

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 6 February 2014

Lead Member / Officer: Lead Member for Education/Head of Education/Chief Officer of GwE

Report Author: Head of Education/Chief Officer of GwE

Title: Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)

1. What is the report about?

1.1 Progress achieved following the establishment of the Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To provide information on and consider progress made following the establishment of the new Service in order to:

- Identify the benefits realised to date from its establishment in order to measure effectiveness of Service delivery.
- Identify problems encountered which are yet to be resolved in order to ensure that risk to Service delivery is successfully mitigated.
- Inform the Committee of any proposals to expand the Service.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

3.1 considers the information provided and comments on the progress achieved to date following the establishment of GwE with regard to the following:

- The effectiveness of GwE in delivering economies of scale and specialist support to complement the County's Education Service.
- The identification of slippages, risks, service gaps or future pressures with regard to recommending mitigating action.

4. Report details

4.1 The Chief Officer for GwE presented a report to the Joint Committee on 6 November 2013. This report details the progress that GwE has made to date. (Annex 1). The Head of Education presented a report to Performance Scrutiny on 16 February on KS4 and Post 16 outcomes 2013. (Annex 2.)

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1 Improving performance in Education and the quality of school buildings is one of the Council's corporate priorities for 2012-17 term of office. The effective delivery of GwE is integral to achieving this priority as the Service is responsible for operational delivery of the core school improvement functions, operating as a commissioned service.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1 The cost of this has been agreed through the Service Level Agreement.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

The purpose of the report is to review and consider progress made. Therefore, the report is not seeking a decision in response to a proposal. There are no adverse effects on any of the protected characteristics as a result of this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with Key Stakeholders.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1 The reputational and political risks to the Authority are minimal, as long as GwE delivers a high quality service in order to contribute to the trajectory of continued improvement that Denbighshire has secured.

11. Power to make the Decision

- 11.1 No legal requirements but Local Authority inspections are mandatory.
- 11.2 Article 6.3.2(f) of the Council's Constitution stipulates that scrutiny committees may ensure that actions indicated in action plans are carried out.
- 11.3 Article 6.3.3(d) states that scrutiny may liaise with external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

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