

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

Priority 1: Learner and staff Wellbeing

Responsibility	Action	Resources (Specific no. of days/costs)	Timescale (Start/End)	Success Criteria	Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for actions (date)	Termly Updates
HoS/la and SMETBC	<p>Undertake stakeholder engagement to facilitate learning from experience, and renewal of practice.</p> <p><u>Stakeholder Recovery and Renewal Group</u></p> <p>Monthly engagement with primary and secondary headteachers to shape support for recovery and renewal</p> <p><u>Focus Groups</u></p>	<p>Monthly meetings</p> <p>As required (led by education)</p>	<p>July 2021 - ongoing</p> <p>June 2021 January 2022 (6 months pending review) – ongoing</p>	<p>All stakeholders engaged, represented and informed</p> <p>All stakeholders engaged, represented and informed</p>	<p>Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive as part of FWP.</p> <p>Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive as part of FWP.</p>	<p>Meetings continue to take place on a monthly basis, with September’s session having to be re-arranged to accommodate partners, next meeting October</p> <p>The following meetings have taken place to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to schools – September • Risk Assessments and Operational Guidance • Track and Trace Processes • Breakfast Club • Cyber Security

	<p><u>Headteacher Working Groups</u> A headteacher working group inclusive of primary, special, secondary and all through settings (from January 2022), to look at 3 key strands of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALN reform • Curriculum reform • Renewal 	<p>Fortnightly meetings. Each school will be given £2,500 to support with any cover arrangements or other potential costs associated with engagement</p>	<p>January 2022 for two terms initially</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent approach to these key areas of work, accompanied by a development plan and reported via the Council's political processes.</p>	<p>Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive</p>	<p>Recruitment and selection of school representatives has taken place</p>
HoSlal	<p><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</p>	<p>Meetings with all relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>October - ongoing</p>	<p>Schools have provision in place to support learner's wellbeing</p>	<p>Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive</p>	<p>Next meeting with Caroline Friend re: TIS in September</p>
HoSlal and SMETBC	<p><u>Further develop partnership working and re-establish pre-Covid referral systems and interventions</u> e.g. healthy schools, Post-16 partnership, youth</p>	<p>Attendance at relevant meetings</p>	<p>July 2021 - onwards</p>	<p>Partnership working developed to support pupil wellbeing across all educational</p>	<p>Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive. Share good practice across EAS.</p>	<p>Joint planning with healthy schools to provide training for schools on respect and tolerance</p> <p>Work has been undertaken with the Policy and Partnerships team to undertake an Equality Action</p>

	service, education transformation, social services			settings. Develop cross partnership BG agreed ways of working		Plan review on a school by school basis
Priority 2: Vulnerable Learners						
Responsibility	Action	Resources (Specific no. of days/costs)	Timescale (Start/End)	Success Criteria	Monitoring and evaluation arrangements for actions (date)	Termly 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. 1,359 devices and 161 Mi-Fi units have been distributed to date. Schools will be required to fund any renewal/additional licences and connectivity from January 2022.
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 approximately 2,500 pupils eligible for direct payments, 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 – ongoing	Pilot in place, with aim to reintroduce BC	Review of BC provision with schools	Breakfast club was re-introduced during the Autumn Term for existing registrants only. The provision is subject to regular review.

SMETBC	<u>Proposal to increase capacity of Pen y Cwm has been approved by Executive Committee, and first phase completed. Second phase to be completed by next Autumn term</u>	Consultation process, meetings with architects, school 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 are complete. Phase 2 works are in development, with the design process underway. In addition, the long-term planning process has been initiated in partnership with Planning, Estates and Technical Services etc.
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. There is a meeting January 2022 to re-launch the ALN Service/offer – now called the Outreach Service
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 2021 A proposal has been put to School Budget Forum – November 2021
HoSlal	<u>Review of Inclusion Service /ALN Reform</u>	Meetings with all relevant stakeholders	September 21 – August 22	Inclusion service able to meet needs of ALN Bill	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive	As above re: service review. Now within implementation phase statutory as of January 2022. Ongoing work with Tredgar Comprehensive School to support

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	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive	schools with statutory changes and legislation Policy in place and shared with schools
SMETBC/HoSlal	<u>Intimate Care Needs Policy – review Policy</u>	Meetings with relevant stakeholders.	January 2022 onwards	Updated policy	Report to DMT/CLT and Scrutiny/Executive	Initial planning meetings have been undertaken, with the formal review process set to commence in January 2022.
SMETBC	<u>Accessibility Strategy</u>	Time to review policy/strategy	July 21 – Spring/Summer 22	Policy and strategy updated	Monthly monitoring in place, via Accessibility Action plan	Updated timeline and action plan have been taken via the Council's political processes. The review process has commenced, along with the development of the tender documents aligned to detailed accessibility audits of each school.
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		Training for all schools set up for October 20 th 2021. Individual support for schools since November 2021

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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 This will be a key focus of the Headteacher Group from January 2022
HoSlal	<u>Partnership work with the EAS to broker support in line with the EAS Business Plan.</u>	Time for meetings	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 update meetings with HoSlal and Principle Challenge Advisor Meeting planned February 2022 to discuss the MER Cycle with all School Improvement leads across the SEWC region
	Co-construction of MER cycle to hold EAS to account for services provided to BG schools	Time for meetings	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	
	Fortnightly meetings with PCA to monitor MER cycle and share information about schools	Time for meetings and visits				

<p>HoSIal and SMETBC , Richard Crook's team</p>	<p><u>Engagement with STEM</u></p> <p>Increase opportunities for STEM links across BG schools</p> <p>Work with Regeneration on the STEM activity</p>	<p>Staff resource and funding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Increased engagement with STEM in schools.</p>	<p>Monthly monitoring via project groups</p>	<p>Ystruth Primary School are engaging with the STEM Powered Learning Project on behalf of the Brynmawr Cluster</p>
<p>HoSIal and SMETBC</p>	<p>Promote 5G classroom across BG schools</p>					<p>The ET team are now engaged within the project group, and have led on school planning and participation. Education are presently working on the recruitment of a new staff member, to develop and oversee school engagement, training and content creation.</p>
<p>HoSIal and SMETBC</p>	<p><u>Develop a LA blended learning best practice policy</u></p> <p>Work with the EAS to review current practice for governance and school leadership in current context, to inform future ways of supporting leadership</p>					
<p>HoSIal and SMETBC</p>	<p>Review of support for families accessing Welsh</p>		<p>2020 – 2022</p>			

HoSial and SMETBC	<p>Medium Education working with WG, schools and securing alignment with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan</p> <p>Work with the Policy and Performance team to create Parent Engagement Survey – to inform the Blended Learning Approach, and to develop engagement/training</p>	Education, WG and the WEF	January 2022	Draft WESP submitted wot Welsh Ministers January 2022	Monitoring is undertaken on a monthly basis	<p>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</p> <p>The BG WESP has been drafted and is currently out to consultation. Education had been successful in securing funding via the WG Immersion Grant, to support the development of latecomer provision. In addition, an EOI has been submitted for the WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant.</p> <p>Initial planning meetings have taken place, in order to explore data-based requirements and plan engagement opportunities. This work will be further developed during the Spring-term 2022.</p>
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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
HoSial and SMETBC	<p><u>Survey of schools to identify where training is not up to date e.g. Safeguarding, first aid and Health and Safety</u></p>	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. Ongoing work with H&S to plan and monitor H&S and FRA

	<p>Engagement sessions with schools – new protocols in place to support schools to manage positive cases</p> <p>All schools have emergency contact information to support escalation procedures i.e. move to blended learning</p> <p>BG updated schools based risk assessment and operational guidance, work with individual schools in order to assess individual operational plans and to advise accordingly.</p> <p>Review Home to School Transport Policy and established working group to address complex applications and policy and practices</p> <p>Monitoring group established around national shortage of drivers – target to address capacity issues as</p>	<p>Education, Environmental Health, TTP and schools</p> <p>Education, Environmental Health and schools</p> <p>H&S, Education and Environmental Health</p> <p>Education and Community Services</p> <p>Education and Community Services</p>	<p>September 2021 – ongoing (monitored fortnightly)</p> <p>July 2021 – ongoing</p> <p>July 2021 – ongoing</p> <p>July 2021 - ongoing</p> <p>September 2020 – ongoing</p>	<p>Early identification and monitoring of positive cases</p> <p>Schools are able to effectively respond to case escalation</p> <p>Schools operate safely with sufficient measures and controls in place</p> <p>All eligible pupils and students have access to transport</p> <p>Transport solutions are agreed where issues are</p>	<p>Daily monitoring undertaken and reported via Education to all relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Daily monitoring undertaken and reported via Education to all relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Daily monitoring between Education, H&S, Environmental Health and Schools</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring</p>	<p>inspections, along with associated training. Ongoing engagement sessions, guidance and support for schools is in place.</p> <p>New process and guidance in place. Daily support is provided via Education and Environmental Health. Comms and guidance in place</p> <p>This is monitored daily. All schools have up to date risk assessments in place, which are frequently reviewed in line with the latest PHW and WG guidance etc. A school planning meeting took place w/c 13.12.21, with another planned for 4.1.22.</p> <p>2022/23 Policy review complete. Transport is subject to weekly monitoring processes in line with compliance, recent strike actions and provider/driver shortages. Fortnightly meetings are in place to review complex case requests for transport. A procedural review is underway and will be completed during the first part of the Spring Term 2022, along with a full service review</p>
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	<p>a result of COVID and resource based issues with transport</p>			<p>identified. Meaning all pupils have access to education, without their transport needs presenting a barrier</p>		<p>Transport contingency plans are in place and being monitored.</p>
	<p>Fire Risk Assessment Review process in place</p>	<p>H&S and Education</p>	<p>September – December 2021</p>	<p>All schools FRA documentation is up to date</p>	<p>Weekly in line with COVID Secure Risk Assessment</p>	<p>FRA reviews have commenced and are ongoing</p>
	<p>Facilities Action Planning with individual schools re-established</p>	<p>H&S and Education</p>	<p>October – December 2021</p>	<p>All schools have up to date Facilities Action Plans</p>	<p>Monthly monitoring is in place</p>	<p>All school action plans are up to date, and works programmed for completion in order of priority.</p>
	<p>Minor works and maintenance programme</p>	<p>Community Services and Education</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>All programmed minor works are completed</p>	<p>Monthly monitoring is in place</p>	<p>The Summer and Autumn works programmes have successfully been completed, with a plan for Spring 2022 in place.</p>