

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO:	Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	20th of September, 2021
LOCATION:	Virtual Meeting
TITLE:	An update on the Authority's support for Schools as they prepare to implement Curriculum for Wales
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	For your information
REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:	
BACKGROUND:	
<p>It has been over six years since the Welsh Government decided to commission Professor Graham Donadson to review the Welsh Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements. That was the start of the journey to produce a new curriculum for schools in Wales.</p> <p>Since the government agreed to adopt the 68 recommendations in Professor Donadson's report, Successful Futures, huge investment has been made to release teachers to create a new curriculum. The final version of the curriculum was published at the end of January last year. The intention was to give schools adequate opportunity to familiarise themselves with the principles and content and to experiment with its delivery, before the curriculum became statutory in September 2022. Unfortunately, however, Covid has partially disrupted that intention.</p> <p>In response, it was announced this summer that the curriculum will continue to become statutory for all primary school years in 2022, but will be phased in secondary in 2023, with years 7 and 8 receiving the new curriculum first and then as they move through the School the new curriculum will travel with them.</p>	
CURRENT SITUATION:	

Due to Covid, a change in the ALN Act and preparation for the adoption of a new curriculum, schools are undoubtedly facing the biggest period of change ever seen in the history of education in Wales.

As a Schools Department we are well aware of the pressures on schools and are doing all we can to support them as they transform their provision to meet the new expectations.

We provide the following support to schools:

1. The secondment of our **Curriculum Co-ordinator for Wales**, Catrin Thomas, Headteacher of Aberaeron Primary School, was extended for an additional year as it had been challenging for her to carry out her work in line with the original plans due to Covid. Her work programme was adapted last year so that it could continue to drive the Curriculum for Wales agenda virtually. She ran regular bite size virtual training which was a very effective way of continuing to focus on the principles and elements of the new curriculum, namely the four purposes, the six areas of learning and experience, the cross-curricular skills and mainly the twelve pedagogy principles. On a weekly basis schools received a menu of the training available, see example below.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams meeting invite for 'Cwricwlwm i Gymru / Curriculum for Wales'. The invite includes the title 'Wythnos - Week 22-26.2.21', a table with session details, and a note at the bottom about further information.

Dyddiad Date	Cynulleidfa/ Audience	Hyfforddiant/ Training: Ymuno/ Join Sianel CiG Tim Athrawon Ceredigion TEAMS CfW Channel
22.2.21 4-4.30pm	Athrawon a chynorthwyr	All-gydio yn CiG: Prif Egwyddorion ac athroniaeth CiG: Pam? Sut? Beth? Pryd? Cofrestru yma
22.2.21 2-2.30pm		
24.2.21 2-2.30pm	Teachers and Support staff	CfW Refresher: Core principles and philosophy of CfW. Why? How? What? When? Cofrestru yma/Register here
24.2.21 4-4.30pm		
24.2.21 10-11am	Athrawon (Cymraeg) English next week.	Cyd-gerdded drwy Addysgeg: Rhaglen 12 sesiwn pythefnosol yn ymgylorwyddo â'r 12 egwyddor addysgeg yn defnyddio adnodd 'Egwyddorion Rhagoriaeth' ERW. Cofrestru yma
25.2.21 4-5pm		

Am wybodaeth pellach cysylltwch â/ For further information contact: Catrin.thomas@ceredigion.gov.uk

The delivery method has been extremely effective as school staff were able to access the training despite the pandemic and as the sessions were not lengthy, staff were able to join with little impact to their normal working days. The sessions were available in both languages and were repeated to provide more engagement opportunities.

In addition, Catrin provides one-to-one support to school leaders in relation to curriculum development within their settings. She also keeps her finger on national developments and cascades relevant information with the department and schools.

The **Curriculum Co-ordinator for Wales** also leads the **Areas of Learning and Experience networks**. The main purpose of the Areas of Learning and Experience networks is to develop models of planning approaches that will be introduced as learning 'chapters' for Ceredigion schools. The learning 'chapters' will be broadly based on the concept of 'Cynefin' and the development of a local curriculum, a 'taste of our locality'. We trust that the learning chapters will exemplify how to deliver the new curriculum in a cross-disciplinarily manner and this will give schools confidence in designing their own curriculum, which is one of the main expectations of the new curriculum.

2. The **Ceredigion Advisory Teacher Team** has designed and started to provide **training on the Areas of Learning and Experience** at two levels. Last summer tier one training was delivered, namely training focusing on familiarising with the structure of the Areas of Learning and Experience, and then this term the tier two training will focus on looking in more detail at specific aspects of the Areas of Learning and Experience.

All of the tier one training sessions have been recorded in both languages so that schools have continued access to them. Tier 2 training will be introduced as videos so that schools can access them on training closure days in line with their local arrangements.

The Covid cloud has ensured significant advances in skills and use of a wide range of ICT resources for teaching and for promoting the continuous Professional Development of our workforce. One resource that has been developed by the Ceredigion Advisory Teachers Team led by Kay Morris, our Senior Information Technology Advisory Teacher, is the Ceredigion Resource Website which sits on the Hwb platform.

The website has three parts;

1. **The Professional Learning Offer**, where the training and continuing professional development opportunities the department offers to our schools for the current year are listed.
2. **Resource Treasures**, a library of websites, ready-made teaching resources and videos of training that have already taken place.
3. **Sharing Practice**, a collection of case studies that demonstrate and share good practice.

3. Secondary Secondment. The Authority has seconded Gareth Evans, Bro Teifi's Deputy to a part-time role, as Enquiry and Research Co-ordinator. The aim of this role is to lead on a range of professional research and enquiry opportunities for Ceredigion school staff. It supports schools to further develop as 'Schools as Learning Organisations' by embedding the principles of organisational research, enquiry and collaboration as a basis for promoting improvement. As a means for carrying out the work, the Cadwyni Initiative has been established. Cadwyni is a vehicle for ensuring effective and meaningful collaboration and networking between practitioners and between schools to develop provision and standards. It draws together schools with similar priorities and interests to overcome challenges. It deepens partnerships at a time of great change and ensures valuable links between schools of all backgrounds and sizes. The use of research is central to Cadwyn's work but also, the forum provides a platform for sharing the output of the work across schools.

We provide regular opportunities for our schools to voice their needs and to express their opinions regarding the quality and nature of the support we provide. This is done in a variety of ways, e.g. questionnaires, one-to-one sessions with head teachers etc, and due to their feedback we are confident that we are meeting the requirements of our schools.

The Welsh Government's strategic document 'The Journey towards 2022,' which sets out the common expectations of what the delivery of the curriculum means for practitioners, schools and settings from 2022, is being revised by the end of September in terms of requirements and milestones. Ceredigion's plans will be adapted in accordance with the requirements of that document.

Despite the scale of the challenges they currently face, we are confident that we are offering support that will ensure that all schools successfully incorporate the changes underway.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:	Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why	No - for information only.
	Summary:	
	Long term:	
	Integration:	
	Collaboration:	
	Involvement:	
	Prevention:	
RECOMMENDATION (S):		

For information

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

Contact Name:	Mary Davies
Designation:	Corporate Manager for School Improvement
Date of Report:	September, 2021
Acronyms:	