

Appendix B: Workstream 2 Post-16 provision

1. Background

In April 2020, the Leader of the Council approved the 'Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030'.

The Strategy sets out a number of Strategic Aims and Objectives which will shape the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. This appendix provides an overview of the steps to be taken to take forward Strategic Aim 2 – 'We will improve learner entitlement and experience for post-16 learners.'

The primary driver is to improve the educational experience for Powys learners, now and in the future. The project aims to transform learner experience as we build on post-16 collaborations. The development will lead to a significant reorganisation of sixth form provision across the county by developing sixth form centres that will deliver a wide range of outstanding provision, in 21st century schools' facilities through partnership working, with our schools at the heart of the development. We will also put in place arrangements for a fuller engagement with other partners (FE, Work-based Learning and Higher Education) to develop a high quality offer and better choice, to support all learners, including those who wish to study in Welsh and learners with SEN/ALN.

2. Scope

The workstream has been established to develop and take forward proposals to ensure that post-16 learners (and where there might be useful opportunities, 14 – 16 year-old learners, especially involving the use of high-capital facilities) are able to access a broad range of subjects within Powys, with a mixed offer of academic and vocational provision, and to ensure that the post-16 sector in Powys is sustainable.

As indicated in the Council's 'Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030', the Strategy will be taken forward in 3 waves, with Wave 1 covering the period 2020-2022.

Wave 1(a) will focus on enhanced collaboration between schools to ensure a high-quality post-16 curriculum that is accessible to all learners and is affordable within the funding received from the Welsh Government. This will include more digital learning and blended learning opportunities where learners are taught via videoconferencing across more than one school, and enhanced sharing of provision where outcomes have been excellent for learners.

Wave 1(b) will also include beginning the planning stage for the new sixth form centres and further development in Welsh medium and more effective provision for post-16 learners with ALN. During Wave 1, the council should seek to establish a stakeholder/partnership forum that will develop the thinking in preparation for Wave 2. This includes strengthening links with higher education, further education and work-based learning providers to create wider choices for post-16 learners and aligning with emerging RLSP priorities.

Wave 2 (covering the period 2021-2025) will include further collaboration in preparation for future arrangements, including possible governance arrangements for heightened collaborations. This will include the key issues around creating a limited number of sixth form centres – including teaching, governance and planning and supporting the securing of the necessary investment in such facilities. During this period, we will aim to be able to provide a curriculum that meets the needs of all learners in anticipation of the opening of the new facilities.

Wave 3 (covering the period 2025 onwards) will be the full implementation of the new sixth form arrangements, including aiming for 2025 openings of potential new facilities.

3. Benefits

The work of this workstream will deliver the following benefits, which will be measured as part of the overall programme governance:

- Improved learning opportunities for all learners through accessing a state-of-the-art facility with a full blended offer of post-16 options, both general and vocational, and strong pastoral links with schools
- Improved, equitable learning opportunities for Welsh-medium post-16 learners through accessing a state-of-the-art facility with a full blended offer of post-16 options, both general and vocational, and strong pastoral links with schools
- Improved learning opportunities for 14-16 learners through strong collaborative partnerships between the schools and the new sixth-form centres
- Improved learning opportunities for Welsh-medium 14-16 learners through strong collaborative partnerships between the schools and the new sixth-form centres
- Improved post-16 ALN provision, including for learners up to the age of 25, as required by recent legislation
- Strengthened links with further education and work-based learning providers to create wider choices for post-16 learners in outstanding new facilities
- Creation of strong links with HE and initial teacher education, encouraging learners to return to Powys as the teachers and leaders of the future
- Improving Powys's ability to attract the teachers and leaders of the future by providing high-quality professional learning opportunities in partnership with the schools, HEIs and partner authorities
- Realisation of capital receipts through potential disposal of surplus buildings as post-16 developments are built into the overall programme
- Reduction in surplus places across the Powys schools' estate
- Improvement in building condition across the Powys schools' estate following the opportunity to access capital investment
- Improved opportunities for staff from working at a modern facility with greater opportunities to collaborate and to specialise
- Maintaining local ownership of post-16 provision through innovative governance arrangements
- Improved learning opportunities for all learners through accessing a state-of-the-art facility with a full blended offer of post-16 options, both general and vocational, and strong pastoral links with schools
- Improved, equitable learning opportunities for Welsh-medium post-16 learners through accessing a state-of-the-art facility with a full blended offer of post-16 options, both general and vocational, and strong pastoral links with schools. Improved learning opportunities for 14-16 learners through strong collaborative partnerships between the schools and the new sixth-form centres
- Improved learning opportunities for Welsh-medium 14-16 learners through strong collaborative partnerships between the schools and the new sixth-form centres Improved post-16 ALN provision, including for learners up to the age of 25, as required by recent legislation

4. Workstream plan

Milestone/ Task Name	Deliverable	Start Date	End Date
Develop PID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PID developed - PID approved by School Transformation Board 	April 2020	May 2020
Establish Workstream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workstream established 	May 2020	May 2020
a) Enhance digital learning within and across schools at Post-16	All sixth forms to have confidence in the resilience and utility of their digital infrastructures.	April 2020	April 2021
b) Extend the number of learners at Post-16 who are taught in groups that are in the top groups of quality indicators within the ALPS value-added data system	Ensure that all school leaders make good use of ALPS data and make decisions on curriculum planning with quality assurance as a significant driver.	Summer 2020	April 2021
c) Develop with headteachers and other key stakeholders a governance structure to take forward deeper collaboration and develop a framework for the longer-term future of Post-16 provision in Powys.	Regular meetings of a group that agree a plan to underpin further partnership working	September 2020	April 2021
Wave 1(b) will include beginning the planning stage for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the new sixth form centres - further development in 14-19 Welsh medium provision - more effective provision for post- 	Develop and publish a range of proposals that could be considered for delivering agreed outcomes for post-16 learners and, where appropriate, 14-16 learners, following engagement with learners, providers and others including further education, higher education	May 2020	May 2021

<p>16 learners with ALN.</p> <p>During Wave 1, the council will establish a stakeholder/partnership forum that will develop the thinking in preparation for Wave 2. This includes putting in place arrangements for a fuller engagement with other partners (FE, Work-based Learning and Higher Education) to develop a high quality offer and better choice, to support all learners, including those who wish to study in Welsh and learners with SEN/ALN.</p>	<p>and work-based learning providers</p>		
<p>Develop further collaboration in preparation for future arrangements, including possible governance arrangements for heightened collaborations. This will include the key issues around of creating a limited number of sixth form centres – including teaching, governance and planning and supporting the securing of the necessary investment in such facilities. During this period, we will aim to be able to provide a curriculum that meets the needs of all learners in anticipation of the opening of the new facilities.</p>	<p>Have in place a governance arrangement across schools and other partners to underpin heightened collaboration</p> <p>Prepare documents for Cabinet to offer options that can deliver greater high-quality choice for post-16 learners that will be attractive to Powys' young people.</p> <p>Engage with key post-16 partners to seek agreement on methods for achieving both choice and quality and reducing unnecessary competition and duplication of provision.</p> <p>Drive forward to implement proposals through securing investment, building the partnership further, secure capital funding and engage through procurement processes as necessary, including resolving HR, finance and all other issues</p>	<p>May 2021</p> <p>Spring 2021</p> <p>May 2021</p> <p>May 2021</p>	<p>Summer 2025</p> <p>May 2021</p> <p>Summer 2025</p> <p>2025</p>

Full implementation of the new sixth form arrangements, including aiming for 2025 openings of potential new facilities.	Ensure the successful launch of the sixth form centres and the delivery of a high-quality curriculum in 21 st century schools' facilities.	Spring 2025	Summer 2027 (end of first two years of provision)
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