



Ein Rhanbarth ar Waith
Education through Regional Working

Gweithdrefnau ar gyfer ysgolion sydd yn derbyn cefnogaeth ychwanegol

Arrangements for schools receiving additional support 14.2.20

Cynghrair o 6 awdurdod lleol yw ERW a reolir gan gyd-bwyllgor cyfansoddiadol cyfreithiol.
Y nod yw gweithredu strategaeth a chynllun busnes rhanbarthol cytunedig a chefnogi gwelliant ysgolion.

ERW is an alliance of 6 local authorities governed by a legally constituted joint committee.
Its aim is to implement the agreed regional strategy and business plan to support school improvement.



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Purpose of the report: The report provides Joint Committee members with an overview of ERW support strategies and our current work in support of schools identified in need of additional support.

Section 1: ERW Support strategies:

i) School Performance Team Meetings:

'School Performance Team Meetings' are undertaken on a half-termly basis. The meetings provide the opportunity for each Senior Challenge Adviser to meet and discuss local current needs with ERW central officers (Interim MD, Assistant MD, Head of Secondary and Lead for Key Stage 4 Curriculum and Examinations). The meetings also facilitate an evaluation of previous elements of support provision. A strong emphasis is placed on ensuring the appropriateness, nature and impact of ERW's provision.

ii) Secondary Support Group (SSG):

Our ERW Secondary Support Group continues to provide bespoke support for identified schools across the region. The Group's activity is always brokered in a detailed manner via discussions between the school, ERW officers, senior LA officers, Senior Challenge Adviser and any additional, appropriate officers. Current work is focused on some fifteen schools across the region.

iii) Key Stage 4 Subject Specialists:

Support for schools from our team of Key Stage 4 Subject Specialists continues to provide for schools across our region. Their work is not restricted to schools specifically noted as 'causing concern.' Well timed provision from this team can often result in the necessary level of expertise required to progress an individual element of provision swiftly. In addition, their integral involvement in our Secondary Subject Networks provides effective guidance and reinforcement of some central priorities for all our schools, namely 'high expectations for all learners' and 'whole school responsibility for raising standards and ensuring progress for each learner.'

iv) National Evaluation and Improvement Resource (WG / Consortia Schools Causing Concern and Self-evaluation Pilot):

We continue to collaborate with Welsh Government on the two key aspects of this national pilot study. This work is coordinated on behalf of ERW by Tracy Senchal, our Head of Secondary Sector.

‘Aspect 1’ which focuses on supporting schools to develop effective self-evaluation involves six schools (nominated by our Senior Challenge Advisers) from across the region.

1. Crickhowell High School, Powys
2. Bishopston Comprehensive, Swansea
3. Bryngwyn & Glanymor Federation, Carmarthenshire
4. Coedffranc Primary, Neath Port Talbot
5. Plascrug Primary, Ceredigion
6. Lamphey Primary, Pembrokeshire

The work is evolving very well with much interest and enthusiasm from all partners. To date, all school leaders have met with Tracy and are developing their self-evaluation practice. The sharing of effective practice and richness of peer-to-peer discussion and evaluation is proving very successful.

‘Aspect 2’ involves one Powys secondary school and one Pembrokeshire secondary school. This Spring Term will witness the imminent commencement of a multi-agency approach to school improvement via an individual School Improvement Board. The Board contains a wide range of officers from different agencies e.g. local authority, school, Estyn, ERW to ensure a consistent and aligned approach in support of each school.

Section 2: Overview of current support activity:

Secondary Support Group (SSG):

During the Spring Term, 2020 our activity has continued to focus on schools within Powys, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. The Secondary Support Group is continuing its work with 15 schools in support of agreed elements of bespoke provision such as:

- building leadership capacity e.g. support for newly appointed Head teachers, senior leadership teams etc)

- enhancing teaching and learning
- developing schools as learning organisation

This work is driven forward through a close partnership between SSG team members and our locally based Challenge Advisers and individual school leaders. Current discussions note an encouraging profile for the next academic year with fewer schools requiring support. Based on the rate of progress and improvement*, an early prediction would suggest decreasing the number of schools from fifteen to eight.

*current National Categorisation Support is as follows:

- 1 school – Green
- 3 schools – Yellow
- 7 schools – Amber
- 4 schools - Red

Key Stage 4 Subject Specialist Team:

The KS4 Subject Specialist Team is currently supporting some 29 schools across our region, focusing their work in the main on the key areas of:

- Cymraeg
- English
- Maths
- Science

We have 7 schools involved in Powys, 3 in Ceredigion, 5 in Pembrokeshire, 5 in Carmarthenshire, 6 in Swansea and 3 in Neath Port Talbot.

It is important to emphasise that the aim of both of these teams is to provide provision at pace from an early stage, thus avoiding any significant 'causes for concern.' The close partnership working between Senior Challenge Advisers, senior LA officers and ERW staff ensures an ongoing and supportive dialogue which is targeted directly towards early support and intervention. We have clear and encouraging evidence of this approach succeeding and supporting our school communities well.