleared bilingual drafts in preparation for submission to the Minister on 6 December. Religion, values and ethics is still subject to working group review, placing it behind schedule. A further meeting of that group is set for 2 December, following which legal services will need to further review amendments.
Professional Learning				
495		Review and re-plan our induction and early career support arrangements and update our approach to professional learning and INSET for teachers, teaching assistants in schools and the non-maintained nursery sector	Ongoing	Work is continuing to develop our consultation for the proposed changes to induction. Discussions on the early career professional learning programme are continuing.
498		Working with our regional consortia and universities, launch our national approach to coaching and mentoring and the new national Masters in Education with a focus on early career teachers and headteachers	Ongoing	Work is progressing well with launching taking place across Wales. Progress on new Pathways are being taken forward with the ALN and Leadership due to be validated shortly and the universities have internationally renowned experts to act as critical friends on all further developments
500		Mobilise the new versions of the ITE programmes (accredited and monitored by the Education Workforce Council) and launch our new strategy for teacher recruitment into ITE	Ongoing	Education Unions have been updated on the COVID scheme and are content. Seeing strong applications to programmes with similar issues with Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and languages (Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) & Welsh). A formative assessment of the new programmes is planned but delayed due to resource levels within the team. Work to develop the Teach in Wales campaign with regards to diversifying the workforce is ongoing with communications colleagues. Iaitn Athrawon Yfory (IAY) claims have exceeded the target with 119 received to date (deadline next August 2022). Discussed advice on incentives with Minister for Education and Welsh Language with announcements scheduled for the next period from mid-October. Delivery of the new ITE routes is strong with excellent interest and applications.

				The ten year Welsh medium plan including Welsh Medium teachers is scheduled to be published in the spring and will include Welsh Medium Teacher Recruitment.
Leadership				
503		Undertake a rapid review of support for headteachers in light of the challenge of COVID-19 and the opportunity presented by early adoption / practice of Curriculum for Wales	Ongoing	A report looking at the support available to Headteachers is being finalised and the final report is expected to be published early 2022. The change in RAG status from Green to Amber reflects the slight delay. Beyond the commitment, an action plan will then be developed for support for heads over the next 5 years The leadership programmes continue to be offered on line with the experienced heads programme also now adapted for delivery.
510		Engage the regional consortia to develop their professional learning offer for leaders in light of the findings of the SLO survey	Ongoing	Welsh Government SLO secondee continues to work with regions on developing support for SLOs and promoting the model. Recently an updated SLO plan has been received from the regions and a follow up meeting arranged. Arrangements to secure the secondee resource for the rest of the academic year are being taken forward.
512		Work with the National Academy for Educational Leadership Wales and regional consortia to equip leaders with skills to strategically plan the development of Welsh within a culture of schools as learning organisations.	Ongoing	NAEL and its associates met during September to discuss next steps with taking this work forward following the publication of their report in July. Further work needs to be undertaken to develop a toolkit for leaders in the new year. Officials will continue to liaise with NAEL and the regions to develop plans as part of the forthcoming 10-year strategy for the Welsh-medium workforce. RAG rating changed from amber to green.
Equity, Excellence and Wellbeing				
515		Progress the integrated approach to improving education outcomes for looked after children	Ongoing	Consideration is currently being given to the approach of funding local authorities for virtual school heads however officials are awaiting confirmation of the 2022/2023 budget before being able to proceed.
516		Work with local authorities to ensure best use is made of the Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Grant to ensure education is inclusive and accessible to all learners	Ongoing	This commitment is ongoing. We are receiving and scrutinising local authority Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (MEAG) plans to ensure funding is being appropriately channelled and used to best support Ethnic Minority and Gypsy Roma Traveller Learners in Wales.
517		Continue to develop systems that increase support available for the provision of healthier food in schools	Ongoing	Work is ongoing until April 2022. Work has commenced on the 2021-2025 Programme for Government commitment to review Free School Meal eligibility criteria, starting out with scoping the review and considering the available evidence. We are also developing an early adopters programme to test our approach to increasing eligibility in a local authority. We are committed to reviewing the 2013 Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations. However, progress will be hampered due to pressure on the team as a result of staff vacancies.
521		Establish and increase youth work operation within schools and across communities as part of a sustainable delivery model including refreshing the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework	Ongoing	Work under this commitment can be considered ongoing to January 2022, however we expect a natural progression beyond ONM into the next phase of work and supported by the 2021-2025 Programme for Government. Ministers have been updated on the planned format of the new Framework and work continues on redrafting and sharing with selected colleagues to check for accuracy. The Interim Youth Work Board's final report to Welsh Government was published on 16 September, along with social media posts, an infographic and a short video clip specifically aimed at young people about the report's recommendations. On the same day the Minister for Education and Welsh Language issued a written statement committing to respond to the report at the end of 2021. Officials are reviewing the recommendations and will provide further advice to the Minister in due course.
522		Continue to deliver on commitments in the Education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) Framework for Action.	Ongoing	Progress against this commitment has been impacted by the pandemic. The Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) Ministerial Advisory Group has been reconvened. The Group met in July 2021 and is examining progress against the framework for action and what new activity is needed to support EOTAS provision. The intention is to seek Ministerial agreement to publish a revised / new framework during early 2022. Acknowledging the change of plan up to March 2022, the RAG rating reflects current activity.

Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability				
523		Produce non-statutory school improvement guidance for schools, local authorities and regional consortia which sets out how the new evaluation, improvement and accountability framework will work in practice [see also ID 528]	Ongoing	Consultation on the school improvement guidance concluded in March and the summary of consultation responses was published in June 2021. Discussions with the Minister for Education and Welsh Language to agree the approach and wider plans are ongoing. Advice was submitted to the Minister in mid-October setting out options for next steps on guidance. Subject to this, and follow-up discussions with delivery partners, publication is now likely in early 2022.
524		Continue to support our 'most at need' schools through multi-agency working	Ongoing	Multi agency meetings are continuing. In order to assess progress against the recommendations from the core inspection, Estyn have scheduled monitoring visits to schools in their approach this term. 3 schools have been removed from special measures so far. Funding has also been secured for projects/activities that will support further improvement in these schools up until March 2022. Consideration is being made as to whether to include Pupil Referral Units in special measures within the approach. The approach is planned to continue until summer 2023 and beyond the original ONM commitment.
525		Establish an evidence base to determine the data and information that is needed to support effective evaluation, improvement and accountability throughout the school system	Ongoing	End of scoping phase outputs have been submitted and reviewed by officials. Final comments will be addressed before the Christmas break and the scoping phase deliverable will be signed off. A sample of schools have been approached to engage with the current phase however the response has been low so alternative options for securing participation are being considered. Broad timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun-Sep 2021 - initial scoping and engagement with stakeholders to understand the landscape and ambitions of the system. • Oct 2021-Mar 2022 - extensive fieldwork across the system to build an understanding of needs and issues. • Apr-Jul 2022 - reviewing international practice, wider literature, developing and prototyping possible solutions. • Aug-Sep 2022 - appraising options and developing recommendations
526		Develop a better system of collating and then providing data and information to support system improvement	Change of approach – to note	This activity is not intended to progress in the same way as it is linked to commitment ID 525 – 'Establish an evidence base to determine the data and information that is needed to support effective evaluation, improvement and accountability throughout the school system'. This evidence base, once established, will inform requirements for the system that is the subject of this activity. The timescales and resource implications for implementation will depend on those requirements, and could be considerable.
527		Work with schools and partners to develop and launch the National Evaluation and Improvement Resource (NEIR).	Ongoing	The National pilot has been launched on the Evaluation, Improvement & accountability pages of Hwb. The Consultation is due to open in January and run until mid-February 2022 in advance on the full national launch planned for mid-April 2022. Discussions are ongoing regarding provision of an interactive search tool.
528		Consult on and finalise school improvement guidance ahead of the 2021/22 academic year [see ID 523 for update]	Ongoing	Consultation on the school improvement guidance concluded in March and the summary of consultation responses was published in June 2021. Discussions with the Minister for Education and Welsh Language to agree the approach and wider plans are ongoing. Advice was submitted to the Minister in mid-October setting out options for next steps on guidance. Subject to this, and follow-up discussions with delivery partners, publication is now likely in early 2022.
Welsh In Education				
536		Expand the availability of E-sgol to all Welsh-medium comprehensives	Ongoing	Plans to expand the scheme are still being developed. In addition, discussions are taking place to secure stable core funding that will facilitate the expansion of the program.
537		Look at the potential role of the National Centre for Learning Welsh to support the teaching of Welsh in schools, and consider the language learning pathways from schools to post-16 and post-18 education for	Ongoing	The Review of the National Centre for Learning Welsh was published on 4 August. The review recommends that the Welsh Government should extend the Centre's provision and remit to include 16-25 year olds who have studied Welsh as a subject in the English-medium schools sector. The review also recommends that the Welsh Government explores how the Centre's remit can be extended to areas such as training the education workforce, sharing resources and good

		students studying Welsh in English-medium schools		practice with the second language sector in schools and developing language skills for further education subjects. The Centre is already doing some work in the education sector, including the Welsh in Work pilot project in secondary schools and adapting some resources for use in second language schools. A response to the Review's recommendations was published on 22 October and we will continue discussions with the Centre to implement these.
539		Develop a new framework for supporting the use of Welsh by children and young people	Ongoing	Cross-departmental discussions and discussions with external stakeholders involving grant funded organizations including the Urdd and the Mentrau Iaith are ongoing to develop the framework. Closer contact has also been made with regard to the development of the framework and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans in the context of children and young people's language use by strengthening the expectations on them within the new WESP.