This briefing provides an update on the development of the new consistent post-16 performance measures, and highlights key actions that schools and colleges should take. Click here for a leaflet which summarises the measures.

We welcome your feedback on any aspects of the measures. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to post16quality@gov.wales.

The story so far…

- The first statistical reports on the new achievement measures were issued to schools and colleges in July 2017, based on the 2014/15 and 2015/16 learner cohorts. These included learners on Level 3 general education (A level and mixed A level/vocational) learning programmes, and showed the retention and attainment of learners over two years of study. We subsequently issued updated reports for learning programmes that ended in 2016/17. Further details can be found in the achievement explanatory notes and FAQs.

- 2016/17 achievement statistics for learners on vocational programmes was issued to colleges in May 2018. These reports have not yet been issued to those schools that deliver vocational programmes, as they rely on a new data field that will be collected for the first time in 2017/18.

- Following a pilot in 2016/17, the first full value added reports were issued in autumn 2017, prepared by our contractor FFT Education Ltd. A revised set of reports, using the final 2016/17 Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) and Welsh Examinations Database (WED), was issued in May 2018.

- While we haven’t issued any destinations statistics as yet, we have set up an annual cycle of data matching which brings together educational datasets, and joined the UK Government’s Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) study which matches educational and employment records. We are now working on our first set of destinations data, for learning programmes that ended in 2015/16. This measure will always be published on a different timescale to the other two measures, to allow time for learners to progress into a sustained destination and for their data to be collected, matched and analysed.
What happens next?

- On 20 September 2018, we will be publishing the first all-Wales statistics on the new measures:
  - **Achievement** and **value added** for learning programmes that ended in 2016/17.
  - **Destinations** for learning programmes that ended in 2015/16. We will also issue individual school and college destinations reports.

  These statistics will provide an important source of information for learning providers to start benchmarking their performance.

- We are working closely with Estyn on the new measures, and have shared individual school and college data reports with them. Inspectors will start discussing the new measures with schools and colleges during the 2018/19 academic year.

- We are working with FFT to make some improvements to the value added reporting and guidance, to be introduced for the provisional 2017/18 reports which are scheduled to be issued in November 2018.

- We will calculate vocational achievement measures for those schools that deliver vocational programmes once the 2017/18 data collection has been completed.

- It is our intention to develop an online portal similar to My Local School so that learners, parents and carers, employers and other interested parties can have access to detailed information on provider, programme and course outcomes. The working title for this portal is *Post-16 Choices*. We are aiming to have a pilot version available around spring 2019 for consultation and testing.

What schools and colleges should have now: What to look out for this autumn:

| ✔ Achievement reports for 2016/17 – via DEWi | ✔ Value added reports for 2016/17 – via DEWi and Aspire Analytics | □ Provisional value added reports for 2017/18 | □ Destinations reports for 2015/16 | □ All-Wales statistics on the new measures (20 Sept-18) |

Consultation and engagement

- We are planning four regional events in the second half of November to further engage with schools, local authorities and FE colleges – further details with dates and venues will be sent out separately.

- We are also looking for volunteers for reading groups to review and feed back on the revised value added reporting and guidance. If you would like to take part, please email post16quality@gov.wales.

Key actions for schools and colleges

✔ Make sure that your 2017/18 data submissions are accurate (see page 3 for details of the data collection timetable).

✔ Check examination outcomes and raise issues via FFT helpdesk (WED checking exercise).

✔ Review the explanatory notes for the achievement measure to ensure that you understand the methodology, and how any inaccuracies in your data might affect your school or college’s outcomes.

✔ Review the value added guidance which will be available with the provisional data in the Autumn to ensure you understand your value added reports.

✔ Integrate the new performance measures into your annual self-evaluation/self-assessment cycle, performance monitoring and reporting to governors.

✔ Use the forthcoming all-Wales statistics (20 September 2018) to start...
benchmarking your performance in relation to other schools and colleges.

Data collection and checking

The post-16 collection is essential for calculating the new achievement and destinations measures; it is the only source of data on learning programme enrolment and completion.

It is a retrospective collection that takes place in September/October each year and includes data about all activities followed by pupils in Year 12, 13 and 14+ during the previous academic year.

For 2017/18, the main changes are:

- a new programme data set that includes data about each pupil’s current or previous programmes of learning has been added; and
- the previous Learning Activity Reference will be replaced by a Qualification Wales Approval/Designation number (QWAD).

We have developed a DEWi management report that is automatically generated when the post-16 collection file is uploaded to DEWi. The report calculates school-level figures that feed directly into the calculation of the new post-16 achievement measures, so should be used by Heads of Sixth Form and data contacts at local authorities to assist in validating the data. We have produced some guidance to help with the validation process. It is important that Heads of Sixth Form liaise with colleagues who submit the data to ensure the data is accurate.

Timetable for 2017/18 measures

The IMS Calendar provides a list of key dates for schools submitting information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-September-18 to 19-October-18</td>
<td>DEWi: post-16 data collection covering programmes and learning activities delivered in 2017/18 academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 22-October-18</td>
<td>DEWi: Schools check examination outcomes and raise issues via FFT helpdesk (WED checking exercise)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November-18</td>
<td>DEWi/Aspire Analytics: provisional value added reports based on 2017/18 data issued to schools and local authorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>December-18</td>
<td>DEWi: achievement data reports issued to schools and local authorities using 2016/17 and 2017/18 data</td>
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<tr>
<td>February-19</td>
<td>Website: Statistical Release: Achievement and Value Added measures for 2017/18</td>
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<td>Spring-19 (date to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Post-16 Choices: individual school achievement data reports published using 2016/17 and 2017/18 data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring-19 (date to be confirmed)</td>
<td>DEWi/Aspire Analytics: final value added reports based on 2017/18 data issued to schools and local authorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn-20 (date to be confirmed)</td>
<td>DEWi: learner destination reports issued to schools and local authorities</td>
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