

RECOVERY AND RENEWAL
BLAENAU GWENT ACTION PLAN Summer 2021 – Summer 2022

Priority 1: Learner Wellbeing

Responsibility	Action	Resources (Specific no. of days/costs)	Timescale (Start/End)	Success Criteria	Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for actions (date)	Termly Updates
HoSial and SMETBC	Undertake stakeholder engagement to facilitate learning from experience, and renewal of practice. <u>Stakeholder Recovery and Renewal Group</u> Monthly engagement with primary and secondary headteachers to shape support for recovery and renewal	Monthly meetings	July 2021 - ongoing	All stakeholders engaged, represented and informed	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive as part of FWP.	Meetings continue to take place on a monthly basis, with September's session having to be re-arranged to accommodate partners, next meeting October
	<u>Focus Groups</u> Series of focus groups to discuss key issues around recovery and renewal	As required (led by education)	July 2021 – ongoing	All stakeholders engaged, represented and informed	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive as part of FWP.	The following meetings have taken place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to schools – September • Risk Assessments and Operational Guidance • Track and Trace Processes • Breakfast Club • Cyber Security

HoSlal	<u>Whole school wellbeing and mental health support</u> Evaluate current provision within inclusion team to support school's wellbeing and mental health. Exploration of different support strategies to provide a BG model e.g. Trauma Informed Schools	Meetings with all relevant stakeholders	October - ongoing	Schools have provision in place to support learner's wellbeing	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive	Next meeting with Caroline Friend re TIS, November 3rd
HoSlal and SMETBC	<u>Further develop partnership working and re-establish pre-Covid referral systems and interventions</u> e.g. healthy schools, Post-16 partnership, youth service, education transformation, social services	Attendance at relevant meetings	July 2021 - onwards	Partnership working developed to support pupil wellbeing across all educational settings. Develop cross partnership BG agreed ways of working	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive. Share good practice across EAS.	Joint planning with healthy schools to provide training for schools on respect and tolerance

Priority 2: Vulnerable Learners

Responsibility	Action	Resources (Specific no. of days/costs)	Timescale (Start/End)	Success Criteria	Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for actions (date)	Monthly Updates
SMETBC	Digitally disadvantaged learners continue to access devices/Mi-Fi	Licensing and revenue costs funded by WG and LA. Going forward, these costs will be addressed via schools	Ongoing	All digitally disadvantaged learners in BG have access to devices/Mi-Fi as required	Weekly monitoring is in place coordinated by Education, in partnership with SRS and schools. An evaluation and review is currently underway, to inform plans and provision going forward.	All schools have sufficient devices to facilitate the provision. We currently have: 359 devices and 161 Mi-Fi
SMETBC	Continued support for pupils and families eligible for FSM via direct payments	WG funding	Ongoing	All eligible families receive payments for isolation and holidays	Half-term monitoring and fortnightly reporting via the SitRep	We currently provide payments in line with isolation and holiday periods. Presently, there are 2,785 pupils eligible for FSM, with application rounds re-opened once every half-term.
SMETBC	<u>Re-establishment of Breakfast Clubs with a pilot scheme until the end of October</u>	Time for meetings	March 21 – Summer 21	Pilot in place, with aim to reintroduce BC across BG and increase capacity	Review of BC provision with schools	
SMETBC	<u>Proposal to increase capacity of Pen y Cwm has been approved by Executive Committee, and first phase completed. Second phase</u>	Consultation process, meetings with architects, schools leaders etc.	Summer 21 – ongoing	Pen y Cwm able to meet the needs of learners in BG	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive	Phase 1 works complete, Phase 2 work in development and long term planning processes have been initiated in partnership with Planning, Estates and Technical Services

	<u>to be completed by next Autumn term</u>					
HoSlal	<u>Realignment of ALN SLA and EP Service</u> Revised support offer to schools based on school-improving system. Schools to be provided with one offer to access whole school training to support vulnerable learners	Time for meeting with PyC staff	Summer 21 – ongoing	ALN SLA revised in line with new ALN Bill	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive	Engagement with all relevant services – revised offer to schools to be sent October 21
HoSlal, Gill Smith, Finance	<u>Analysis of funding to support vulnerable learners</u>	Meeting with Finance and GS. Engagement with stakeholders	October 21	Schools able to best support ALN pupils, within budget	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive	Meeting with finance set up for October 21
HoSlal	<u>Review of Inclusion Service</u>	Meetings with all relevant stakeholders	September 21 – August 22	Inclusion service able to meet needs of ALN Bill		
HoSlal	<u>ALN Reform</u>					
HoSlal and Lisa Adams	<u>Review of EHE Policy and practices</u>	Meetings with relevant stakeholders. Support from Tredegar Comp	June 21 – August 22	Updated Policy to meet needs of EHE learners		
SMETBC	<u>Intimate Care Needs Policy – review Policy</u>					
SMETBC	<u>Accessibility Strategy</u>	Time to review policy/strategy	July 21 – Spring 22	Policy and strategy updated		Updated time line and action plan have been taken via the Council's

HoSlal	<u>Equalities training and support for schools</u>	Meetings to agree agenda and set up training	October 21	Schools able to support vulnerable learners	Monthly monitoring in place, via Accessibility Action plan	political processes with a review having commenced Training for all schools set up for October 20th
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Priority 3: Academic Progress

Responsibility	Action	Resources (Specific no. of days/costs)	Timescale (Start/End)	Success Criteria	Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for actions (date)	Monthly Updates
HoSlal and SMETBC	<u>Curriculum Reform and Build Back Better Group</u>		October 21 – ongoing	School governors/leader are supported to implement school improvement and held to account	SCC meetings/action plans/ Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive EAS monthly CA reports	First meeting to be set up by Emma Jones
HoSlal	<u>Partnership work with the EAS to broker support in line with the EAS Business Plan.</u>	Time for meetings				Fortnightly update meetings with HoSlal and Principle Challenge Advisor
	Co-construction of MER cycle to hold EAS to account for services provided to BG schools		April 21 – September 21	HoSlal has clear understanding of the strengths and areas for development of all school settings in BG	Visit notes – not for accountability purposes	
	Fortnightly meetings with PCA to monitor MER cycle and share information about schools	Time for meetings				
	<u>Engagement with STEM</u>		September 21 – December 21	Development of BG offer to support parents, initial pilot stage by December 21, roll out to all schools January 22	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive/ share good practice across EAS	
HoSlal and SMETBC , Richard Crook's team	Increase opportunities for STEM links across BG schools	Time for meetings and visits				
	Work with Regeneration on the STEM activity					

HoSlaI and SMETBC	Promote 5G classroom across BG schools					
HoSlaI and SMETBC	<u>Develop a LA blended learning best practice policy</u>					
	Work with the EAS to review current practice for governance and school leadership in current context, to inform future ways of supporting leadership					
HoSlaI and SMETBC	Review of support for families accessing Welsh Medium Education working with WG, schools and securing alignment with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	Education, WG and the WEF	2020 – January 2021	Draft WESP submitted wot Welsh Ministers January 2022	Monitoring is undertaken on a monthly basis	
HoSlaI and SMETBC	Work with Andrew Parker's team to create Parnt Engagement Survey – to inform the Blended Learning Approach, and to develop engamenet/training					WG and WEF resources have been shared with Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg and parents. The WESP is scheduled for consultation w/c 11.10.21

Priority 4: School Operations

Responsibility	Action	Resources (Specific no. of days/costs)	Timescale (Start/End)	Success Criteria	Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for actions (date)	Monthly Updates
HoSlaI and SMETBC	<u>Survey of schools to identify where training is not up to date e.g. Safeguarding, first aid and Health and Safety -</u> Use information to support schools to access relevant training	TBD	October 2021 – November 2021	Training programme developed aligned to the needs of schools	Termly monitoring with schools	Responsible Persons Training Programme in place for the autumn-term 2021
	Engagement sessions with schools – new protocols in place to support schools to manage positive cases	Education, Environmental Health, TTP and schools	September 2021 – ongoing (monitored fortnightly)	Early identification and monitoring of positive cases	Daily monitoring undertaken and reported via Education to all relevant stakeholders	New process and guidance in place. Daily support is provided via Education and Environmental Health. Comms and guidance in place
	All schools have emergency contact information to support escalation procedures i.e. move to blended learning	Education, Environmental Health and schools	July 2021 – ongoing	Schools are able to effectively respond to case escalation	Daily monitoring undertaken and reported via Education to all relevant stakeholders	One school has moved to blended learning for a year group thus far this term and 3 schools are currently on the watch list. This is monitored daily
	BG updated schools based risk assessment and operational guidance, work with individual schools in order to assess individual operational plans and to advise accordingly.	H&S, Education and Environmental Health	July 2021 – ongoing	Schools operate safely with sufficient measures and controls in place	Daily monitoring between Education, H&S, Environmental Health and Schools	All schools have up to date risk assessments in place

	Review Home to School Transport Policy and established working group to address complex applications and policy and practices	Education and Community Services	July 2021 - ongoing	All eligible pupils and students have access to transport	Fortnightly monitoring	Transport Policy for 2021/22 in place, with the policy agreed for 2022/23 via Executive Committee. The working group meeting on a fortnightly basis and have considered 6 cases to date. A procedural review is underway and will be completed by January 2022
	Monitoring group established around national shortage of drivers – target to address capacity issues as a result of COVID and resource based issues with transport	Education and Community Services	September 2020 – ongoing	Transport solutions are agreed where issues are identified. Meaning all pupils have access to education, without their transport needs presenting a barrier	Daily monitoring	Transport contingency plans are in places and being monitored
	Fire Risk Assessment Review process in place	H&S and Education	September – December 2021	All schools FRA documentation is up to date	Weekly in line with COVID Secure Risk Assessment	FRA reviews have commenced
	Facilities Action Planning with individual schools re-established	H&S and Education	October – December 2021	All schools have up to date Facilities Action Plans	Monthly monitoring is in place	Meetings have commenced with view to completing all action plan

	Summer programme of works completed successfully	Community Services and Education	Complete	All programmed minor works projects have now been completed	Monthly monitoring is in place	reviews by October half-term 2021
	Autumn works underway	Community Services and Education	September – December 2021	All minor works projects complete	Monthly monitoring is in place	Works have been completed in 18 schools, with snagging undertaken and ongoing monitoring for defects A work programme has been established and is underway