

Education and Welsh Language Progress reports – for December 2021 (reporting closed 7th Jan 2022)

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 included 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 progressing on the consultation for revision of induction arrangements. Work with regions on developing the early career approach is 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	The new Masters Programme is going well with 2 further programmes being validated in December for delivery in Leadership and ALN. This will increase the Masters in Education programmes to 3. Recruitment for 2022 is now open with enquiries already being received
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	Confirmation of intake for AY21/22 has remained buoyant with the usual areas of concern in STEM and Welsh medium. Recruitment to the alternative routes is excellent and in line with our targets as we ramp up to business as usual. The Minority Ethnic Strategy has been launched with some actions already completed - further work on taking forward the actions will start in the new year. The ten year Welsh medium plan including WM teachers is scheduled to be published in the spring and will include WM Teacher recruitment. In terms of a formative assessment of the new programmes in order to review and revise the accreditation criteria this has not yet been taken forward due to resource levels within the team.
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 was received prior to the Christmas break. The report is being considered in light of other reports and the Minister will be advised in due course. The change in RAG status from Amber to Green reflects the work done. 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. The arrangements to secure the secondee resource for the rest of the academic year has been resolved and the secondment has been extended until July 2022.
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	Discussions are continuing with NAEL on how to build on the remit work they undertook during 2020-21 and this will form part of the forthcoming 10-year plan for Welsh-medium workforce and the NAEL remit. RAG rating changed from green to amber.
Equity, Excellence and Wellbeing				
515		Progress the integrated approach to improving education outcomes for looked after children	Ongoing	Work to establish integrated approach is underway. Funding is being provided to LAs via an EOI process in 2021-22 and 22-23 to support implementation
516		Work with local authorities to ensure best use is made of the Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller	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

		Grant to ensure education is inclusive and accessible to all learners		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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 20th December the Minister for E&WL issued a written ministerial statement in response to the report recommendations. On the same day, the draft Budget revealed that £2m extra funding in 2022-23, rising to £4.9m by 2024-25, would be provided to develop and take forward the proposals of the Interim youth Board for Wales. The public appointments process work to recruit a Chair for the new Youth Work Strategic Implementation Board will commence in January 2022. The Implementation Board will help develop a work plan to take forward the recommendations over the next three years. We are also liaising with colleagues working on the community schools agenda to ensure that youth work is both considered and reflected in this approach.</p>
522		Continue to deliver on commitments in the Education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) Framework for Action.	Ongoing	<p>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.</p>
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	Ongoing	<p>Consultation on the school improvement guidance concluded in March and the summary of consultation responses was published in June 2021.</p> <p>Following discussions, Minister agreed in December to move forward with finalising the guidance. We are therefore</p>

		accountability framework will work in practice [see also ID 528]		working towards publication in March/April 2022, subject to follow-up discussions with delivery partners and final ministerial clearance.
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. 4 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. The deadline for application is the 14 the January 2022. Two schools have applied for the funding so far.
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	Scoping phase has been signed off and progress is being made in the current, second phase. The response rate from schools has remained low but officials and researchers have adapted plans to work effectively with the smaller sample than initially planned, whilst ensuring that input is secured from schools that represent a good range of characteristics and experiences. Engagement has now been carried out with most of those schools that have responded and the remainder is scheduled. Engagement with other stakeholders has also been progressing. However, the impact of the current Covid situation on imminent availability of stakeholders, including additional schools that we'd like to approach, and the feasibility of progressing with the current phase of the project is being considered along with options with regard to managing subsequent impact on deliverables.
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. Following discussions, Minister agreed in December to move forward with finalising the guidance. We are therefore working towards publication in March/April 2022, subject to follow-up discussions with delivery partners and final ministerial clearance.
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 students studying Welsh in English-medium schools	Ongoing	The Review of the National Center 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 school 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 practice with the second language sector in schools and developing language skills for further education subjects. The Center is already doing some work in the education sector, including a pilot Welsh for Work 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. We have met with the Center in November to discuss a plan for implementing the recommendations and that planning will continue.
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.