

## EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021
<b>Report Subject</b>	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The GwE Annual Report provides a detailed overview for members of the work of the Regional School Improvement Service across the North Wales region.

This year's GwE Annual Report for 2020-2021 outlines how GwE have repurposed several times during the COVID pandemic to provide effective services and support for all their school communities and how it has responded to Estyn recommendations provided to local authorities and regional consortium in their thematic report. It also describes how schools have been supported to implement the reform journey and prepare for the new curriculum, and identifies strategic and regional priorities for 2021-22.

The main areas for development, identified from the self-evaluation processes undertaken within GwE, are priorities in the Business Plan for 2020-2021. The regional priorities and areas for improvement are based firmly on the findings of GwE's internal self-evaluation processes, external reviews on their current practice and direction of travel, and through consultation with headteachers and the Local Authorities. The Business Plan also addresses Welsh Government and the Local Authorities strategic priorities that fall within the remit of the work of GwE.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	The Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to accept the Annual Report from GwE and note the positive impact of the regional service in supporting Flintshire schools during the
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	pandemic and in their ongoing preparations for the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales.
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE GwE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-2021</b>
1.01	<p>The GwE annual report provides an overview of the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Background and context</li> <li>2. GwE work programme</li> <li>3. Main impact of GwE work during Covid-19 Pandemic</li> <li>4. Estyn Thematic Review: Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19</li> <li>5. GwE response to Estyn recommendations from thematic report</li> <li>6. Support during the pandemic that has provided growth points in preparation for the new curriculum</li> <li>7. Business matters</li> <li>8. Business plan priorities for 2021-2022</li> </ol>
1.02	<p>GwE's strategic priorities for improvement in 2021-2022 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Curriculum and Assessment</b> - supporting a national curriculum with equity and excellence at its core that sets high standards for learners</li> <li>2. <b>Developing a high quality education profession</b> - improving the teaching and learning in our schools</li> <li>3. <b>Leadership</b> - supporting inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards and includes future leadership and professional networks</li> <li>4. <b>Strong and inclusive schools</b> – committed to excellence, equity and wellbeing</li> <li>5. <b>Supporting a self-improving system</b> – supporting a system where the education profession have the skills, capacity and agency to continually learn and improve their practice</li> <li>6. <b>Business</b> – ensure that GwE has strong governance and effective business operational support that provides value for money.</li> </ol>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within the current financial resources.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	Risks related to schools are managed through the appropriate risk management processes both within GwE and within the Local Authority.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Regular discussions are held with GwE Management Board which comprises of the Senior Management Team of GwE and the six Chief Education Officers of the North Wales authorities.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p><b>Appendix 1 to this Scrutiny report</b> GwE Annual Report 2020-2021 Flintshire</p> <p><b>GwE Appendices to their report</b></p> <p><b>Appendix 1</b> Estyn report: 'Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19'</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> Estyn letter: 'GwE's work to support schools and PRUs: March-August 2020 / From September 2020'</p> <p><b>Appendix 3</b> 'Journey to 2022' which was published in October 2020 and co-created by Estyn, the 4 regions and Welsh Government</p> <p><b>Appendix 4</b> Curriculum for Wales Professional Learning Timeline</p> <p><b>Appendix 5</b> The Reform Journey – Think Pieces</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p><b>Cwricwlwm i Gymru</b> <a href="https://hwb.gov.wales/cwricwlwm-i-gymru/">https://hwb.gov.wales/cwricwlwm-i-gymru/</a></p> <p><b>Curriculum for Wales</b> <a href="https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/">https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Arwyn Thomas, GwE Managing Director <b>Telephone:</b> 01492 806115 <b>E-mail:</b> ArwynThomas@gwegogledd.cymru</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Vicky Barlow, Senior Manager for School Improvement <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704019</p>

	<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:vicky.barlow@flintshire.gov.uk">vicky.barlow@flintshire.gov.uk</a>
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<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	GwE – Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service for North Wales  OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  PDG – Pupil Development Grant  SIA – Supporting Improvement Advisers