

**Education in Wales Our national mission Programme  
Delivery Board  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## Welcome and Introductions

*[Information redacted]* welcomed members to the meeting. The intention today was to take the time to run through the updated governance arrangements and share updates on shared areas of work.

*[Information redacted]* acknowledged the importance of strategic policy coherence across the suite of commitments and programmes including the Programme for Government (PfG), Co-operation agreement with Plaid Cymru, Our national mission (ONM), and committed to discussing this further at a future meeting.

## 1. Governance arrangements

### 1.1 – Programme Delivery Board: update to governance arrangements –

*[Information redacted]*

*[Information redacted]* reminded members that during the last joint meeting of the Delivery Board, Change Board and the Strategic Education Delivery Group there was agreement to move to a single programme board, focused on supporting delivery of ONM and operating at that key delivery level. We are now beginning implementation phase and joint planning.

*[Information redacted]* talked through the draft Terms of Reference. No comments were received from Board members however suggested changes to the Terms of Reference and membership were invited via email following the meeting.

**Decision:** Board members endorse revised Terms of reference.

#### Stocktake of progress against delivery

This document shows progress delivery of the high level objectives in the Education in Wales: Our national mission update plan to 2021. It highlights which objectives are considered to be completed and which are ongoing, along with a progress update for each objective. It was felt this document was helpful in determining next steps and onward planning. Consideration will need to be given to how ONM, PfG and the Co-operation agreement commitments fit together.

#### Joint Planning

Members were asked to consider paper 1.3 prior to the meeting. This paper asks members to consider and agree in principle to work together on a shared programme plan for the delivery of the ongoing areas in ONM. *[Information redacted]* expressed the importance of working in a partnership approach and encouraged members to endorse the joint planning paper.

Comments:

- Qualification Wales – Support joint planning approach and provides an opportunity to include the ‘Qualified for the Future’ plans and updates.
- Colegau Cymru expressed concern regarding the development of the new GCSE and the impact this might have, alongside the new curriculum for progression to all forms of post 16 education and training and asked if the Board would consider this area.
- GwE – observed that as regions, they have worked closely between both the curriculum and Professional Learning divisions of Welsh Government and could see, for example, one of the updates within Leadership was that the regional consortia was engaging in professional learning offer for leaders in light of the SLO survey findings. However, with regards Professional Learning for the new Curriculum, GwE was unclear where that was captured. GwE recognises how much of a priority this is for them as regional consortia and how much capacity across the system that is being built in to support all schools with this professional learning offer.
- Colegau Cymru – Going forward, the Renew and Reform programme may have an impact on success or failure. The biggest impact on ONM is Covid, which is identified in the risk register.

Ref	Action	Owner	Deadline	Progress
	Discuss the importance of strategic policy coherence across the suite of commitments and programmes such as PfG, the Co-operation agreement, and ONM.	[Information redacted]	TBC – Discussion to take place at a future meeting at the appropriate time	
1.1	Discuss the draft budget announcement made last December and how that impacts on areas of work	[Information redacted]	Ongoing	
1.1	Include Qualified for the Future into the joint plan.	[Information redacted]	Ongoing	

## 2. Board member updates

### 2.1 – Board member updates

**Curriculum –** [Information redacted]

[Information redacted] re-assured members that work is ongoing collectively to ensure schools have the support and space they need to ensure primary schools are

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ready by September 2022 and secondary schools by September 2022/2023. It was noted the Minister has a genuine understanding on where schools are in the process and that 2022 is a milestone, not an end point.

It was confirmed that the Minister will speak at the Headteacher conference in February and will revisit with schools what curriculum reform is all about and assure schools there is support available, whatever stage of the process they are at.

*[Information redacted]* thanked Qualifications Wales for the work they have done in engaging teachers in future qualifications.

*[Information redacted]* confirmed that exams in the summer will go ahead with £24million being made available for support.

### **School Effectiveness – *[Information redacted]***

#### Non-statutory school improvement guidance

The consultation concluded in March 2021 and the summary of responses was published in June 2021. The Minister has agreed to finalise the guidance which should be ready for publication by April/May 2022. Informal discussions with stakeholders are ongoing.

#### Multi agency Support

The multi-agency approach to supporting secondary schools in special measures is continuing. A number of the participating schools have, since the approach began, been judged to have made sufficient progress by Estyn to be removed from special measures. Work is ongoing to ensure those schools continue to be supported.

#### PISA

Work continues with a range of stakeholders to support preparedness for PISA 2022, with assessments taking place in November. It is recognised that this is a difficult time for schools to participate given the wider context. A core strategic group are establishing and will be disseminating a national narrative and shaping the approach in the coming months.

### **Equity in education – *[Information redacted]***

#### Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Access

PDG Access has been extended for the next financial year - £3.3million had been made available. This will continue into 2022/23.

#### Looked after children

The Minister for Education and Welsh Language and Deputy Minister for Social Services have agreed to progress implementing an integrated approach to improve educational outcomes for looked after children with interested local authorities in Wales, similar to the Virtual schools approach in England and Scotland. Work to establish an integrated approach is underway with funding being provided to Local Authorities via an expression of interest process in 2021/2022 and 22/23 to support implementation.

#### Tackling poverty

A strategy will be put forward to Cabinet within the next few weeks.

Attendance

There are concerns for Year 11 and Year 9. The Attendance Review will conclude in February. *[Information redacted]* wished to thank LA members who have worked with *[Information redacted]* on this.

The conversation moved onto PDG and EMA. *[Information redacted]* agreed to speak with *[Information redacted]* outside of this meeting to pick up the issue around PDG and level of EMA.

Ref	Action	Owner	Deadline	Progress
2.1	KDW and ID conversation on PDG and EMA.	<i>[Information redacted]</i>		
2.1	Update Board on EMA – Research into applications and approvals as a percentage of cohort	<i>[Information redacted]</i>		

Welsh Language – *[Information redacted]*

New guidance for categorising schools according to Welsh-medium provision has been published and this links with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. Thanks was given to all Local Authorities who have submitted them.

The Late Immersion grant ends September. Grant letters have been issued to all LA's and implementation of the local, truly innovative projects are now underway.

*[Information redacted]* commented that the first meeting had been held of the Welsh Medium Workforce Plan stakeholder working group to tackle this issue of recruiting people into Welsh education. The Minister is keen to look into alternative ways into the system in addition to the traditional routes.

Support for Learners – *[Information redacted]*

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The Act is being commenced in phases from September 2022 to 2024 with the second phase beginning in January 22 for those on School Action and School Action Plus. Implementation guidance and communications, including a short information film has been issued which sets out what delivery partners need to do in order to move relevant children to the new system. Chapters from the professional learning programme for ALNCo's have also been published to increase skills and knowledge on ALN.

£18million has been made available to Local Authorities and education settings. £10million of this is to address the impact the pandemic has had on ALN and £8million has been made available to Local Authorities and education settings to provide extra resources to transferring children and young people from the SEN system to the ALN system.

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Work is ongoing to set up National Implementation Steering group to work with a range of stakeholders and delivery partners on implementation.

### Free School Meals

A written statement has been published clarifying the next steps for the roll out of universal provision of free school meals for all primary pupils. This was agreed as part of the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru and committed to phasing implementation for the youngest children from September 2022.

### Youth Engagement

The Interim Youth Work Board's final report to Welsh Government was published in September. The Minister responded in December. Recruitment to the Implementation Board continues. The Board will help develop a work plan to take forward the recommendations over the next three years.

### **Pedagogy Leadership and Professional Learning (PLPL) – [Information redacted]**

Proposals for future induction arrangements will be going to consultation in the near future.

Talk Pedagogy project has been reset to re-imagine support for the sharing of resources. This will be co-constructed with partners.

PL Policy Insight events will continue with the first event being led by the BAME Ed network and showcase the Diversity and Anti-racism professional learning (DARPL) project. Bookings for future events can be made via Hwb.

### World Education Summit (WES)

We are participating again this year and will be supporting places for Educators across Wales. We will also have a dedicated channel focusing on Welsh Education matters.

Digital Professional Learning Journey (DPLJ) is now live on Hwb and showcases the latest developments.

### MIT Global Teaching Labs

This collaboration with MIT will continue this year with the project taking place virtually.

### Early Career Education Research Programme

A pilot project is planned for Autumn 2022 subject to Ministerial approval of the proposals from the working group.

### Professional Learning Charter

The initial launch of the Charter is planned to take place during the WES summit 21-24 March.

### Criteria for the accreditation of ITE programmes

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A review is being undertaken to assess the required amendments in preparation for future re-accreditation of programmes.

### ITE contingency planning

In response to the ongoing Covid impact updated guidance is being prepared to support ITE Partnerships to deliver programmes.

### BAME recruitment plan

Work is continuing on the actions set out in the plan.

## **2.2 – ONM Communications – *[Information redacted]***

Members were reminded that the high level Our national mission communication strategy was put on hold during Covid but it's proposed to now revamp and update the strategy. It was suggested the narrative be updated, we develop a plan of key activities and key dates to September 2022 as well as strengthen aspects of the plan to include Covid.

It was confirmed from February the working group continues. In terms of next steps, we will produce a forward look to share along with the evidence insight.

### **AOB**

No points were raised.

*[Information redacted]* thanked members for their time and closed the meeting

Attendees

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