



Aled Evans
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

7 February 2020

Dear Aled,

I understand that Neath Port Talbot intends to proceed with its withdrawal from regional working arrangements through ERW with effect from 1 April 2020.

This is obviously disappointing. Where local authorities work most effectively in partnership with their regional consortia, they can provide a service to schools that draws on the shared expertise and capacity across a region. Regions have also played an important role in building a self-improving system across Wales, including school to school networks that allow school leaders and teachers to increasingly access professional development and school improvement support from their peers.

I will not, however, rehearse further the arguments for and against regional working. What I now need to understand, given my responsibility for the successful delivery of the new curriculum, is your plan to support Neath Port Talbot's schools with implementation of the Curriculum for Wales, outside of ERW. In particular, it would be helpful for me to understand:

- Your local plan to support delivery of the National Mission in 2020-21 in Neath Port Talbot;
- Your workforce plan, including a breakdown of staff who will support schools with curriculum reform, as well as any professional learning they need to fulfil this role;
- What role, if any, you envisage ERW continuing to play with Neath Port Talbot schools in 2020-21;
- Your engagement with schools and school leaders on this planning.

I would be grateful if you can provide me with this information by 28th February to give us the opportunity to assess them, alongside the plans of the remaining ERW region, ahead of the new financial year.

I am grateful in advance for your support with this work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Davies".

Steve Davies
Director of Education / Cyfarwyddwr Addysg



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

7 Chwefror 2020

Annwyl Aled,

Deallaf fod Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn bwriadu bwrw ymlaen â'i ymadawriad o drefniadau gweithio rhanbarthol drwy ERW yn weithredol o 1 Ebrill 2020.

Mae hyn yn amlwg yn siomedig. Pan fo awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio ar eu mwyaf effeithiol mewn partneriaeth â'u consortia rhanbarthol, gallant ddarparu gwasanaeth i ysgolion sy'n defnyddio'r arbenigedd a'r gallu a rennir ar draws rhanbarth. Mae rhanbarthau hefyd wedi chwarae rhan bwysig o ran creu system hunanwella ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys rhwydweithiau ysgol i ysgol sy'n galluogi arweinwyr ysgolion ac athrawon i gael mynediad cynyddol at gymorth datblygu proffesiynol a chymorth gwella ysgolion gan gydweithwyr o ysgolion eraill.

Ni wnaf, foddy bynnag, ailadrodd y dadleuon o blaid ac yn erbyn gweithio rhanbarthol. Yr hyn y mae angen i mi ei ddeall yn awr, o ystyried fy nghyfrifoldeb am gyflwyno'r cwricwlwm newydd yn llwyddiannus, yw eich cynllun i gefnogi ysgolion Castell-nedd Port Talbot i roi'r Cwricwlwm i Gymru ar waith, a hynny y tu allan i ERW. Yn benodol, byddai'n ddefnyddiol i mi ddeall y canlynol:

- Eich cynllun lleol i gefnogi'r gwaith o gyflawni Cenhadaeth ein Cenedl yn 2020-21 yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot;
- Eich cynllun ar gyfer y gweithlu, gan gynnwys dadansoddiad o'r staff a fydd yn cynorthwyo ysgolion i ddiwygio'r cwricwlwm, yn ogystal ag unrhyw ddysgu proffesiynol sydd ei angen arnynt i gyflawni'r gwaith hwn;
- Pa rôl, os o gwbl, y rhagwelwch y bydd ERW yn parhau i'w chwarae gydag ysgolion Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn 2020-21;
- Eich ymgysylltiad ag ysgolion ac arweinwyr ysgol ar y gwaith cynllunio hwn.

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallich roi'r wybodaeth hon i mi erbyn 28 Chwefror i roi'r cyfre i ni ei hasesu cyn y flwyddyn ariannol newydd, ar y cyd â chynlluniau gweddill rhanbarth ERW.

Diolch o flaen llaw am eich cymorth gyda'r gwaith hwn.

Yn gywir,

S Davies

Steve Davies
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