

DRAFT

Blaenau Gwent Post 16 Partnership (BGPP) Agreement

1. Introduction

This document outlines the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which underpins the collaborative intent and activities of the signatory organisations comprising the Blaenau Gwent Post-16 Partnership (BGPP). BGPP is an alliance of those responsible for the public education of 11 to 19 year olds in Blaenau Gwent. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the leadership of our secondary schools and Coleg Gwent are committed to working together to provide the most equitable and best possible, wide ranging educational provision to our post-16 learners.

To facilitate this, the Memorandum of Understanding creates a framework for:

- Effective communication between all partners;
- Creating a solution focused working relationship;
- Sharing information to enable effective inclusion of learners and improved learner outcomes

All parties agree to act in good faith to support the objectives and principles of this MoU for the benefit of all our learners.

The parties to the agreement are:

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Coleg Gwent
- Ysgol Gyfun Tredegar Comprehensive School
- Ebbw Fawr 3-16 Learning Community
- Brynmawr Foundation School
- Abertillery 3 – 16 Learning Community
- The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community
- Pen-y-Cwm School

2. Vision, Values and Outcomes

The parties share the following vision and values for our post-16 learners.

Our Blaenau Gwent offer is one of outstanding educational aspiration and achievement, where every child and young person flourishes, and their learning and achievements are publicly supported and regularly celebrated.

Outcome statements:

- Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone will be a first choice for parents and learners in the area and beyond
- Outcomes for our learners will be at least as good as that for learners in comparable areas in Wales but we will always strive for even more
- We have a shared commitment to continuous improvement, providing access to high quality services to learners and their families

We share a firm commitment to inclusion - education should be accessible for all, offer meaningful and purposeful opportunities and foster the personal development of all the young people in our area.

Outcome statements:

- We will seek to develop our collective inclusive practices by working together to prepare and plan for the implementation of the new ALN Act
- Ensure transition planning is undertaken in a timely manner and informed by person-centred principles

To improve the educational and wellbeing of all of our post-16 learners recognising that this will only be achieved with a focus on our effective communication and collaborative planning.

Outcome statements:

- BGPP will agree an information sharing protocol that encompasses all members and also acts to support the effective partnership working with our primary schools to support transition to Key Stage 3
- Put parents and learners at the heart of our work ensuring there is clear communication with all families through a variety of channels

3. Principles for Effective Joint Working

To deliver partnership working successfully it is important to develop good formal and informal working relations that build trust and share responsibility, whilst respecting difference. To facilitate this, all parties commit to adopt the following principles in their dealings with each other:

- We will build trust and a mutual respect for each other's roles and responsibilities;
- We are committed to openness, honesty and transparency in communications;
- We will adopt a positive and constructive approach demonstrating our commitment to work with and learn from each other;
- We will ensure there is early discussion of emerging issues to ensure a "no surprises" culture;
- We share a commitment to ensuring high quality outcomes;
- We will agree a formal process for disagreement resolution and always seek positive solutions for partners, learners and their families.

4. Partnership Structure and Operational Framework

The BGPP will develop its own action plan that will be reviewed on an annual basis. While this plan will evolve over time, it is anticipated it will initially include:

- Determine and develop a Post-16 strategy
- Provide regular updates to the Public Service Board in addition to member's own governance bodies (see below)
- Report on plans and achievements, including learner outcomes, value added measures and progression. Additionally, agree any changes needed to information sharing agreements to enable these reports to be generated.
- Agree any shared resources, determine tasks as appropriate including establishing task and finish groups to resolve any emerging issues.
- Work with the regional school improvement body, the Education Achievement Service, as necessary to meet the outcomes of BGPP plans.
- Coleg Gwent to present their Annual Performance Report (usually November) to BGCBC Member Briefing
- Review and suggest changes as necessary to the attainment/ added value report for learners in the Borough. This report will be jointly produced by the EAS, the LA and Coleg Gwent giving an overview of learner outcomes from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 5 and will typically be made available in late September each year.

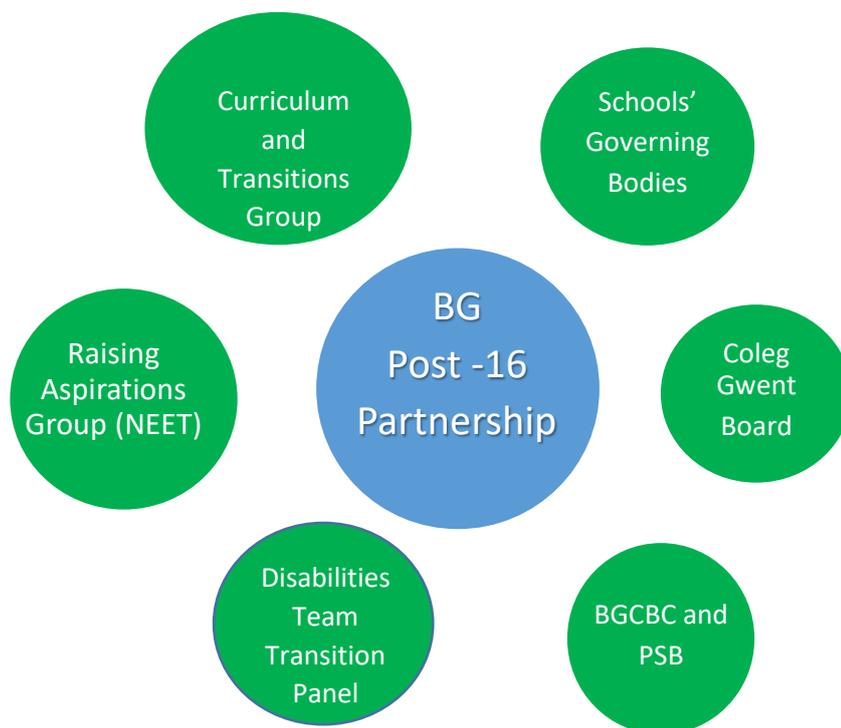


Fig.1 Suggested governance relationships and dependencies

BGPLP will form a Post 16 Partnership comprised of the following membership:

- BG Executive Member for Education
- BG Interim Director of Education
- BG Youth Service Manager (Interim Lead for Post 16 partnerships)
- Headteachers of all Secondary Schools
- Coleg Gwent Principal
- Coleg Gwent Vice Principal (Curriculum and Quality)
- Public Health Wales representative
- ABUHB representative
- EAS representative

Administrative support will be provided by BG. The group will meet three times per year with each partner hosting meetings on a rolling basis.

Curriculum and Transition Group – this groups need to be established.

The Post 16 Partnership will ask this group to:

- Review transition arrangements to ensure their effectiveness
- Review KS4 and post-16 learner outcomes and progression on an annual basis
- Support enrichment activities for KS4 and post-16 learners
- Ensure join up with the Raising Aspirations Group to continue to proactively support the work of Blaenau Gwent Local County Borough Council in reducing the number of young people who are NEET

* Head of Learner Services and Head of School from Coleg Gwent; the BGCBC Youth Service Manager (Interim Lead for Post 16 partnership); EAS representative. The group will decide its own chair who will be invited to attend the BG Post 16 Partnership.

5. Governance

Governance arrangements are outlined in fig.1 above. The BGPLP work-plan will be co-constructed by the partners with the clear expectation that each partner will engage with, and seek approval from, their own governance body before agreeing the annual plan.

The Local Authority will issue this agreement to all of the secondary schools in the Borough as an addendum to the existing LA-School partnership agreement.

Specific Partner Responsibilities

The Local Authority will:

- ✓ Provide administration support for BGPP meetings including organising the termly meetings, recording and distribution of minutes etc. However, each partner is expected to host one meeting on a rolling basis;
- ✓ Provide support to keep information sharing protocols up to date and fit for purpose;
- ✓ The LA will work with Coleg Gwent and EAS to co-author a performance report for learners' progress detailing outcomes for learners from Foundation Phase to Key Stage. The exact format and timing of this report will be determined by these partners (To be agreed).
- ✓ Ensure consistent attendance at BGPP meetings.
- ✓ Ensure there is appropriate engagement with agreed transition arrangements as determined by the partnership.

Coleg Gwent will:

- ✓ Keep information sharing protocols up to date and fit for purpose.
- ✓ Ensuring Key Stage 5 data is disaggregated for BG learners and is made available in a way that demonstrates the value added measure for BG learners.
- ✓ Coleg Gwent will work with the LA and EAS to co-author a performance report for learners' progress detailing outcomes for learners from Foundation Phase to Key Stage. The exact format and timing of this report will be determined by these partners (To be agreed).
- ✓ Ensure consistent attendance at BGPP meetings.
- ✓ Agree and timetable transition dates in discussion with Schools.
- ✓ Ensure there is appropriate engagement with agreed transition arrangements as determined by the partnership.

Schools will:

- ✓ Engage in information sharing protocol discussions and agree to share pupil level data to enable pupil progress reporting over time.
- ✓ Agree and timetable transition dates in discussion with Coleg Gwent.
- ✓ Enable the appropriate staff to attend the curriculum and transition group.
- ✓ Ensure consistent attendance at BGPP meetings.
- ✓ Ensure there is appropriate engagement with agreed transition arrangements as determined by the partnership.

Signatories to the agreement:

Date: