Regional Consortia

8 November 2019

Dear Colleague,

School improvement and raising standards

The National Assembly for Wales’s Children, Young People and Education Committee intends to undertake a short piece of work on school improvement and raising standards in early 2020.

To inform our scrutiny, we would be grateful if you could provide a written paper on the points listed in the annex to this letter. We would be grateful to receive this information by Friday 20 December 2019.

We would also like to invite you to attend an oral evidence session to discuss these matters in further detail. Our Committee Clerk will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

A similar request will be made to the Welsh Government for information, and I have copied the Minister for Education for her awareness.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair

Cc Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education
ANNEX – Request for written information

More information about providing information to committees, including how we will handle that information, is available on our website.

The Committee would be grateful to receive a paper on the points listed below from the perspective of your consortium:

- A brief summary of:
  - your approach to school improvement in your region, including how this is informed by the school categorisation process;
  - how you work with your member local authorities to ensure synergy and no duplication in your school improvement work.

- Details of funding you are responsible for spending in 2019-20, to include:
  - how much funding you are receiving in 2019-20 from each local authority for your school improvement services;
  - how much in Welsh Government grants you are responsible for distributing in 2019-20, including a breakdown between the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant and the Pupil Development Grant, as well as details of how much is delegated to schools and how much is administered/spent on a regional basis.

- A summary of Key Stage 4 and A/AS Level examination data for 2019 and previous years in your region, plus any analysis you wish to provide.

- A summary of PISA 2018 results in your region (if available), plus any analysis you wish to provide.

- An update on progress to tackle the attainment gap in your region:
  - between eligible for free school meals (eFSM) pupils and other pupils;
  - between ethnic minority groups at risk of underachieving and other pupils;
  - between Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, and other pupils;
  - between Looked After Children and other pupils (and any work to identify and improve the attainment of adopted children compared to other pupils).

- An update on how you are challenging and supporting schools that participated in Schools Challenge Cymru – we would be particularly grateful to know how you have ensured that, where schools’ performance improved during the programme, this positive momentum has continued (see Recommendation 29 of the Committee’s On the money? Targeted funding to improve educational outcomes report for further detail).

- Any comments you have on current and future school accountability arrangements and the impact of these on school improvement.

- Any other comments you wish to make on the school improvement and raising standards agenda.