



PARTNERIAETH

Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group

Date: 19 June 2023

Time: 10.00am

**The meeting will be held remotely via MS Teams.
(Welsh/English Simultaneous Translation will be available)**

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declaration of Interest**
- 3 Minutes and Letter/s arising from the last meeting**
- 4 Outline of Partneriaeth Joint Committee Agenda to be held on 23 June 2023**
Lead Director and the Lead Officer for Partneriaeth
- 5 Chair of the Joint Committee and Directors from each Council**
The Legal agreement states that Directors of Education of each of the Councils shall attend together and that the Chair of Joint Committee shall attend, at least once per annum. With purpose of seeking reassurance and to consider if the Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively. This will done as follows:
 1. **Chair of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee** to give a view on how he believes things are going and then to discuss and provide reassurance that Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively.
 2. **Director from each local authority** to give views on how it is going for their Council, what they are finding the key challenges and to seek reassurance from each council that they believe Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively.
- 6 Updated Risk Profile**
Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth
- 7 A look at Performance of Partneriaeth Priority 2 - Developing a high-quality education profession - improving the teaching & learning in our schools**
Lead Director, Lead Officer and relevant Strategic Advisors
- 8 Partneriaeth Scrutiny Work Programme 2023 - 2024**
For agreement by Scrutiny Councillor Group
- 9 Discuss points for the letter to Chair of Partneriaeth Joint Committee arising from this meeting**
Scrutiny Councillor Group

Future meeting dates will be arranged to coincide with dates of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee dates starting in the Autumn term 2023 on 23 October 2023 at 10.00am

The rules of procedure and access to information rules of the Lead Council with responsibility for the administration of the scrutiny function shall apply to meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group.

[Swansea Council Constitution](#)

Members of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall be subject to the Codes of Conduct for Members of their Councils.

.



Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Membership List (2022/2023)

Local Authority	Councillor/member representatives	Member email addresses	Scrutiny Officers and other support
Swansea	<p>Cllr Lyndon Jones (Convener Education Performance Scrutiny Panel)</p> <p>Cllr Peter Black (Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee)</p>	<p>Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk</p> <p>cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk</p>	<p>Michelle Roberts Michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk</p> <p><i>Support Officer for the Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group</i></p>
Pembrokeshire	<p>Cllr Huw Murphy (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Anji Tinley (Sub)</p> <p>Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>cllr.huw.murphy@pembrokeshire.gov.uk</p> <p>cllr.Anji.Tinley@pembrokeshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Lydia Evans Lydia.evans@pembrokeshire.gov.uk</p>
Carmarthenshire	<p>Cllr Carys Jones (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Sue Allen (Vice Chair Education and Children Scrutiny Committee)</p>	<p>ACarysJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>SMAllen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Julie Owens juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
Other	Partneriaeth		<p>Cllr Darren Price Chair of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee daprice@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Helen Morgan Rees, Partneriaeth Lead Director Helen.Morgan-Rees@swansea.gov.uk</p> <p>Ian Altman, Partneriaeth Lead Officer Ian.Altman@partneriaeth.cymru</p>

Agenda Item 3



Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
County Council



Cyngor Abertawe
Swansea Council

PARTNERIAETH

To:
Cllr. Darren Price
Chair of Partneriath Joint Committee

Please ask for: **Scrutiny**
Scrutiny Office Line: **01792 637256**
e-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Date: **01/03/2023**

Dear Councillor Price

Partneriath Scrutiny Councillor Group – 13 February 2023

The Scrutiny Councillor Group would like to thank Ian Altman, Lead Officer, Cressy Morgan, Strategic Adviser and Helen Morgan Rees, Lead Director for attending our meeting, for presenting the information we requested and answering our questions. I am writing to you to reflect on our views from the meeting.

The Lead Director outlined the financial position of Partneriaeth giving us a breakdown of funding streams including the grant funding, the local authority contributions and service level agreements in place. She also reassured the Panel that the governance arrangements are running as set out in the legal agreement, including Joint Committee, Scrutiny and regular stakeholder meetings.

We were interested to hear about the evaluation and impact report that is currently being written, understanding that it will outline areas such as the value for money of Partneriaeth (so far) and that this will be submitted to the Joint Committee in June. We look forward to sight of this once it is available. We noted the 28 members staff were now employed by Partneriaeth which well down on the number employed by ERW.

We also reviewed the Risk Register with Ian Altman noting one amendment which strengthened the comment around the increased risk of priority one and schools not being sufficiently supported in their implementation of the new curriculum. We discussed and were concerned to hear about the risk of the Welsh Government grant funding not coming through on time, because clearly Partneriaeth is dependent on this grant. However, we were reassured to hear that the monies do tend to come through in a timely manner.

We did raise a concern about the impact of the Welsh Government workload pay award and its potential impact on teaching time. We understand there is no detail available at present but we would appreciate being kept up to date as this progresses and informed of the potential impact it will have in our schools.

As outlined in our last letter we agreed to receive an update on the implementation of the six Partneriaeth key priorities, one at each of our meetings. At this meeting we started with Priority One: Curriculum & Assessment, supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners. Cressy

Morgan and Ian Altman gave us details on progress with this, including looking at how it flows through the Business Plan and the Professional Learning offer. We discussed how successful cluster working has been in some areas and were shown three examples of this. We do recognise that there are different challenges across the different clusters, so one size will not fit all and that a mixture of universal and bespoke support seems to be most effective. We were pleased to hear that a flexible and agile approach is taken when supporting all clusters.

We also wanted to emphasise the importance of taking all teachers on the journey to implement the New Curriculum for Wales, recognising the prescriptive nature of the old curriculum and the skills required for the New Curriculum, which could be challenging for some who are used to the old system.

The Councillor Group wanted to recognise and thank Partneriaeth staff for their hard work in developing a team working ethos with schools particularly in relation to the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales.

We would welcome your thoughts on the contents of this letter but on this occasion do not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Lyndon Jones
Chair of Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group
Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk



PARTNERIAETH

Minutes of the Partneriaeth Regional Scrutiny Councillor Group

Held Remotely via MS Teams

Monday, 13 February 2023 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

Cllr Lyndon Jones (Convener Swansea Education Performance Scrutiny Panel)

Cllr Peter Black (Chair of the Swansea Scrutiny Programme Committee)

Cllr Huw Murphy (Chair Pembrokeshire Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee)

Cllr Pat Davies (Vice Chair Pembrokeshire Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee)

Cllr Sue Allen (Vice Chair Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee)

Officer(s)

Ian Altman

Lead Officer Partneriaeth

Helen Morgan-Rees

Lead Director and Director of Education in Swansea

Cressy Morgan

Partneriaeth Strategic Adviser

Michelle Roberts

Scrutiny Officer (Swansea)

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Carys Jones (Chair Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee)

9 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Carys Jones (Chair Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee)

10 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

11 Minutes and Letter/s arising from the last meeting

The minutes and letter arising from the meeting on the 24 October 2022 were accepted.

12 Outline of and Feedback from Partneriaeth Joint Committee Agenda held on 3 February 2023

Ian Altman updated the Councillor Group on the outcomes of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee held on the 3 February 2023. The following was noted:

- Martin Nicholls, Chief Executive in Swansea was appointed as Lead Chief Executive for Partneriaeth
- Helen Morgan Rees, Director of Education in Swansea was appointed as Lead Director for Partneriaeth
- Cllr Lyndon Jones attended as the Chair of the Scrutiny Councillor Group and spoke the Councillor Groups letter from the meeting on 24 October 2022.
- Section 151 Officer presented the Partneriaeth financial report for 2022-23, giving an update on the financial position of Partneriaeth at the end of December 2022 and it was noted that the report provided information around service level agreements with the local authorities. the financial report was noted and the revised budget and the grant income and allocation for 202223 was approved.
- An overview was provided of the internal audit work programme for 2022-23, the joint committee considered the objectives, the scope and the approach and the reporting arrangements. Progress made was noted. Further work would be conducted between March and May 2023, a report will then be presented to Joint Committee during the Summer term.
- An overview was provided giving progress with the business plan, its delivery and areas still to be developed.
- It was explained that a detailed evaluation document that will include the impact of the work carried out so far, will be prepared.
- A strengthening of one element of the risk assessment was made.

13 The Joint Committee's Financial affairs, risk Management and Governance arrangements

- Helen Morgan Rees updated the Councillor Group on the financial and governance arrangements as requested and as the Legal Agreement says the Councillor Group to review, scrutinise and assess the Joint Committee's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements and review and assess the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used.
- She updated the panel on the funding arrangements for Partneriaeth including each local authorities contribution and also the grant funding received from Welsh Government along with Service Level Agreements. She explained that an impact report is being put together that will go to the June Joint Committee and will outline the value for money element. It was reported that it was important that the service is tailored to the needs of each local authority and also that full engagement of all three local authorities was key to them all getting value for money from Partneriaeth.
- Governance arrangements are progressing as agreed in the Joint Agreement, including termly Joint Committee, Scrutiny Councillor Group and regular stakeholder group meetings.

The Councillor Group asked:

- About ensuring there is minimal duplication in what is done by Partneriaeth and what it done with local authorities and schools. Councillors heard that is something that all those involved are very aware off and committed to ensuring does not happen whenever possible. They heard that the that teacher groups are useful reference point to have those conversations, to ensure that it's clear who's providing what.
- About the possibility of Partneriaeth staff working out of local authority offices. Ian Altman explained that having a base where all staff can come into it really important, to get the opportunity to work together. He said we would not want to the teams to become fragmented. So having that designated base is really important for us. He explained they only have a hot desk room, admin space and a couple of meeting rooms at the moment, so it is not a huge footprint.

14 Updated Risk Profile

Ian Altman informed the Councillor Group that there has only been one change to the document previously seen by the Group. This change relates to a strengthening of the comment around the increased risk around priority one and schools not being sufficiently supported in their implementation of curriculum.

The Councillor Group asked:

- About the item on the risk register relating to the Welsh Government funding not arriving on time and how much we rely on that. The Group heard that it is a large risk because the vast majority of the organisation relies on those levels of grant funding. There is a commitment from Welsh Government over three years for these grant lines will be sustained. The money however does tend to arrive on time.
- What are the risks with the new curriculum and how does the offer to teachers by the Welsh Government on workload pay impact on this work? Ian Altman said that Professional learning would be seen as something that adds value to the system rather than something that impinges on workload. I think wherever possible we try and make things available asynchronously so staff can access a variety of times and there is no was that expectation that it is out of core hours. However, in terms of workload, there is significant expectations on staff. Ian Altman said I think it is up to us to make our professional learning offer as agile as possible.
- About the effectiveness of cluster professional development around the national curriculum was raised and the Group hoped that funding for schools to release staff to attend would continue.

15 A look at Performance of Partneriaeth Priority 1 - Curriculum & Assessment

The Councillor Group agreed as part of their work programme to look at the performance of a different one of the six Partneriaeth priorities at each meeting. The Councillor Group therefore welcomed Ian Altman and Cressy Morgan the Partneriaeth Strategic Adviser to the meeting. They provided a presentation and outlined progress with regards to Priority One: Curriculum & Assessment - Supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners. They covered the following points:

- The Business Plan
- The availability of information on Partneriaeth website
- The Professional Learning Offer
- How there are different challenges for different clusters, so one size will not fit all and that it is important that a flexible and agile approach is taken when supporting all clusters.
- A mixture of universal and bespoke support seems to be effective.
- Three examples of cluster worker working were given.

The Councillor Group raised the following points:

- The prescriptive nature of the old curriculum and the skills required for the New Curriculum were raised. The Councillor Group felt that it was important we take all school staff along with us on the journey to introduce the New Curriculum for Wales and we should ensure that no one gets left behind by ensuring we are supporting those who may be struggling with the transition.

16 Partneriaeth Scrutiny Work Programme

The Scrutiny Work Programme was noted.

17 Discuss points for the letter to Chair of Partneriaeth Joint Committee arising from this meeting

The Cllr Group agreed to include their views on the following for the inclusion in their letter to the Chair of Partneriaeth Joint Committee:

- Pleased to see that the first impact report for Partneriaeth is being produced and look forward to seeing it in June.
- Concern was raised about the impact of Welsh Government workload pay award and its impact on teaching time. The Group understand we have no details available at present but would appreciate keeping the Councillor Group to date as this progresses.
- Highlight the risk of the Welsh Government grant funding not coming through on time recognising how dependent Partneriaeth is on flow of these monies.
- The Councillor Group wanted to recognise and thank Partneriaeth for their hard work in developing a team working ethos with schools around the introduction of the new curriculum.
- The Councillor Group also wanted to emphasise the importance of taking all teachers along in the journey to implement the New Curriculum for Wales.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am

Chair



Item no. 6

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PARTNERIAETH SCRUTINY COUNCILLOR GROUP DATE: 19th June 2023

TITLE OF REPORT

Outline of Partneriaeth Joint Committee Agenda to held on 23 June 2023

BRIEF SUMMARY OF REPORT

To provide Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group with opportunity to discuss the items on the Agenda of the Joint Committie

Attending to present this item will be:

Lead Director and the Lead Officer for Partneriaeth

Report attached: **No**

Presentation at meeting: **Verbal**





Item no. 5

PARTNERIAETH SCRUTINY COUNCILLOR GROUP

DATE: 19th June 2023

TITLE OF REPORT

Questions for the Chair of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee and the three Directors of Education

BRIEF SUMMARY OF REPORT

The following questions were sent in advance of the meeting:

Cllr Darren Price, Chair of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee

1. Ask Cllr Price to give an overview of how he feels things are going and to provide reassurance that Partneriaeth is operation according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively.

Directors of Education – Helen Morgan Rees (Swansea), Steven Richard-Downes (Pembrokeshire) and Gareth Morgans (Carmarthenshire)

2. Director from each local authority is asked to give views on how it is going for their Council, what they are finding the key challenges and to seek reassurance from each council that they believe Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively.

Attending to present this item will be:

Chair of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee

Three Directors of Education –Swansea, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire

Report attached: **No**

Presentation at meeting: **Verbal discussion**





Item no. 6

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PARTNERIAETH SCRUTINY COUNCILLOR GROUP DATE: 19th June 2023

TITLE OF REPORT
Updated Risk Profile
BRIEF SUMMARY OF REPORT
To provide Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group with an update on the current risk profile of Partneriaeth.
Attending to present this item will be: Ian Altman Lead Officer
Report attached: Yes
Presentation at meeting: Yes





Risk Register

April 2022 - March 2023

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1. Partneriaeth's Vision	3
1.2. Partneriaeth's Priorities:	3
1.3. Risk Evaluation Matrix	5
1.4. Impact assessment criteria	6
1.5. Probability assessment criteria	7
2. Corporate Business Risks	8
3. Index and Summary of Residual Business Risk Scores	9
3.1. Central Risks	9
3.2. Financial Risks	9
3.3. Governance Risks	10
4. Contextualisation	11
5. Central Risks	13
1. Failure to deliver the 6 priority areas of Partneriaeth's Business Plan	13
2. Failure to delivery against LA priorities included in Partneriaeth's Business Plan	14
3. Failure to support Local Authorities in relevant areas as they engage with Estyn	16
4. Data Protection	17
5. Partneriaeth found not to provide Value for Money	18
6. Financial Risks	19
1. Timeliness of Welsh Government Funding	19
2. Failure to comply with Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) T&Cs	20
7. Risks associated with Governance	21
1. Lack of clarity regarding functions of Partneriaeth	21
2. Lack of Communication with all stakeholders	22
3. Partneriaeth Governance	23

1. INTRODUCTION

Partneriaeth's Risk Register contains the strategic business risks (threats) to the achievement of Partneriaeth's Vision and Aims as outlined within the Partneriaeth Business Plan.

1.1. Partneriaeth's Vision

Mission Statement

Partnership working to achieve excellence for all.

Our Aims

- 1) We lead schools and settings to design, develop and deliver a curriculum with equity and excellence at its core.
- 2) We support schools and settings to become ambitious, self-improving learning organisations.
- 3) We provide professional learning and opportunities for collaboration in order to develop strong and supportive partnerships.

1.2. Partneriaeth's Priorities:

Priority 1 – Curriculum & Assessment - Supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners

Priority 2 – Developing a high-quality education profession - improving the teaching & learning in our schools

Priority 3 – Leadership - supporting inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards. Includes future leadership & professional networks

Priority 4 – Strong & inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity & well-being

Priority 5 – Supporting a self-improving system - supporting a system in which the education profession have the skills, capacity & agency to continually learn & improve their practice

Priority 6 – Ensure that Partneriaeth has strong governance and effective business and operational support that provides value for money

Partneriaeth's risks (threats) are scored against the risk (threats) evaluation matrix shown on page 5, using the impact and probability criteria shown on pages 6 and 7.

Partneriaeth's Risk Register is a live document which is subject to regular review by Partneriaeth's senior leadership team. New risks identified or escalated are included in the updated Partneriaeth Risk Register and is then formally reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Partneriaeth Joint Committee.

Partneriaeth risks are scored at inherent level (before any control measures are applied) and at residual level (after control measures have been applied).

Although control measures are applied, they may not be sufficient to reduce the residual score if external factors (outside of officer control) still have a high influence on the probability of the risk occurring or the impact should it occur. The heat map on page 8 shows the highest residual risks on Partneriaeth's Risk Register.

Each risk has its own table showing the inherent and residual risk score along with the tolerance for the risk.

To assist with the monitoring of changes to Partneriaeth's Risk Register between reviews,

the risk score table for each risk includes a movement column which shows if the residual risk has increased↑, decreased↓, or stayed the same↔.Where there is no arrow icon, this process will commence from the report presented to the next Joint Committee.

The Corporate Risk Register for April 2022 - March 2023 contains 10 business risks (threats), each of which is indexed on page 9 and 10, and shown in detail on pages 13 to 22.

Risks are categorised under one of the four following groupings

1. Central Risks
2. Financial Risks
3. Risks associated with Review and Reform
4. Risks associated with Failure to respond to Covid-19

Every risk is explained in seven steps:

- Event
- Description of Risk
- Background
- Objectives at Risk
- Risk Control Measures
- Risk Owner
- Risk Scores

1.3. Risk Evaluation Matrix

Threats					
Probability	Very High	Low (4)	Medium (8)	High (12)	High (16)
	High	Low (3)	Medium (6)	Medium (9)	High (12)
	Medium	Low (2)	Low (4)	Medium (6)	Medium (8)
	Low	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)
		Low	Medium	High	Very High
Impact					

1.4. Impact assessment criteria

(Review the risk against the following criteria, chose the one that best describes the impact and rate accordingly from 1 – 4)

Rating	Description	Financial Capital / Revenue	Political	Service / Operations
4	Very High	>40% to <100% budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political intervention required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catastrophic fall in service quality and statutory service standards are not met. Long term interruption to service provision. Report from regulator or inspectorate requiring major project for corrective action.
3	High	>15% to <40% budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major adverse political reaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major impact to service quality, statutory service standards are not met, long term disruption to operations, multiple partnerships affected. Report of breach to regulator with immediate correction to be implemented.
2	Medium	>5 % to < 15 % budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant adverse regional political reaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant fall in service quality, major partnership relationships strained, serious disruption to statutory service standards. Reportable incident to regulator(s).
1	Low	< 5% budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor adverse political reaction and complaints which are quickly remedied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor impact to service quality, minor statutory service standards are not met.

< = Less than

> =More than

1.5. Probability assessment criteria

(Select one of the ratings from the definitions below)

Rating	Annual Frequency			Probability	
	Description	Definition		Description	Definition
4	Very High	More than once in last 12 months		Very High	>85 % chance of occurrence
3	High	Once in last 2 years		High	>45% to <85 % chance of occurrence
2	Medium	Once in 3 years up to 10 years		Medium	>15% to < 45 % chance of occurrence
1	Low	Once in 10 years		Low	<15 % chance of occurrence

< = Less than

> =More than

2. CORPORATE BUSINESS RISKS

The heat map below summarises the highest residual risks contained on Partneriaeth's Risk Register.

High Probability	9	12
Medium Probability	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeliness of Welsh Government Funding • Lack of clarity regarding functions of Partneriaeth 	8
	High Impact	Very High Impact

3. INDEX AND SUMMARY OF RESIDUAL BUSINESS RISK SCORES

3.1. Central Risks

No.	Risk	Probability	Impact	Residual Risk	Movement ↑↓↔	Page
1	Failure to deliver the 6 priority areas of Partneriaeth's Business Plan	1	4	4	↔	13
2	Failure to deliver against LA priorities included in Partneriaeth's Business Plan	1	3	3	↔	14
3	Failure to support LAs in relevant areas during their engagement with Estyn	1	3	3	↓	15
4	Data Protection	1	4	4	↔	17
5	Partneriaeth found not to provide Value for Money	1	4	4	↔	18

3.2. Financial Risks

No.	Risk	Probability	Impact	Residual Risk	Movement ↑↓↔	Page
1	Timeliness of Welsh Government Funding	2	3	6	↔	19
2	Failure to comply with RCSIG T&Cs	1	4	4	↔	20

3.3. Governance Risks

No.	Risk	Probability	Impact	Residual Risk	Movement ↑↓↔	Page
1	Lack of clarity regarding functions of Partneriaeth	2	3	6	↔	21
2	Lack of Communication with all stakeholders	1	3	3	↔	22
3	Partneriaeth Governance	1	4	4	↔	23

4. CONTEXTUALISATION

Partneriaeth strives to deliver a consistent school improvement service, focused on challenge and support strategies that improve teaching and learning in classrooms and lead to improved pupil attainment and progress in all schools.

Our aim is to build school capacity through support, challenge and intervention so that schools become self-improving, resilient organisations. We facilitate school led support and intervention programmes at a peer to peer, department to department and school to school level according to the area of need that has been identified within the school.

The region will build school capacity through continuing support, challenge and intervention to become self-improving, resilient organisations which continually improve outcomes for learners. This regional strategy for a self-improving system is well underway and is firmly founded in the principles of school-to-school improvement.

Partneriaeth is committed to the Welsh Language and its prosperity, and the language is an integral part of all the administrative procedures of the organisation. We consider Welsh to be a central element of the identity of the region, and we will continue to do as much as we can to promote the language and its use.

Partneriaeth is governed by a legally constituted Joint Committee whose membership is made up of relevant officers from Partneriaeth and the three partner Local Authorities, with the three Council Leaders being voting members. The Joint committee is advised by scrutiny, strategic, operational and stakeholder groups, as detailed below:

Governance Group	Members
Joint Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Leaders. Voting member. • 3 Cabinet Members for Education. These will be non-voting members. • 3 Chief Executives with a Lead Chief Executive, non-voting. • 3 Directors of Education with a Lead Director, non-voting. • Lead Officer Partneriaeth • S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, as required. • External observers and advisers, on request – Estyn, WG, Audit Wales. • Chair of scrutiny Councillors’ group, as non-voting observer – TBC
Scrutiny Councillor Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Education Scrutiny Chairs • 3 Education Scrutiny Vice Chairs • 3 Directors of Education to attend together at least once per annum • Lead Officer Partneriaeth • Chair of Joint Committee to attend at least once per annum • External observers and advisers, on request
Strategic Group*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Directors of Education • Lead Officer Partneriaeth • 3 Partneriaeth Strategic Advisers
Operations Group**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 local authority Lead School Improvement Officers • Lead Officer Partneriaeth • Partneriaeth Strategic Advisers, as required according to business plan priorities

Stakeholder Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead Officer Partneriaeth• 3 Partneriaeth Senior Strategic Advisers linked to each local authority – to be appointed, we will have one linked to Swansea.• 12 headteachers covering primary, secondary, special and pupil referral unit sectors
--------------------------	---

5. CENTRAL RISKS

1. FAILURE TO DELIVER THE 6 PRIORITY AREAS OF PARTNERIAETH'S BUSINESS PLAN
Description of Risk
<p>The Partneriaeth Business Plan is not delivered in its entirety and to a sufficiently high standard, against the following priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curriculum & Assessment 2. Developing a high-quality education profession 3. Leadership 4. Strong & inclusive schools 5. Supporting a self-improving system 6. Strong governance and effective business and operational support <p>There is an increased risk linked to Priority 1 of schools not being sufficiently supported to implement Curriculum for Wales. If schools are not provided with appropriate and targeted support, the implementation will not be in line with national expectations.</p>
Background
<p>The Business Plan for 2022/23 has been written and co-constructed with LA colleagues. Its structure differs from previous regional business plans with Local Authority priorities being an integral part of the plan. As Partneriaeth is funded by the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant, the plan consists of operational delivery plans for each of the funding lines of the grant.</p>
Objectives at Risk
All
Risk Control Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business plan is co-constructed by Partneriaeth officers and senior LA officers • A high level Business Plan is produced setting out main priorities and linking with LA priorities. This is supplemented by detailed operational delivery plans with specific key performance indicators • These are shared with specific stakeholders including Central Team, LA colleagues, schools and Joint Committee, which includes the detailed operational delivery plans • Each operational delivery plan will have a named member of SLT to lead on the plan, as well as named officers to deliver the plan. These will include LA officers, where appropriate • Quarterly monitoring of the business plan, including every operational delivery plan • Over-sight of every operational delivery plan by a member of Partneriaeth's SLT • Appropriate levels of officer time are linked to each of the Business Plan priorities and as such greater resource is allocated to Priority 1, Realising Curriculum for Wales.
Risk Owner
Lead Officer, Senior Strategic Advisers, Lead Advisers

Risk Scores				
Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	4	12	↔
Residual	1	4	4	↔
Tolerance			4	

2. FAILURE TO DELIVERY AGAINST LA PRIORITIES INCLUDED IN PARTNERIAETH'S BUSINESS PLAN

Description of Risk				
The priorities agreed with the three LAs and included in the Partneriaeth Business Plan are not supported to a sufficiently high standard.				
Background				
The relevant priorities of each of the three partner LAs are included in the Partneriaeth business plan. These are mapped against each operational delivery plan included in the business plan.				
Objectives at Risk				
All				
Risk Control Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly monitoring of the business plan, including every operational delivery plan Regular meetings between the Senior Challenge Adviser and Senior Strategic Officer linked with each LA 				
Risk Owner				
Lead Officer, Senior Strategic Officers				
Risk Scores				
Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	3	9	↔
Residual	1	3	3	↔

Tolerance			4	
-----------	--	--	---	--

3. FAILURE TO SUPPORT LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN RELEVANT AREAS AS THEY ENGAGE WITH ESTYN

Description of Risk

Partneriaeth does not provide the required support in the relevant areas to LAs as they engage with Estyn

Background

Pembrokeshire have successfully been removed from an Estyn category in Autumn 2022. Partneriaeth supported a range of relevant priorities in the Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP). Swansea Local Authority School Improvement Service were inspected in June 2022. Partneriaeth's on-going support was recognised during the inspection. Carmarthenshire's Estyn inspection to take place July 2023.

Objectives at Risk

All

Risk Control Measures

- Regular meetings between the Senior Challenge Adviser and Senior Strategic Officer linked with each LA
- Partneriaeth's contribution to the delivery of Pembrokeshire's PIAP is monitored every half-term
- The 3 Senior Strategic Officers from Partneriaeth regularly attend relevant LA School Improvement meetings, such as Challenge Adviser meetings, etc. to facilitate a regular two-way conversation between relevant officers
- Regular meetings between Partneriaeth's Lead Officer and the 3 LA Directors of Education

Risk Owner

Lead Officer, Senior Strategic Officers

Risk Scores

Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	4	12	↔
Residual	1	3	3	↓
Tolerance			4	

4. DATA PROTECTION

Description of Risk

Partneriaeth fails to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018, resulting in action from the ICO

Background

Objectives at Risk

All

Risk Control Measures

- Data Protection guidance is detailed in section 25 of the Legal Agreement (p.23)
- Data Processing Agreement to be added to Schedule 13 of the Legal Agreement
 - The Joint Committee shall appoint a Lead Council to assume responsibility for the discharge of functions on behalf of Partneriaeth, including Data Protection Officer Services
 - Data flow agreements exist between the 3 LAs and Partneriaeth
 - Agreement in place between constituent LAs and all schools across the region
 - Method, type of data and timings of exchange are detailed in the agreement
 - Partneriaeth staff use email and Sharepoint platform under the Hwb licence, provided by Welsh Government. No personal emails will be used.
 - Partneriaeth staff only use electronic device provided to them, i.e. laptop, mobile phone, tablet. No personal devices will be used.

Risk Owner

Lead Officer, Lead Chief Executive, Lead Director

Risk Scores

Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	4	12	↔
Residual	1	4	4	↔
Tolerance			4	

5. PARTNERIAETH FOUND NOT TO PROVIDE VALUE FOR MONEY

Description of Risk

Partneriaeth is judged to not provide Value for Money (Governance and Compliance)

Background

Objectives at Risk

All

Risk Control Measures

- Schedule 4 of the Legal Agreement details the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Group (membership detailed on p.11). These include ensuring value for money within a costed business plan
- The costed business plan will be shared with Directors and presented to the Joint Committee for ratification
- Individual spending plans will be developed against every operational delivery plan, with a named senior officer having responsibility for each plan
- Actual spending will be authorised by Lead Officer, Senior Strategic Officers or Business Support Manager
- Robust evaluation and monitoring processes are in place

Risk Owner

Lead Officer, Section 151 Officer, Principal Accountant, Lead Director

Risk Scores

Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	4	12	↔
Residual	1	4	4	↔
Tolerance			4	

6. FINANCIAL RISKS

1. TIMELINESS OF WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING				
Description of Risk				
WG funding may not be timely, resulting in underspend, lateness of planning, or an inability to spend at the end of the financial year.				
Background				
Objectives at Risk				
All				
Risk Control Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial forward planning with contingency arrangements so that essential implementation is not hindered. Indicative figures used for initial financial planning. Constant communication with WG to improve expectation, and to improve timeliness of in-year funding 3-year indicative funding to be shared by WG 				
Risk Owner				
Section 151 Officer, Lead Banker Authority and Principal Accountant				
Risk Scores				
Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	3	9	↔
Residual	2	3	6	↔
Tolerance			6	

2. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REGIONAL CONSORTIA SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT (RCSIG) T&CS

Description of Risk

Partneriaeth fails to deliver against each funding line of the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG). Subsequently, Welsh Government could clawback funding.

Background

Objectives at Risk

All

Risk Control Measures

- Partneriaeth's Business Plan 2022/23, is closely aligned to the Welsh Government five priorities
- As a result, the Partneriaeth's Business Plan 2022/23, is also closely aligned to the RCSIG
- Named members of SLT, who lead on each area of the business plan to identify areas of concern regarding delivery of each operational delivery plan, linked to specific grant lines
- Quarterly monitoring of the Business Plan, resulting in early identification of areas of concern

Risk Owner

Lead Officer, LA Directors, Joint Committee

Risk Scores

Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	4	12	↔
Residual	1	4	4	↔
Tolerance			4	

7. RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNANCE

1. LACK OF CLARITY REGARDING FUNCTIONS OF PARTNERIAETH				
Description of Risk				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the revised Partneriaeth structure does not bring sufficient clarity on the function of Partneriaeth and its central team, leading to a lack of confidence in the revised structure along with loss of trust within the profession 				
Background				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under previous footprint, a perceived lack of clarity regarding the difference between the role of the LA, and the role of the region, among the teaching community 				
Objectives at Risk				
All				
Risk Control Measures				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Strategy group established centrally with membership linked to all areas of the business plan. Consistent and ongoing dialogue is being undertaken with LA partners to ensure consistency of communication through both regional and local channels Attendance by Partneriaeth officers at LA meetings, e.g. Headteacher meetings, providing input and relevant updates 				
Risk Owner				
Lead Officer, Lead Director				
Risk Scores				
Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	3	9	↔
Residual	2	3	6	↔
Tolerance			6	

2. LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Description of Risk

That there is not sufficient, regular communication with all stakeholders, including schools, leaders and school practitioners, as well all middle-tier and Welsh Government colleagues

Background

-

Objectives at Risk

All

Risk Control Measures

- Ongoing and effective communications provided by the Partneriaeth Team on a weekly basis
- New Partneriaeth website being populated with details of the Professional Offer and accompanying bilingual resources, including access to previously run webinars on-demand
- Regular attendance at all relevant meeting with middle-tier and Welsh Government colleagues
- Regular attendance by Partneriaeth officers at LA meetings, e.g. Headteacher meetings, providing input, relevant updates

Risk Owner

Lead Officer

Risk Scores

Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	3	9	↔
Residual	1	3	3	↔
Tolerance			4	

3. PARTNERIAETH GOVERNANCE

Description of Risk

That Partneriaeth's operational governance arrangements do not provide transparency and confidence to the profession.

Background

Partneriaeth has adopted some enhanced strategic meetings which include a variety of key stakeholders in the decision-making process. The main aim of this change is that there is increased transparency around decision making and allocation of funding. Should these strategic meetings fail to improve transparency, there will be significant adverse effects.

Partneriaeth has a clear schedule of regular meetings of various governance groups. These include Joint Committee, Scrutiny Councillor Group, Strategic Group, Operations Group and Stakeholder. Membership includes Cabinet Members, Directors of Education, Headteachers, Partneriaeth Lead Officer, senior officers from Partneriaeth, senior LA officers.

A full list of these groups, including meeting frequency and membership is included in the Business Plan.

Objectives at Risk

All

Risk Control Measures

- Clear lines of reporting for all groups
- Regular meetings of named governance groups
- Transparency whilst sharing information with school leaders and other stakeholders

Risk Owner

Lead Chief Executive, Lead Officer, Directors of Education, Principal Accountant

Risk Scores

Risk Stage	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Movement
	(a)	(b)	(a) X (b)	↑↓↔
Inherent	3	4	12	↔
Residual	1	4	4	↔
Tolerance			4	



Item no. 7

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PARTNERIAETH SCRUTINY COUNCILLOR GROUP DATE: 19th June 2023

TITLE OF REPORT

Performance of Partneriaeth Priority 2

BRIEF SUMMARY OF REPORT

To provide Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group with an update on performance during 2022-23 of Partneriaeth Priority 2 – Developing a high quality education profession.

Attending to present this item will be:
Gwennan Schiavone, Senior Strategic Adviser, Partneriaeth

Report attached: **Yes**

Presentation at meeting: **Yes**



UPDATE REPORT

PRIORITY 2: Developing a high-quality education profession – improving the teaching and learning in our schools

Partneriaeth provides strategic support for several key areas that align with national priorities to develop teaching and learning across the curriculum.

(i) Professional learning, enquiry and research to realise curriculum – school-led (NPEP, research, pedagogy school funding)

Fifty-nine schools across Partneriaeth (15 Carmarthenshire, 16 Pembrokeshire and 28 Swansea) have undertaken research and enquiry through NPEP. A launch event in October 2022 established expectations and ensured focussed sharing of research already embedded in schools. This process is well-supported by HEI colleagues at UWTSO and Swansea University. The post-16 NPEP is now incorporated into the regional NPEP work and this has improved coherence for schools across the region having previously been established as part of a separate project.

Funding is allocated by Welsh Government for three levels of schools - Established/Developing/Emerging.

Established schools have been involved in research and enquiry for many years and have regularly shared at a regional and national level. Eighteen schools in Partneriaeth (3 Carmarthenshire, 3 Pembrokeshire and 11 Swansea) are established NPEP schools and they have previously had their research projects published on Hwb. These schools lead enquiry cluster groups and share their expertise with regards to research and enquiry supporting schools in carrying out their enquiries and completing reports.

Developing schools have some experience of research and enquiry although this may be limited to one or two people or departments. They have developed their schools as an enquiry organisation by scaling across departments and, in a few cases at a whole school level. Twenty-five schools across the region (9 Carmarthenshire, 9 Pembrokeshire and 9 Swansea).

Emerging schools have limited or no experience of research and enquiry. These schools are supported by the Established schools as well as the HEIs. (3 Carmarthenshire, 2 Pembrokeshire and 11 Swansea)

Cluster communication continues to develop to ensure that the focus of research within a cluster is shared beyond the schools undertaking NPEP. Clear roles and expectations have been established with research schools and the Partneriaeth support plan with HEIs has been completed during the autumn term. This has enabled a more effective approach to research and enquiry.

In addition to the support provided by Established schools, HEIs have offered a range of online sessions such as 'Data collection and analysis', 'Research methods and ethics',

‘Writing the section 2 reports’ as well as several ‘Coffee and Enquiry’ sessions whereby schools can drop in to ask questions and gain support from HEI colleagues.

Next steps:

- To plan and hold a conference in July 2023 to share good practice across the region.

(ii) Professional learning for developing practice and reflection (RALD / WCLD, SLO, Pedagogy, Professional Standards)

SLO

The SLO approach was introduced in 2017 to support schools to prepare for the new curriculum in 2022 and continues to be a Welsh Government priority as we move into the next phase of Curriculum for Wales roll out.

A research paper¹ published in summer 2022 concluded that the positive impact of the SLO model was hindered by a lack of any clear guidance on the practical processes that underpin success. In response to this, Partneriaeth established an SLO working group made up of head teachers and senior leaders from 13 schools across the region.

The SLO Working Group is a five part programme that focusses on how leaders can use the SLO model as the basis for continuous development; specifically highlighting key strengths, areas for development and effective ways of working to enable all staff to develop professionally.

The working group has been tasked with sharing their SLO ‘journeys’ through the following 5 stages: initial findings; evidence base; identified interventions; intended impact of chosen intervention; review. The schools’ processes will be shared on a Partneriaeth SLO website which seeks to offer practical support, resources and examples of how to develop each of the seven dimensions of the SLO model. This practical resource is intended to be a catalyst for positive engagement with the SLO model as a contributory factor and key attribute of schools’ realisation of Curriculum for Wales as outlined in the School Improvement Guidance. In addition, it is anticipated that the resource will support engagement with the National Resource for Evaluation and Improvement and The Professional Standards.

Integral Skills

The development of the Integral Skills are key areas for skills development for many schools within the region. The integral skills of creativity and Innovation underpin the four purposes and should, according to Curriculum for Wales Guidance, be developed within a wide range of learning and teaching.

Senior, middle-leader and teacher dialogue with Partneriaeth officers and SIAs identified the need for focussed professional learning in this area. As at the heart of these two skills is the importance of learners recognising, using and creating different types of learning value. The

¹ Alma Harris, Zoe Elder, Michelle Suzette Jones and Angella Cooze, ‘Schools as Learning Organisations in Wales: Exploring the Evidence’, Wales Journal of Education, 24/1, DOI: 10.16922/wje.24.1.3 Summer 2022

Professional Learning workshop with Professor Christian Byrge took place in December 2022 with additional sessions planned in June 2023 as part of the 2023-24 Business Plan. Thirty teachers from across Partneriaeth signed up for the sessions (6 Carmarths, 7 Pembro, 17 Swansea). However, 15 practitioners eventually attended the session due to staff illness in schools. School Improvement Advisers were also able to attend.

All attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the content of the PL opportunity was appropriate and improved their knowledge of creativity. With 100% of attendees stating that they would recommend the training to others. All felt confident that they would now be able to trial the strategies in the classroom, with many stating that they planned to share this PL with their colleagues in school.

As part of the Evaluation 1 form the opportunity to take part in a funded 'Into the Classroom' Working Group was offered to attendees. This group would allow collaboration to support the implementation of their learning into their classrooms/schools. Six schools signed up for the 'Into the Classroom' Working Group with representation across all 3 LAs (1 in Carmarthenshire, 1 in Pembrokeshire and 4 in Swansea) The Working Group met in February 2022 and shared their initial actions and implementation in their classrooms/schools following the PL opportunity. The group have planned how they wish to proceed with their development in Creativity and Innovation, and are working on creating and sharing a resource across the region of their work.

Next Steps:

- Complete co-construction of the SLO website ready to launch by September 2023
- Continuation of the 'Into the Classroom' approach

(iii) Literacy & Numeracy Grant / Primary LNF Oracy Scheme for Wales

Partneriaeth has co-ordinated and established networking and professional learning opportunities that focus on driving improvements in the teaching and leadership of literacy and numeracy in schools. Literacy and numeracy coordinator meetings have been established for secondary settings. Primary AoLE networks have been established and, in the future, will focus on how to develop literacy and numeracy in authentic, disciplinary contexts.

Beneficial termly meetings between Partneriaeth and LA literacy and numeracy leads have taken place. Officers have collaborated and developed a draft operational plan to ensure that Primary Oracy funding is utilised effectively delivering appropriate and contextualised support for schools. This work will be developed with LA officers to ensure consistency and coherence.

Partneriaeth has provided bespoke literacy and numeracy support to schools. The brokerage between LA officers and Partneriaeth is effective. However, officer capacity both within Partneriaeth and across the 3 LAs is potentially an issue and there is a need for greater collaboration in order to utilise resources effectively.

Literacy and numeracy conferences are being held in the summer term and will focus on strategies to ensure effective approaches to cluster/secondary/primary skills development which drive high quality teaching and learning. Partneriaeth schools that have been identified as having practice worth sharing will present alongside experts in the field including David Didau, Dr Debbie Morgan and Christopher Such.

In addition to the conferences, Partneriaeth has developed other open offer professional learning opportunities to develop approaches to writing and vocabulary development. 11 schools took part in a 'No More Marking' programme with a focus on standardising and improving understanding of what effective writing looks like from 3-16. Resources, messages and findings from the programme will be shared in the summer term via network meetings and Partneriaeth case studies. Partneriaeth has worked closely with practitioners and local authority staff to develop and deliver professional learning on explicit vocabulary instruction. Almost 100 practitioners from 73 schools attended the training. 14 schools have gone to participate in follow up work which involves action planning on how to embed and develop the strategies and resources shared with them. All these participants commented on the positive impact that the training had had on their teaching and learners' understanding of how vocabulary is constructed.

Next steps:

- Develop and share examples of skills practice worth sharing
- Continue to collaborate with LAs to ensure that there is equity of support in literacy and numeracy across the region.

(iv) Regional Support for Modern Languages / Building capacity for MFL in the primary sector

Partneriaeth has continued to provide regional support for Modern Languages. However, the level of direct support from the region has been less than in previous years due to staffing changes in May 2022. Termly meetings have been held for secondary heads of departments with a teacher from the region facilitating the meetings on behalf of Partneriaeth. These arrangements were formalised in Spring 2023, with the appointment of a lead school to co-ordinate the meetings on behalf of the region and attend national fora. For example, Global Futures steering group will be attended on behalf of Partneriaeth and key messages shared.

In Spring 2023 clusters were allocated grants to enable secondary schools to support primary schools within their clusters to build capacity to teach international languages in primary schools. Partneriaeth is also co-ordinating the trialling of a new set of resources to teach French in primary schools with 5 schools participating in the trial in the Summer 2023 term. The feedback from the schools will contribute to the development of the resources which are due to be available to schools in 2023/24 if the pilot programme is successful.

In Summer 2022 Partneriaeth held a second conference for all schools within Partneriaeth exploring the theme of *Bilingual to Multilingual: building inclusive classrooms*. The programme for the conference included presentations from keynote speakers such as

Mererid Hopwood, Deirdre Kirwan and Professor Linda Fisher and over 60 delegates attended the event. The conference also included presentations from the 8 schools that had been part of the pilot using the '*Bilingual To Multilingual: A Toolkit for Developing Translanguaging and Plurilingual Skills to Build Inclusive Classrooms*' funded by Partneriaeth. In her presentation Prof Linda Fisher stated that the work that was being carried out in the region in this context was "ahead of the world" and the presentations from the schools showed the positive impact of this project in their schools. The impact demonstrated ranged from a substantial increase in confidence as learners, with multiple languages being used regularly in classrooms and wider schools environment without the need for encouragement, to improved social cohesion, with multilingual learners feeling far more valued, and a decrease in bullying. As result of such positive feedback on the initial pilot, the pilot was further extended in September 2022 with 6 of the original schools continuing to develop their work further and 2 new schools joining the pilot. The project is now focussing on supporting schools to embed the use of translanguaging into day to day classroom practice, with schools so far reporting greater confidence and trialling innovative practice.

Next steps:

- To further formalise the regional support for MFL and agree on an operational plan for 2023-24
- To evaluate the plans / work at cluster level as result of the cluster funding for MFL
- To arrange a third conference in June / July 2023 and consider the next steps with the pilot and the toolkit.

(v) Digital Competence Framework / Coding and Digital Skills

The Digital Competence framework is a key element of the cross-curricular skills as set out in the Curriculum for Wales framework. Partneriaeth's professional learning offer for Digital Learning was developed to support leaders and practitioners to implement the Digital Competence Framework by providing a resilient strategy accompanied by exemplar material targeted at key decision makers. During the Spring term three sessions were run across the region for Primary based colleagues, while a single session brought secondary colleagues together. Twenty-one Primary colleagues attended from Pembrokeshire schools, 37 from Carmarthenshire and 47 from Swansea while 13 colleagues attended the Secondary session. These sessions were co-constructed with relevant LA colleagues and were well-received by delegates.

The sessions increased understanding of the mandatory elements of developing digital competence as a cross-curricular skill, as well as progression within the Digital Competence Framework. Attendees also developed an understanding of how to integrate digital competence skills in and across the curriculum at a local level.

An approach to developing a whole school strategy for implementing the DCF following a six-step strategy of gathering information, designing your strategy, getting started, reviewing, scaling-up and sustaining momentum was shared. Current and new tools for mapping the implementation of the Digital Competence Framework were also shared and

well-received. However, it is too early to fully evaluate the impact in the classroom and this will be evaluated during the summer term through case studies.

Partneriaeth has also continued to support schools to ensure that online safety practices are as robust as possible. Three sessions were again co-constructed and delivered with LA colleagues being targeted at school-based colleagues with responsibility for leading on Online Safety and/or Safeguarding Officers. Over 100 schools attended the events that were run during the Autumn term (Pembrokeshire 26, Carmarthenshire 40, Swansea 45). Colleagues from the Hwb Team in Welsh Government were also in attendance.

The sessions raised awareness of how to ensure a high level of digital resilience across all stakeholders. It gave attendees a greater understanding of the 360 Safe Cymru framework and how it can help ensure a school's online safety practices are as robust as possible and made colleagues aware of the latest online safety learning and teaching resources available. Further support that is available via local authority and regional colleagues as well as relevant external professional bodies was also highlighted.

Partneriaeth has also developed a website to support the Cracking the Code agenda. A number of 'How-to' guides have been developed and case studies from schools are also shared on the site. Partneriaeth runs a loan scheme for coding kit which enables schools to assess coding devices on a trial basis before purchasing such devices. Fifty-four schools have accessed equipment through this scheme and will provide feedback regarding the use of these devices to deliver the computational thinking element of the Digital Competence Framework.

Next Steps

- To work with LAs to identify and share good practice
- To liaise with LA colleagues and use feedback provided by schools to inform the purchase of future loan kit
- To liaise with the Hwb team to ensure that the latest developments in the Hwb platform are shared with schools

(vi) Welsh in Education

The development of Welsh in Education is key to meet the objectives of Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy. Partneriaeth officers are key contributors to the national and cross-regional work and contribute to the work of developing, reviewing and implementing national plans. A cross-regional plan has been agreed and supported by WG, and Partneriaeth has been identified as the lead region for Welsh first language.

Partnership working with LA leads is strong and this effectively supports the strategic planning and delivery. This enables officers to discuss and plan a joint PL offer and utilise funding appropriately and meet the needs of schools. Grants have been distributed to all three LAs to support their priorities in addressing their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. All LAs also received grants to support and facilitate the delivery of the Siarter Iaith.

At regional level, Partneriaeth officers have provided bespoke support to Welsh first language and second language departments to address identified needs, and termly network meetings for both first and second language Welsh have been held to offer training and support in areas such as progression, assessment and pedagogy. Nearly all schools attended each of the termly meetings and the feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive with consistent commentary that the sessions were meeting the needs of their schools.

Training was delivered across the region on the 'Tric a Chlic' synthetic phonic programme with sessions held for teachers and TAs in Welsh medium and English medium primary school. 162 of teachers and TAs attended the training and the effect of the training upon delivery of the programme in schools will be reviewed in 2023/24. Training also delivered on the 'Ffa-la-la!' programme – a unique methodology that focuses on improving Welsh speaking ability and confidence in primary schools through music and creativity. 26 teachers from across 20 schools were part of the pilot. As a result of receiving extremely positive feedback from the attendees following the training the intention is to roll out the training across the region in 23/24.

A range of high-quality resources were developed and shared with both primary and secondary schools. These include a range of resources to support the teaching of Welsh at GCSE level (First Language and Second Language) e.g. new and original short videos to develop recount, inference, comparison skills and language analysis. In addition, new resources such as *Rhwng y Llinellau: Hybu sgiliau darllen (promoting reading skills)* have been published and shared with all schools.

In December 2022 *Hanes yr Iaith* videos and supplementary educational resources were launched, and the response has been positive with the resources used within and beyond the region. *Stori Sir - Sir Gâr* resources were developed in Autumn 2022 by a team of officers, authors, and teachers from the region to introduce and deepen the knowledge of learners aged 8–12 about some of the legends and histories of the area, and to strengthen learners' language proficiency. The teachers that were involved in the development of the resources valued the professional development opportunity, and the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from other schools. The resources offer a range of activities from various Areas of Learning and Experience. Similar resources for Pembrokeshire and Swansea are currently in development and will be published in 2023/24.

Sharing good practice is a key part of the work in the context of Welsh in education, and case studies are continuously being captured and shared both at meetings and training sessions as well as by digital platforms. A video showcasing Partneriaeth's LLC pilot project *Deall y Daith Ddysgu* was shared in a national event recently and was highly praised across the regions. *Deall y Daith Ddysgu* was a project where Partneriaeth officers worked closely with two all age schools from Pembrokeshire LA and their feeder primary clusters to ensure a shared understanding of progression within listening. They shared resources and pedagogical strategies in order to ensure progression along the language continuum as part of the project. A video is also being created in collaboration with primary and secondary schools to demonstrate best practice in using Pie Corbett in Welsh language lessons.

The *Clwb Ysgol* social media platform and promotional campaign was rebranded and relaunched in 2022/23 with digital content shared weekly on social media to promote Welsh education and bilingualism as a skill. *Clwb Ysgol* has also been used to promote resources created by Partneriaeth. Short videos were created and shared with the aim of promoting Welsh medium education to parents. These videos have already reached over 150,000 people.

Siarter Iaith resources were also created by Partneriaeth and shared on the Clwb Ysgol site. Short videos were created to present the *Siarter Iaith* to school leaders, governors and parents with ideas on how to deliver the aims of the *Siarter* within the school. Due to the popularity of the videos a request came by WG and the other regions to adopt these resources as national resources. These videos are now being used by WG on the official *Siarter Iaith* site on Hwb.

A Strategic Adviser for Welsh in Education was appointed in December 2022 and started in post in March 2023. Partneriaeth have also appointed an Adviser to support secondary second language Welsh to start in September 2023. Both posts had previously been vacant since March/April 2023 and some of the work in this area was hindered as a result of capacity issues. The new appointments will enable Partneriaeth to ensure that provide a far wider programme of support to schools in the future.

Next Steps:

- To develop a new regional strategy for Welsh in Education, in collaboration with LA officers.
- Extend and deepen the support for the teaching of Welsh, and supporting Welsh education across the region.

(vii) Post 16 Improvement

The cross-regional leadership development programme for post-16 is established and was endorsed in November 2022 by NAEL. Results Driven Group have been running an ILM level 5 qualification for since Autumn 2022. 15 delegates from Partneriaeth schools registered for the programme. The content of the sessions was adjusted throughout the programme in response to feedback.

As a result of the training delegates reported that they were more able to be strategic in their roles. Examples of how they put their learning into practice included meeting with the senior leadership team to develop planned strategies, utilising taught coaching techniques and VESPA questions to support learner wellbeing, creating a vision for their Sixth Form and adopting new pastoral systems to support learner progression and attainment.

Following the completion of the leadership programme 13 delegates took up the offer of 1:1 coaching sessions which supported and facilitated implementation of planned initiatives from their learning on the programme. However, to successfully embed learning from the programme, delegates highlighted the main barriers as being time to embed, followed by senior leadership support and availability of resources.

NQT Post-16 Module Development & Delivery

A post-16 module for NQTs is currently being developed with the cross-regional team with a draft outline agreed. The module is scheduled to be ready for delivery asynchronously in the summer term 2023.

VESPA / A Level Mindset

VESPA professional learning sessions were planned for the spring and summer terms 2023. The first session was attended by delegates from 14 schools with sixth forms from Partneriaeth. Initial feedback of this support has been extremely supportive however, a full evaluation will be carried out following the second part which will be delivered in June 2023. To ensure equity for all schools, all resources are shared and can be accessed via the Post-16 Teams page. It is intended that VESPA case-studies will be developed over time.

Bespoke training has been agreed with schools in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire.

A Level Conference

The A level conferences for English and Welsh are well-established and have been very well-received across the partnership.

Next Steps

- Development of a cross-regional post-16 professional learning programme for the next academic year.

Agenda Item 8



DRAFT - Partneriaeth Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/2024

Date	Item
<p>23 Oct 2023 10am Remotely via MS Teams</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline of and Feedback from Partneriaeth Joint Committee held on 6 October 2023 Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 2. Updated Risk Profile Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 3. Update on New Curriculum Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 4. A look at Performance of Partneriaeth Priority 3 – Leadership Lead Director, Lead Officer and relevant Strategic Advisors
<p>26 Feb 2024 10am Remotely via Teams</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline of and Feedback from Partneriaeth Joint Committee held on 2 February 2024 Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 2. The Joint Committee’s financial affairs, risk Management and Governance arrangements (The Legal Agreement says the Councillor Group to review, scrutinise and assess the Joint Committee’s risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements and review and assess the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used). Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 3. Updated Risk Profile Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 4. A look at Performance of Partneriaeth Priority 4 - Strong & inclusive schools Lead Director, Lead Officer and relevant Strategic Advisors
<p>24 Jun 2024 10am Remotely via Teams</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline of and decisions for Partneriaeth Joint Committee held on 7 June 2024 Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 2. Chair of the Joint Committee and Directors from each Council (The Legal agreement says Directors of Education of each of the Council shall attend together at least once per annum and that the Chair of Joint Committee shall attend at least once per annum: with purpose of seeking reassurance and to consider if the Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and its timetable is being managed effectively) 3. Updated Risk Profile Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 4. Update on New Curriculum Lead Director and Lead Officer Partneriaeth 5. A look at the Performance of Partneriaeth Priority 5 - Supporting a self-improving system Lead Director, Lead Officer and relevant Strategic Advisors