Education Recovery Plan – Overview

All schools, education providers and support services are fully operational, with children and young people able to access a full range of provision and services both school and community based, in order to meet their: Educational; Social; Emotional; Behavioural; and Other relevant needs.

Blaenau Gwent children and young people are able to effectively transition from one stage of their education to another, with wellbeing as a primary focus, supporting them to achieve their potential.

Recovery and Renewal Focus - Education has developed a detailed impact assessment in collaboration with key partners including schools, in order to determine the key priorities for recovery and renewal. The 4 overarching priority areas of focus are as follows:

- **Learner Wellbeing**
- **Vulnerable Learners**
- **Academic Progress**
- **School Operations**

Present Position - Over the last academic session school operations have been negatively affected by the pandemic. The latest Welsh Government operational guidance seeks to resume normal school operations from the autumn-term 2021. During the 2020/21 academic session, data collection and school's data management was reconfigured and/or suspended, therefore, we are currently working to establish the baseline for the above priorities as at September 2021. However, current levels of COVID within the community are affecting the school's ability to resume normal practice. Therefore, the target for the autumn-term is to establish the baseline.

Implementation Plan - Education has worked to establish a detailed action plan for each impact area. The action plan details the work required with Council services, schools/headteachers, wider partners such as the Education Achievement Service, pupils and parents. In addition, stakeholder engagement and communication plans are in place, with 3 consultative groups having been established as follows:

- Recovery and Renewal Group
- Curriculum Reform Group
- School Operations Management Group

Key Measures to Determine Progress -The following data sets – both qualitative and quantitative, will be used to monitor and measure progress against each impact area:

Priority Area	PI	18/19	19/20	20/21	Target (when will we know we have recovered)?
Learner Wellbeing	Applications – Nursery	693	696	714	Applications are the same level or higher than pre-Covid levels. EHE numbers are the same or lower than pre-Covid levels.
	Applications – Primary	739	731	701	
	Applications – Secondary	677	679	696	
		July 2019	**July 2020**	**July 2021**	
	Attendance – Primary	94.4	93.5	90.7	Attendance levels are consistently in line with or higher than Wales average.
	Attendance Secondary	93.3	91.7	84.8	
		April 19 - March 20	**April 20 - March 21**	**April 21 - September 2021**	
	Exclusions Primary	108	25	17	Exclusions are in line with or lower than pre-Covid levels.
	Exclusions Secondary	459	135	183	
	Average Number of Primary exclusions per month (no. of months in brackets)	9.8	3.6	3.4	
	Average Number of Secondary exclusions per month (no. of months in brackets)	41.7	19.3	36.6	
		2019	**2020**	**2021**	
Vulnerable Learners	Entitlement to FSM/Transitionally Protected (%)	21.1	24.6	30.4	FSM levels stabilise and support via schools enables learner progress
		April 19 - March 20	**April 20 - March 21**	**April - September 2021**	
	Number of referrals to Social Services for children and young people of school age (3-16)	2382	2260	1702	Referrals to social services are in line with or lower than pre-Covid levels.
	Average Number of referrals to Social Services for children and young people of school age (3-16) per month (no. of months in brackets)	198.5 (12)	188.3 (12)	283.7 (6)	

		April 19 - March 20	April 20 - March 21	April - September 2021	
Vulnerable Learners	Digital Disadvantage	0	1,359 pupils with devices 161 pupils with MiFi Dongles	Under review	Need for blended learning is greatly reduced, meaning that schools have very few or no requests for devices of MiFI dongles.