

Regional Consortia

8 November 2019

Dear Colleague,

**School improvement and raising standards**

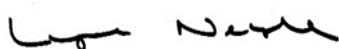
The National Assembly for Wales's **Children, Young People and Education Committee** intends to undertake a short piece of work on school improvement and raising standards in early 2020.

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.

