

**Education in Wales Our national mission Programme  
Delivery Board  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**1. Welcome and introduction**

**Welcome and Introductions**

*[Information redacted]* welcomed members to the meeting and listed apologies. It was confirmed that since the last meeting no comments or amendments have been received in relation to the Terms of Reference of the group so they can formally be approved.

*[Information redacted]* outlined how he foresees these meetings developing from general updates across Welsh Government to a joint working approach with partners across the membership inputting, providing updates and putting forward specific areas in each meeting and create a forward plan of discussion items. The meeting today focused on Curriculum Implementation.

**2. Overview, Governance, Risks and Issues**

The notes of the last meeting were confirmed as an accurate reflection of discussion.

In response to an outstanding action whereby an update on EMA's was requested, the following was provided:

"The cohort size isn't a good predictor for EM payments, as the proportion of students getting EMA has been falling for some time. The success rate of applications has stayed pretty high over the long term. Officials are keeping the EMA Scheme under review."

**Education and Welsh Language Highlight report –**

An Education and Welsh Language Highlight report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The detail of the highlight report was not discussed during the meeting but *[Information redacted]* welcomed comments or questions from members and ran through key developments across the areas:

Transformational Curriculum

- The Minister hosted a successful Headteachers event on 17<sup>th</sup> February focussed on Curriculum Reform with key messages and takeaways being well received.

Professional Learning & Leadership

- PL Policy Insight events are continuing with the first event on 3<sup>rd</sup> March being led by the BAME Education network and showcase the Diversity and Anti-

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racism professional learning (DARPL) project. Bookings for future events can be made via Hwb.

### Equity, Excellence and Well-being

#### Equity in Education

- On Monday the Minister announced that the PDG Access scheme will be raised for one year only by £100 per learner eligible for free school meals. The funding for PDG Access has been raised up to over £23m for 2022/23.

#### Support for Learners

- Over the next few weeks we will be announcing the plans for moving the main groups of children from the SEN system to the ALN system.

#### Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability

- School Improvement guidance to be published in June 2022 subject to final Ministerial clearance, alongside wider announcements on progression and assessment.

#### Welsh in Education

- We are currently consulting on the new Framework for Welsh in English medium schools and settings which is due to close mid-May 2022.
- A Welsh in Education Strategic Plan assessment framework has been agreed. County plans are currently being assessed. Due to local elections, announcing a decision on the CSCA will not be made before June / July.

#### **Risk Register –**

*[Information redacted – Exemption 36]*

#### **Governance update –**

*[Information redacted]* talked through the key points:

- No amendments have been suggested to the Terms of Reference following discussion at the last meeting so it is noted that they have been formally agreed.
- The inclusion of a highlight report allows space during the meetings for focused discussions.
- At the next meeting it was suggested the focus be on Qualifications with Professional Learning, School Improvement being other areas of interest to focus on at future meetings. Members were asked to get in touch if there is a specific area of work they would like to focus on during a future meeting.
- A joint plan is in development and we are keen to share and get contributions from partners.
- Elements of the Risk Register will be discussed in detail at meetings depending on the focus of that particular meeting.

### **3. Policy Focus – Curriculum Implementation**

### 3.1 Curriculum Implementation

Supported by a powerpoint presentation *[Information redacted]* talked through key points of Curriculum Implementation:

#### **Where we are now-**

- July 2021 – Minister for Education confirms that primary providers will roll out from Sept 2022 and secondary providers will have a choice of 2022, or both years 7 and 8 from 2023.
- Sept 2021 – publication of the updated Journey to 2022
- January 2022 – near complete range of Codes and guidance in place
- February 2022 – Minister for Education announces package of support, including a national entitlement package on PL, a company to provide bilingual made-in-Wales supporting materials, and a project to help schools develop their own approach to progression.

#### **Curriculum Readiness**

- End of term discussions with school improvement services on schools readiness – the vast majority of schools are engaged; disruption has affected preparations
- Deadline of 8 April for secondary schools to decide to proceed with plans for 2022 curriculum roll out
- We will put together an annual report (a commitment made during the passage of the Bill) for publication in June, summarising progress to date and looking forward to the autumn

#### **Supporting preparation to September – Key WG action**

- Finalising the legislative framework with expectations and responsibilities on actors across the system
- Developing support for practitioners, in line with projects, coordinating with the support of the consortia/partnerships on professional learning
- Aligning our expectations with the wider systemic changes needed to support behaviours and approaches in line with the spirit of the curriculum

#### **Forward Look**

- Ongoing work to enable continuous improvement from September 2022 and work with secondary schools for 2023
- Establishing a clear annual reporting process to the Senedd; development of the National Network to support ongoing policy development on CfW and stronger links with wider networks
- Continuing support for progression and assessment thinking in schools, particularly for disadvantaged learners (including ALN)
- Link with Renew and Reform focus on wellbeing as core to learning
- Work with consortia/partnerships and other partners to consistently align professional learning, pedagogy and self-evaluation in schools
- Communications with parents/carers, employers, civic society

#### **Key Risks**

*[Information redacted – Exemption 36]*

*[Information redacted]* opened discussion up to partners.

### 3.2 Partner update

[Information redacted] provided an update on behalf of Regional Consortia and outlined the key features of the cross-regional professional learning programme:

- has been designed in partnership by the regional consortia and is being rolled-out as a common offer of support, although local delivery mechanisms may vary.
- aims to support all schools and settings to meet new statutory requirements by September 2022 and September 2023 for all secondary schools.
- directly mirrors the approach, phases and philosophy set out in Journey to 2022 and revised 'Journey to Rollout' document.
- Is informed by regular meetings and discussions with WG Professional Learning and Curriculum team to ensure shared understanding and consistency of messaging – updates and progress against the offer are shared by regions
- is evidence informed and has a strong research basis
- integrates all aspects of the reform to include as example, Schools as Learning Organisations, Professional Standards for Teaching & Leadership and Excellence, Equity and Wellbeing priorities
- has developed a blend of approaches to include live virtual online sessions and recordings to allow Headteachers and Senior Leadership team opportunity to engage at times most appropriate to themselves throughout the pandemic
- Headteacher and Senior leadership teams are supported through an extended professional learning offer to all middle leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, governors.
- Headteachers and Senior Leadership teams all engage with their own school Supporting Improvement Adviser – all SIAs have access to regular professional learning for themselves to ensure consistency of messaging and to share practice across schools

During Spring and Summer term 2021 the professional learning offer focus has been:

- Planning for Curriculum change
- Leading Pedagogy
- Making time and space for professional learning

Since Autumn terms 2021 the professional learning offer focus for leaders has developed further:

- Developing understanding of Progression & Assessment
- Developing understanding of the Principles of Planning
- Deepening understanding of the Curriculum for Wales framework
- Understanding the mandatory elements of Curriculum for Wales framework

A new piece of work was outlined – Coaching support for Curriculum for Wales Development Programme. This is cross-regional work on developing a common coaching programme for Headteachers on aspects of Curriculum for Wales to include establishing a shared vision, leading change, leading pedagogy, curriculum

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design and development, cluster working/collaboration. All Supporting Improvement Advisers will have access to this coaching programme and supporting resources in order to support regular professional dialogue with headteachers.

It was noted that there is an agreement from Regions that everything is open sourced.

In response to *[Information redacted]* update, Estyn confirmed they would be happy to help disseminate key messages.

*[Information redacted]* sought confirmation that Equity sits within the curriculum and is not kept separate. She suggested that the link between equity and Curriculum could be strengthened. *[Information redacted]* reassured *[Information redacted]* that this is at the forefront of their minds in all of the work being done and would welcome a discussion with *[Information redacted]* on this.

**Action:** *[Information redacted]* and *[Information redacted]* to arrange discussion on the link between Equity and Curriculum.

### 3.3 – Future priorities for Curriculum Implementation

It was confirmed this was covered within item 3.1.

*[Information redacted]* commented that the number of schools across the Regions who were thought to be ready in September has declined, sensing the reason being a confidence issue. She felt an explanation from WG of what is mandatory at this stage may sway decisions to progress. *[Information redacted]* confirmed that a script will be issued to regional colleagues within the next week and a visual will be uploaded to the Curriculum for Wales blog imminently. A video is also being developed but the script and visual will be made available first.

### **AOB**

No issues were raised. *[Information redacted]* confirmed the next meeting will be towards the end of April. He thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Attendees

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