

# Document Pack



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County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

**WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, 3 SPILMAN STREET, CARMARTHEN AT 10.00 AM, ON THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2015** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

*Mark James*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



PLEASE RECYCLE

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<b>Ref:</b>	<b>AD016-001</b>

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**13 COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2 NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS AND 3**  
**ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS**

**PLAID CYMRU GROUP (6)**

- |    |            |                              |
|----|------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | <b>C.A. Campbell</b>         |
| 2. | Councillor | <b>J.M. Charles</b>          |
| 3. | Councillor | <b>W.G. Hopkins</b>          |
| 4. | Councillor | <b>P. Hughes Griffiths</b>   |
| 5. | Councillor | <b>M.J.A. Lewis</b>          |
| 6. | Councillor | <b>J.E. Williams (Chair)</b> |

**LABOUR GROUP (4)**

- |    |            |                                     |
|----|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | <b>D.J.R. Bartlett (Vice-Chair)</b> |
| 2. | Councillor | <b>J.D. James</b>                   |
| 3. | Councillor | <b>P.E.M. Jones</b>                 |
| 4. | Councillor | <b>Vacancy</b>                      |

**INDEPENDENT GROUP (3)**

- |    |            |                        |
|----|------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | <b>I.W. Davies</b>     |
| 2. | Councillor | <b>D.W.H. Richards</b> |
| 3. | Councillor | <b>T. Theophilus</b>   |

**NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)**

- |    |                      |                       |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | <b>Mrs V. Kenny</b>  | Roman Catholic Church |
| 2. | <b>Canon B. Witt</b> | Church in Wales       |

**ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS (3)**

(Term of Office expires 31/03/2016)

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 1. | <b>Mr C. Brown</b>   |
| 2. | <b>Mr S. Pearson</b> |
| 3. | <b>Vacancy</b>       |

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# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

**Forthcoming items for next meeting –  
Monday 23rd November 2015**

Discussion Topic	Background
CSSIW Local Authority Social Services Inspection Evaluation 2014/15	The Inspectorate annually reviews and reports on the Council's performance in relation to social services. This is a key area for the Committee to monitor.
Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	This item will enable the Committee to consider the WESP and progress towards achieving its aims and objectives in an annual update report.
Adult Community Learning Update	At its meeting in July 2015, officers suggested that the Committee receive a further update on the Adult Community Learning Service at its November meeting.
Half-Yearly Performance Monitoring Report 2015/16	This is a standard 6-monthly report which allows members to undertake their monitoring role in relation to the relevant services within the Committee's remit. This item will also include details of the compliments and complaints received by the relevant services.
Budget Monitoring 2015/16	This standard quarterly item enables members to undertake their monitoring role of the departmental budgets.
Actions & Referrals Update	This quarterly report provides an update on progress made in relation to actions and requests from previous meetings.

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**AGENDA ITEM NO.**

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**CYSUR (Regional Safeguarding Children Board) –  
Annual Report 2014/15**

**To consider and comment on the following issues:**

- CYSUR (Regional Safeguarding Children Board) Annual report 2014/15

**Reasons:**

- The annual report considers the effectiveness of the Authority’s services for safeguarding children.

**To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:**  
Cllr. Gareth O. Jones (Education & Children Portfolio Holder)

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Education &amp; Children</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Stefan Smith</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Liz Blazey Rebecca Copp</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Head of Children’s Services</p> <p>CYSUR Regional Board Manager Carmarthenshire Child Protection Co-ordinator</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b></p> <p>01267 246530 <a href="mailto:sjsmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">sjsmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01437 776199 <a href="mailto:lizblazey@pembrokeshire.gov.uk">lizblazey@pembrokeshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01267 246595 <a href="mailto:rcopp@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">rcopp@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## Cysur (Regional Safeguarding Children Board) – Annual Report 2014/15

### Background

#### CYSUR

This is the first year that there has been a CYSUR regional annual report in respect of safeguarding. Carmarthenshire has joined three other neighbouring Local Authorities so that we can co-ordinate safeguarding on a regional basis, as directed by Welsh Government. CYSUR is the Welsh word for reassurance. CYSUR is an acronym for Children and Youth Safeguarding and Unifying the Region. The region that CYSUR covers consists of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys. CYSUR and its local sub groups deliver the Safeguarding Children Board's functions for the region.

The report highlights what CYSUR has achieved in the past year and what the priorities are going forward for the regional board; one of the main priorities being that the current arrangements are to be reviewed.

However as the lead agency for child protection, it is also important that the Local Authority strive to ensure that the staff and systems we have in place, not only within our own agency; but also within others, serve to safeguard the welfare of children. Therefore the report also considers trends and themes within Carmarthenshire.

There continues to be a need to retain social work staff trained and experienced in child protection, with caseloads that allow them time to focus on assessment and risk; maintaining and building upon close links with other agencies and driving forward safeguarding programmes and training for all staff.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **Stefan Smith**

Head of Children's Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – Closer links and reporting structures are continuing to be developed between the Regional Safeguarding Children Board and other key partnerships within the authority.

**3. Finance** – Funding continues to be identified on a multi-agency basis to fund the Regional Safeguarding Children Board and its operation.

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **Stefan Smith**

Head of Children's Services

**1. Local Member(s)** – The Executive Board Member has regular feedback from the chair of CYSUR and therefore has oversight.

**2. Community / Town Council** – N/A

**3. Relevant Partners** – The Carmarthenshire Local Safeguarding Children Board member agencies have contributed to the annual report and continue development of the new regional board.

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – A cross-section of senior local authority staff are members of the Carmarthenshire Local Safeguarding Children Board.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection



# Annual Report September 2015

## CYSUR Local Operational Group, Carmarthenshire



**CYSUR is an acronym for Child and Youth Safeguarding: Unifying the Region**  
**CYSUR is also the Welsh word for reassurance.**

Title: Annual Report 2015	Status: draft	Date: September 2015
Author: Liz Blazey		Review date: N/A

## **1. Introduction**

This is the first report produced under the Regional Safeguarding Children Board arrangements for Mid and West Wales which were established to meet the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The report will provide an overview of developments on a regional basis, as well as more detailed information about safeguarding issues at a local level.

## **2. CYSUR**

CYSUR is the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Children Board. The Mid and West Wales region covers over half of the land mass of Wales, and borders with 9 Welsh counties, as well as counties in England. The region has a population of around 516,700, of which 100,400 are children and young people under the age of 18. Overall across the region 37% of the population speak Welsh, with the highest proportions of Welsh speaking people living in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire.

In response to the diverse geography and population of the region, CYSUR recognises the need to maintain both a local and regional focus.

- The regional purpose is to co-ordinate the strategic direction, collaboration, consistency and improvement of practice across the region.
- The local purpose is to co-ordinate local practice, and work towards ensuring effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

The structure of CYSUR reflects this, with Local Operational Groups in each local authority area overseeing the detail of local safeguarding and feeding into the CYSUR Executive Board via the CYSUR Strategic and Child Practice Review subgroups.

Junior Safeguarding Children Boards for each local authority area, comprising children and young people, feed into the CYSUR Local Operational Groups. A Junior Regional Safeguarding Children Board, facilitated by Tros Gynnal Plant feeds directly into the CYSUR Executive Board.

A chart setting out the regional and local structure is appended as appendix 1. The membership of the CYSUR Executive Board and the CYSUR Local Operational Group, Carmarthenshire is appended as appendices 2 and 3.

### **3. The regional context**

#### **a. Regional Safeguarding Children Board arrangements**

The Regional Safeguarding Children Board arrangements have been in place for over 12 months, with the first meeting of the CYSUR Executive Board taking place in June 2014. A recruitment process was undertaken during the summer of 2014, with a Regional Manager commencing in post in October 2014. Over the past year significant progress has been made in embedding the new structure and in developing reporting arrangements between the groups at the various levels. However, it appears timely to review CYSUR arrangements ahead of the deadline for implementation of the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to ensure that those requirements are being met in the most effective manner. An independent review is being commissioned which will include consideration of the following issues

- The effectiveness of the structure and the appropriate chairing and membership of each group
- The feasibility of a single joint Adult and Children Executive Board
- Whether the Executive Board should focus more strategically as an authorising environment
- Business support requirements
- Interrelationships between different Boards and partnerships, for example CYSUR, LSBs, CSPs
- The potential impact of local government re-organisation impact on the regional Board

The findings of the independent review will inform the further development of CYSUR.

#### **b. Data Monitoring**

Extensive safeguarding data is considered in detail at the local level, as can be seen from the information presented in section 4 of this report. A small suite of Local Authority safeguarding data items has been agreed for quarterly monitoring on a regional basis by the CYSUR Strategic sub group and Executive Board. This includes the numbers and rates per of per 10,000 population aged under 18 of children on the Child Protection Register, categories of registration, re-registrations within 12 months and percentage of children seen alone at Initial Assessment.

Safeguarding data reports are also presented quarterly by the Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) and the Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB). These reports include information on numbers of Child Practice Reviews, Unexpected

Deaths of Children 0-18yrs (PRUDiCs), Child Protection Medicals, Child Sexual Abuse Examinations, Looked After Children, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and safeguarding children training undertaken.

Monitoring of data relating to missing children and Child Sexual Exploitation is being developed in line with emerging national requirements.

The purpose of monitoring data on a regional basis is to identify and understand any regional variations and trends with the aim of promoting consistently good practice across the region. Monitoring the data over the past 12 months has identified the following

- Powys and Carmarthenshire both saw a rise in registrations over 2014/15, although this appears to have stabilised in the latter part of the year.
- Rates of children on the child protection register per 10,000 population aged under 18 are lower than the national figure for all Local Authority areas within the region.
- Of the 315 children on the child protection register across the region the largest category of registration is Emotional Abuse with 134 children, followed by Neglect with 107 children. Registrations in Powys and Carmarthenshire follow a similar pattern, with Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion both having a higher level of registrations under Neglect than under Emotional Abuse.
- There is considerable variance across the region in child seen alone at initial assessment figures, although performance across the region has in the main been above the All Wales figure, and as a general trend has shown continued improvement since 2011/12
- There was a marked increase in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) activity during the last quarter of 2014/15 within the HDUHB area, which was not replicated in Powys where fewer cases were considered in quarter 4 than in previous quarters.
- All Local Authorities within the region are net receivers of Looked After Children from other Local Authorities. Within the Hywel Dda area the number of children placed by other Local Authorities remains relatively stable overall. In contrast the children from other local authority (COLA) population within Powys is very changeable as there are 2 residential assessment units in the county.

Further work is being undertaken by the Board to fully understand the reasons for and implications of these regional variations and trends.

### **c. Multi-Agency Child Practice Reviews**

A core aspect of the work of Regional Safeguarding Children Boards is the identification and dissemination of Child Protection learning via the Child Practice Review Framework. Boards have responsibility for

- establishing child practice reviews and ensuring they are effectively managed
- contributing to the reviews and providing professional challenge
- identifying strategic implications for improving systems and practice in individual agencies or on an interagency basis
- signing off the final report and action plan when a review has been completed;
- publishing the child practice review report
- implementing and auditing changes in local policy, systems and practice to identify what difference they have made

The arrangements that CYSUR has in place to ensure these responsibilities are met are set out below.

The CYSUR Child Practice Review Sub Group receives referrals from the CYSUR Local Operational Groups to consider whether cases meet the criteria for a Child practice review, and makes recommendations to the Chair of CYSUR Executive Board in accordance with Protecting Children in Wales, Guidance for Arrangements for Multi-Agency Child Practice Reviews, Welsh Government, 2013. Where it is decided that a Child Practice Review will be undertaken, Child Practice Review panels are established in the local area to undertake the review. The findings and recommendations of the review are considered by the CYSUR Child Practice Review Sub Group prior to presentation of the report to the CYSUR Executive Board for final agreement. Following acceptance of the report and recommendations the Board notifies Welsh Government and publishes the review on its website. Action plans to implement the recommendations are developed by the local groups, and progress is monitored by the CYSUR Child Practice Review Sub Group.

Since the establishment of CYSUR only one referral has resulted in a decision that a Child Practice Review be undertaken, in this instance a Concise Child Practice Review. This review is now nearing completion and it is anticipated that the report will be presented to CYSUR Executive Board in October.

In this period three Child Practice Reviews have been published which were started under the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board arrangements. Monitoring of these action plans and the dissemination of learning from Child Practice Reviews and Multi Agency Professional Fora conducted during this transitional period is being overseen via the CYSUR Child Practice Review Sub Group.

## **d. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement**

### **i. Brand promotion**

It is important that there is a clear branding and identity for the Regional Safeguarding Children Board and that CYSUR is recognised across the region. The CYSUR logo and branding has been agreed and some promotional materials have been developed, however the launch and active promotion of the brand is still to be progressed. A key aspect of this is the development of the CYSUR website. Preliminary proposals regarding the website content were developed by a multi agency group prior to the establishment of CYSUR, however it was initially not possible to further progress the development of the website due to capacity constraints within Local Authority web teams. This has since been resolved, the domain names of cysur.wales and cysur.cymru have been secured and the CYSUR website has been built in draft form. Further work will be undertaken by a small multi agency work group to refine the content prior to translation, followed by the launch of the fully bilingual CYSUR website.

### **ii. Junior Regional Safeguarding Children Board**

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires that the Board has in place arrangements for children and young people to participate in its work. Tros Gynnal Plant have been commissioned to facilitate the development of a Junior Regional Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that this requirement is met, and that the views of children and young people are integral to the work of the Board.

Representatives from the Junior Regional Safeguarding Children Board have attended several meetings of the CYSUR Executive Board both in person and via teleconference to talk about the work they have been doing both as Junior Safeguarding Boards within their local areas and also regionally.

Members of the Junior Board came together for a full day meeting in Aberaeron in April and worked on developing a terms of reference, name and logo for the Junior Regional Safeguarding Children Board, discussed how they would like to feed into CYSUR and identified priorities for their future work plan. They also took part in workshops on developing a timeline of achievements to date, suggestions for different types of Social Media presence and information for safeguarding information for young people.

Since the meeting in April the regional groups have had a meeting via Skype to discuss regional updates and also to plan the Residential Annual General Meeting which has now been set for the 26<sup>th</sup> September. Members of the CYSUR Executive Board have been invited to attend the AGM for a question and answer session.

The name of the regional junior group has been voted upon and confirmed as CADW – Children taking Action Differently in Wales. The logo has also been agreed, and a



website has been designed and created for CADW by a member of Eat Carrots (the Junior Safeguarding Board in Powys). Links will be put in place between the CADW website and the CYSUR website.

### **iii. Elected member engagement**

In order to mitigate against the potential risk of disconnection with local political processes as the regionalisation of Safeguarding Boards progressed, CYSUR developed a process for engagement with Elected Members via the Lead Members within each Local Authority.

As part of the engagement process a briefing paper is produced following each meeting of the CYSUR Executive Board. This paper is also used to communicate key messages about the work of CYSUR to a wider stakeholder audience.

#### **Elected Member engagement process**

The nominated Lead Member for each Local Authority will be sent the agenda at the same time as the circulation of paperwork to the Executive Board.

The nominated Lead Member for each Local Authority will be responsible for engaging with relevant elected members from their Local Authority and for representing the elected members' views and any issues raised to the Statutory Director for Social Services of their Local Authority.

The Statutory Director for the Local Authority will represent views and issues raised at the Executive Board.

Nominated Lead Members will be briefed by the Chair after the Executive Board, either by meeting or other briefing methods.

The briefing from the Chair will:

- Cover all relevant agenda items.
- Be an opportunity for the relevant Lead Member to ask questions on behalf of Elected Members.

The Lead Member for Children and Young People will be responsible for feeding back all information from the briefing to relevant elected members from their Local Authority.

**Any operational issues or safeguarding concerns should continue to be raised following the established processes in the relevant Local Authority.**

#### **e. Development of multi agency information sharing arrangements**

A multi agency Steering Group to explore the implementation of a regional Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been in existence for some time. At the December meeting of CYSUR Executive Board it was decided that the governance for this group should fall under CYSUR, with a proposal relating to the development of a regional MASH being considered by the CYSUR Executive Board in March 2015.

The proposal sought agreement from the Board on taking an incremental approach to the establishment of the regional MASH, starting with the establishment of a Carmarthen based multi agency information sharing hub with the option of subsequently moving to a decision making model. The proposal also sought agreement from the Board for the funding of a project manager post from the CYSUR budget to undertake the extensive work required prior to the establishment of the information sharing hub.

The Board was unable to reach a consensus on the principle of the initial implementation of an information sharing hub and requested further information on the various MASH models to inform decision making on the way forward. In particular the Board questioned whether there were examples of decision making MASHs which spanned more than one Local Authority.

A review of national MASH evaluation reports was presented to the July meeting of the Executive Board which identified a number of key issues around governance, accountability and financial commitment which would impact upon the proposed regional MASH implementation. Further discussion around these issues will be taking place at the October meeting of the Executive Board.

#### **f. Child Sexual Exploitation**

It was agreed by the CYSUR Executive Board to ensure a region wide consistent response to Child Sexual Exploitation by developing a regional multi agency CSE strategy and action plan based on the College of Policing National Sexual Exploitation Action Plan, and the Operation Celtic review being undertaken by Dyfed Powys Police. The CYSUR Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy has been developed via a multiagency task and finish group, which has reviewed the Dyfed Powys Police CSE Action Plan and the interim report from the Operation Celtic review. National protocols and guidance, relevant research and examples of good practice have also been considered by members of the group.

The final draft of the CYSUR CSE prevention strategy was agreed by the Executive Board in July 2015.

The CYSUR CSE Strategy identifies the following key priority areas and outcomes for joint working.

#### Awareness raising

- Raising awareness of CSE amongst front line staff in all agencies
- Raising awareness of CSE with children and young people and their parents and carers
- Taking a targeted approach to raising awareness of CSE with specific groups within the wider community in response to emerging themes and trends.

#### Identification, risk assessment and case management

- Ensuring effective processes are in place for identifying children at risk of CSE
- Ensuring a consistent response to missing children
- Ensuring consistency of compliance with the All Wales CSE Protocol particularly in relation to the SERAF assessment and review process
- Ensuring effective processes are in place to support the identification and disruption of perpetrators.

#### Looked after children placed by other authorities

- Seeking to ensure that relevant agencies are aware of children placed within the region by other authorities and that risk assessments are shared
- Development of a memorandum of understanding with Local Authorities and private providers in relation to the Dyfed Powys on line risk assessment tool for residential care homes
- Exploring the potential to extend the on line risk assessment tool to incorporate foster placements

#### Support and recovery services

- Ensuring that children affected by, or at risk of being affected by CSE are offered an appropriate level of preventative, support and recovery services, and that clear pathways for accessing services are in place for all levels of risk.

Whilst the regional strategy was under development it was announced that the Welsh Government is leading on the development of a CSE Action Plan for Wales, including a data set to provide accurate and consistent reporting of CSE. The CYSUR CSE strategy and action plan will take cognisance of any requirements arising from the Action Plan for Wales.

Progress against the CYSUR CSE Strategy action plan will be monitored by CYSUR Executive Board.

#### **g. Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

The CYSUR Executive Board is concerned about the negative impact that the regionalisation of SARC services has had for the small number of children and young people in our region who require forensic medical examinations following sexual assault, with children having to travel long distances and being subjected to unacceptable delays.

The national Sexual Assault Services Project Board has undertaken an options appraisal exercise for the future delivery of sexual assault services. This has concluded that the severe shortage of the specialist staff required undertaking forensic medical examinations of children means that it is not possible to meet the required safety and quality standards in any more than two sites. It is clear that the location of these sites will be key in ensuring that children in Mid and West Wales are able to access services in a timely manner.

#### **h. Training and Practice Development**

The CYSUR Executive Board has identified the need for a Regional Multi-agency Workforce Development Plan for Safeguarding. A CYSUR regional training group is meeting on a task and finish basis to progress this. The group has established the current position for each agency/organisation in terms of pressures and unmet needs, scoped the current priorities for regional training across agencies/organisations and developed an action plan to take this work forward. The action plan has been approved by CYSUR Executive Board, and the following priorities for regional multi-agency safeguarding training have been confirmed:

- Section 47/Joint Investigation Training
- Developing capacity to undertake Child Practice Reviews and multi-agency Professional Fora, and disseminating the learning emerging from these processes.
- Safeguarding specific training arising from emerging legislation and national guidance as prioritised by CYSUR Executive Board on an annual basis

- Collaboration on commissioning specialist training too expensive for one agency to procure on their own, based on identification of need at the local operational group level
- Training arising from the implementation of regional strategies, policies protocols and procedures
- Investment in the continued professional development of the regional safeguarding training workforce (train the trainer), maximising opportunities to link with Families First and including co-production with the third sector.

A training needs analysis will be undertaken during September and October 2015, with the aim of producing a costed workforce development plan for the delivery of training on a multi-agency basis from April 2016.

#### **i. Priorities for Work going forward**

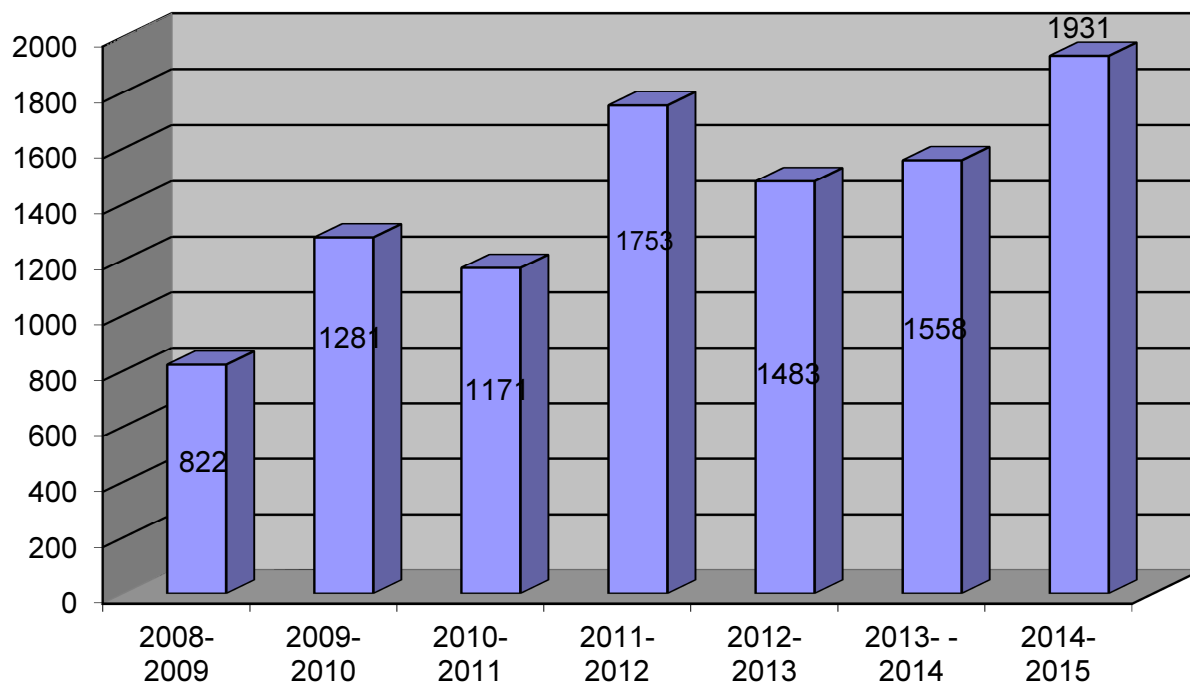
- Completion of an independent review of CYSUR arrangements
- Active promotion of the CYSUR brand including the finalisation and launch of the CYSUR website
- Further exploration of options for MASH implementation
- Implementation of the CYSUR CSE prevention strategy
- Development and delivery of a regional multi agency workforce development plan for safeguarding

#### **4. The local context**

This section of the Annual Report summarises key areas of multi agency working to safeguard children. The collection and analysis of this data enables the LSCB to identify where arrangements are effective and areas which require further exploration, consideration and activity. The statistics are prepared from the Care First database, part of the Children's Services Department of Carmarthenshire County Council. An increasing amount of key data is now being received from other LSCB member agencies.

The set of statistics retrieved from the Child Protection Register is collated monthly and quarterly. Quantitative and qualitative performance information is analysed by the Independent Reviewing Team.

## Child Protection Initial Contacts to Children's Services April 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015



### Analysis/Comment

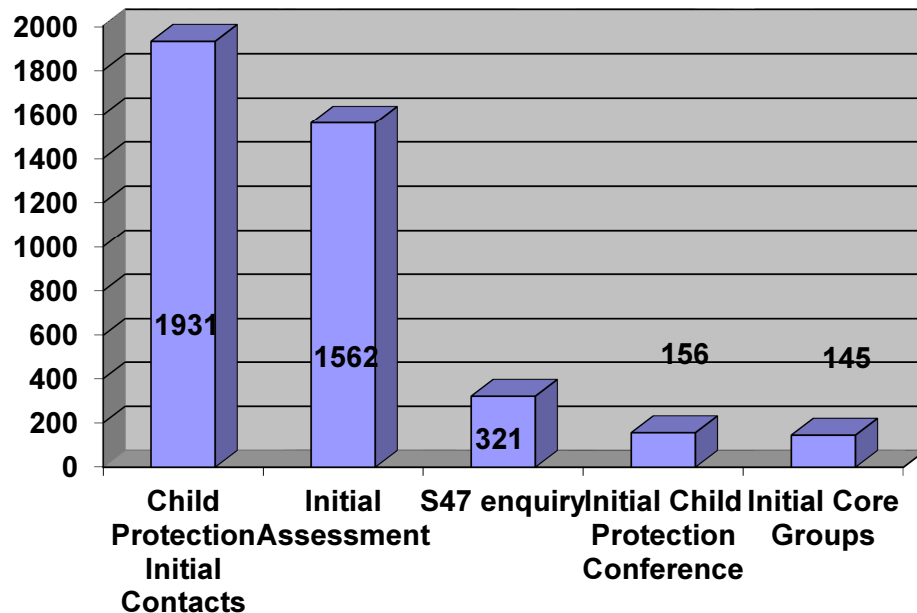
Since 2008/2009 there has been overall growth in the amount of Child Protection Initial Contacts. In 2011/12 there was a significant peak in referrals and again in 2014/2015. It is difficult to be sure whether this represents an increase in child abuse in the county. It is likely that a number of factors have contributed to the increase in the child protection activity. These factors include:

- An improvement in the identification and reporting of children at risk.
- Greater levels of professional awareness of risk to children following the publication of Lord Laming's enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié and media coverage of Peter Connelly and more recently Jimmy Saville and Operation Yewtree.
- Improvements in inter-agency relationships and awareness raising from all statutory agencies and the LSCB. Changing referral practice from professional groups.
- The categorisation of children in need/child protection.

Also during 2014-2015 Carmarthenshire Children Services changed the way that referrals were received into the department and introduced a single point of access; the Central Referral Team in order to address the issue of different threshold's being applied throughout the Local Authority. We are currently undertaking work with the team on setting the threshold and ensuring that children and families receive the

appropriate service to their need whether that be from preventative services or statutory services.

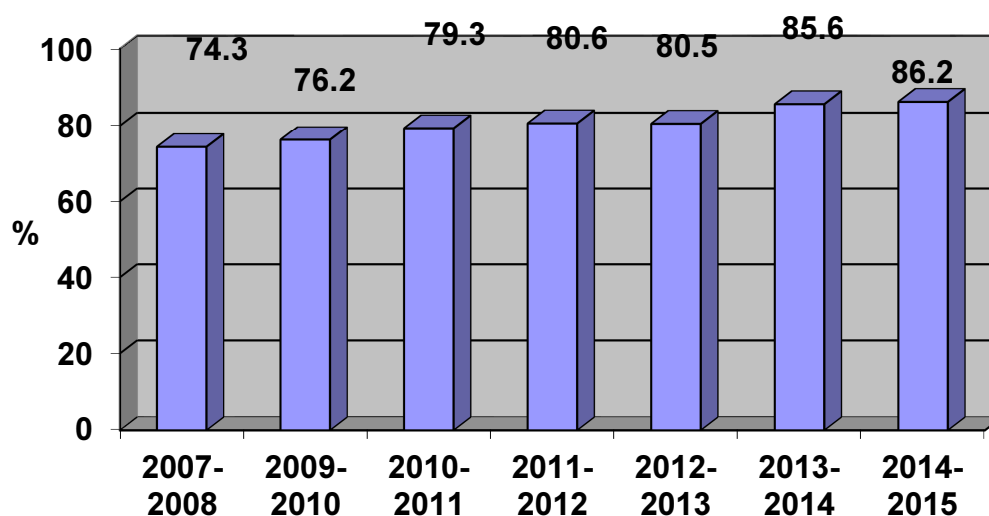
**b). Breakdown of Child Protection Activity in 2014-2015.**



**Analysis/Comment**

In 2014/2015 there were 1931 child protection initial contacts to Children’s Services. From these 1931 child protections initial contacts 1562 (81%) Initial Assessments were completed in 2014/2015. It was decided that in 369 cases that either an Initial Assessment wasn’t needed or that preventative services should be provided. This would seem to indicate that the level of referrals categorised as Child Protection is warranted. 321 section 47 enquiries were made in 2014/2015. 156 (48%) of these enquiries concluded that the child required a child protection plan to safeguard the child’s welfare and an Initial Child Protection Conference was convened.

### c). Initial Assessments within 7 days

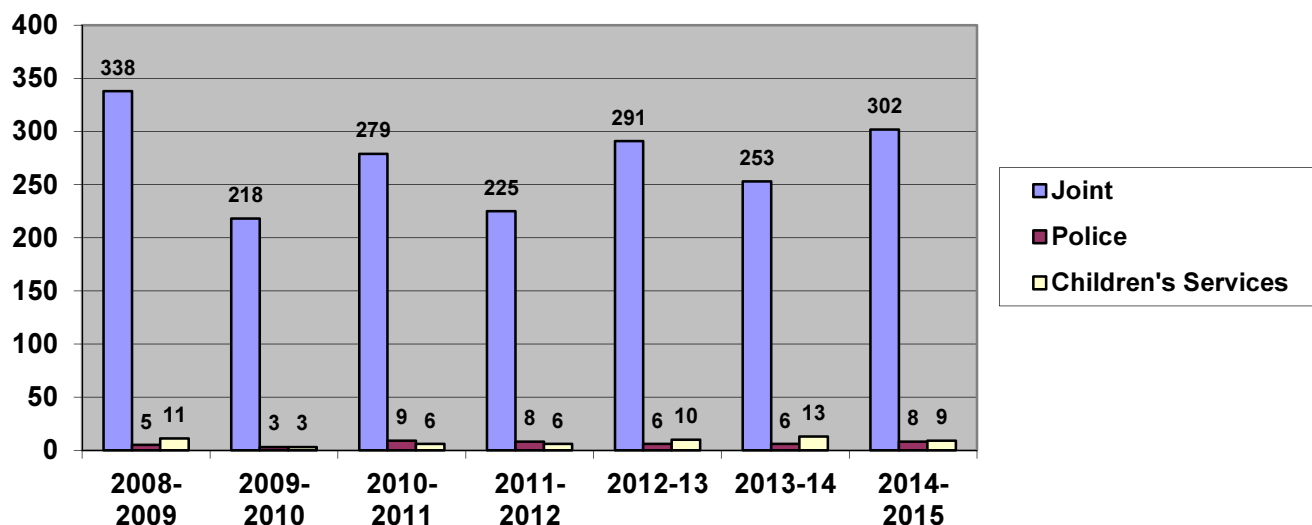


#### Analysis/Comment

It is vital that the Initial Assessment of the child's needs is carried out in a timely manner to ensure that any action needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child is taken as quickly as possible. There has been a steady increase over the period of 2008 -2013 and a significant increase between 2012/14 in the assessments being carried out within the timescales required by the Welsh Government. This year the number of assessment carried out within the timescales increased again. Whilst it is deemed best practice to complete the initial assessment within 7 days it is sometimes necessary to wait for vital information that is not available within the 7 days. A balance needs to be kept between ensuring Initial Assessments are completed within timescales and are completed to a high standard. In order to ensure that the child is central to the assessment in 83.1% of the assessment's the child was seen and in 47.3% the child was seen alone. This is a significant increase from 18.5% in 2009/2010 and something which we are continuing to work on. There are a number of reasons why a social worker may not see a child on his/her own, for example, the child's age.



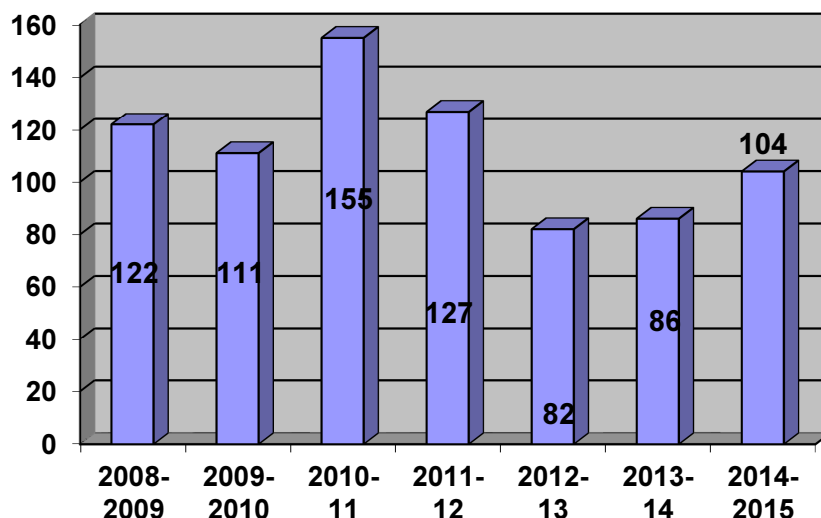
**d). Joint Section 47 enquiries, Police only enquiries and Social Care only**



**Analysis/Comment**

When a decision is reached to carry out a section 47 enquiry a strategy discussion is held between children's services and the police to plan how the enquiry will be carried out. In the majority of cases a joint investigation between police and children's services is undertaken. Between 2008 and 2014 there had been a drop in the overall number of Section 47 enquiries undertaken within Carmarthenshire, however in the year 2014/2015 there is a slight increase, this is due to the significant increase in the number of referrals that children services have received and therefore the increase in the number of families that we are working with. Operating higher thresholds for joint police and social care child protection investigations will be a focus of the departments work in the coming year. Regular audit of the referrals received and the decision-making taking place within the assessment teams has and will continue to ensure that the service is operating safely as well as efficiently. Both the Police and Children's Services are satisfied that this approach has led to more effective interventions and efficient use of the two agencies resources.

**e). Number on Child Protection Register March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015**



**Analysis/Comment**

The number of children on the child protection register fluctuates according to need. There has been a large drop in numbers of children on the child protection register from 155 on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 to 86 on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. However 2014-2015 saw a rise of 20% from the previous year.

When a child's name is registered to the Child Protection Register then a Social Worker should be allocated to that child. Over the last 12 years, every child whose name has been registered on the child protection register has been allocated a Social Worker.

**f). Breakdown of register by category of abuse March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.**

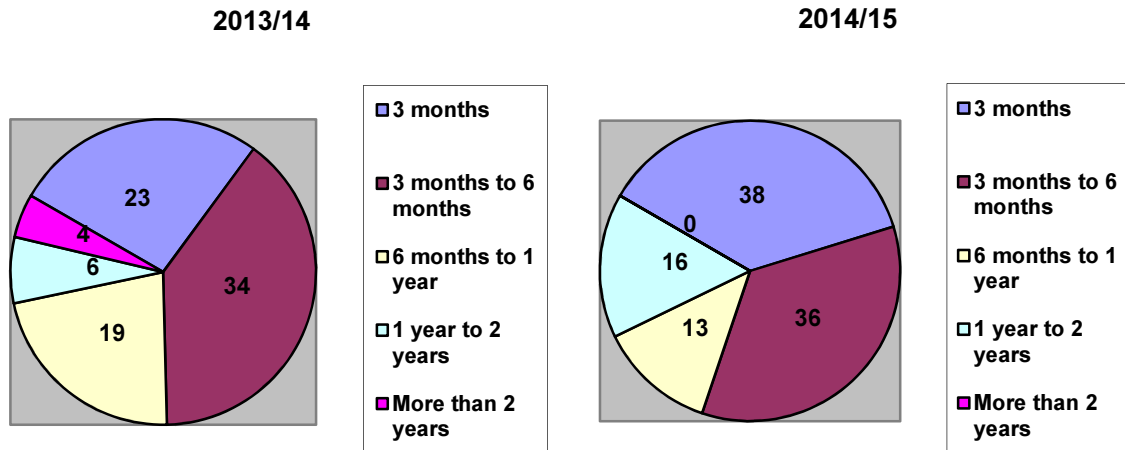
Register Category of Abuse	No. on register at 31 March 2014	No. on register at 31 March 2015
<b>Neglect Physical abuse and sexual abuse</b>	0	0
<b>Neglect and physical abuse</b>	0	0
<b>Neglect and Sexual Abuse</b>	0	0
<b>Physical and Sexual Abuse</b>	0	0
<b>Neglect (only)</b>	29	28
<b>Physical Abuse (only)</b>	5	2
<b>Sexual Abuse (only)</b>	5	6
<b>Emotional Abuse (only)</b>	47	68
<b>Total Number of Children</b>	86	104

**Analysis/Comment**

These figures reflect a snapshot on a single day and illustrate the prevalent categories of registration. When a child is registered on the child protection register a decision is reached as to which category they should be registered under. The predominant categories of registration are Neglect (only) and Emotional Abuse

(only). This reflects the high level of children who are experiencing domestic abuse who come to Initial Child Protection Conference.

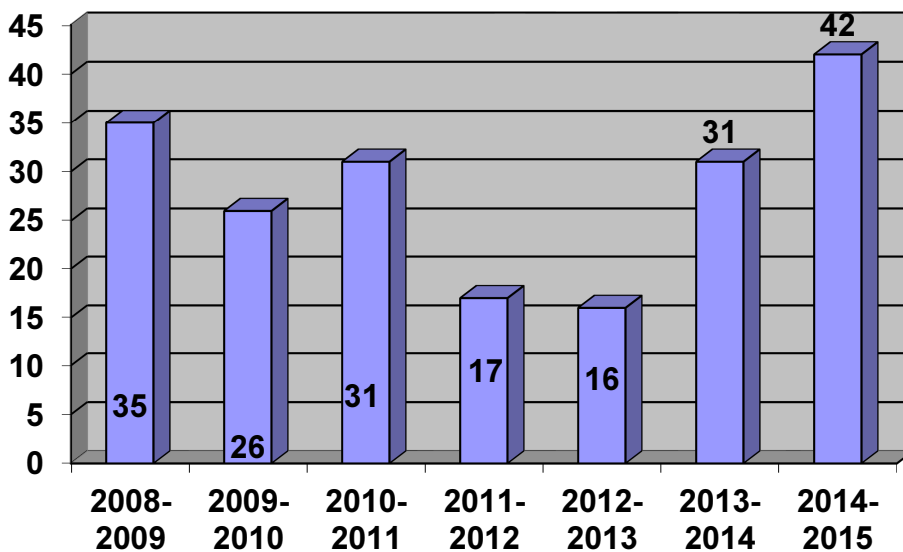
**g). Number of Children on the Child Protection Register by length of time**



**Analysis/Comment**

It is best practice to keep the child’s name on the Child Protection Register for the shortest amount of time necessary to reduce the risk of harm to the child. The majority of children (87) remained on the Child Protection Register for 3 months to a year. A minority of children (16) remained on the register for between 1 and 2 years and no child was subject to a child protection plan for more than 2 years.

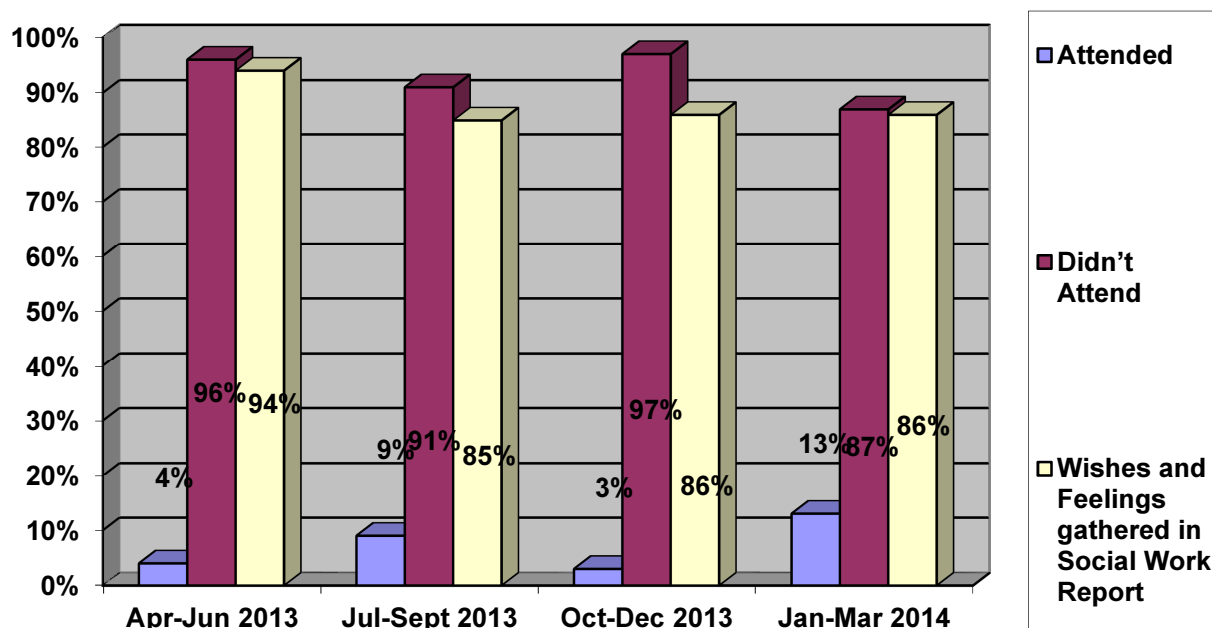
**h). Children who have previously been on the Register and were re-registered 2014/15**



## Analysis/Comment

In an ideal situation Child Protection Plans will permanently reduce the risk to a child. However there are a number of reasons why children may be re-registered. For example this can be the case when there are issues of compromised parenting due to parental substance misuse or parental mental health. It is sometimes necessary to re-register children where the parent has a relapse and this puts the child at risk of harm again.

### i). Attendance/Participation of the child at Child Protection Conference 2014/15.



## Analysis/Comment

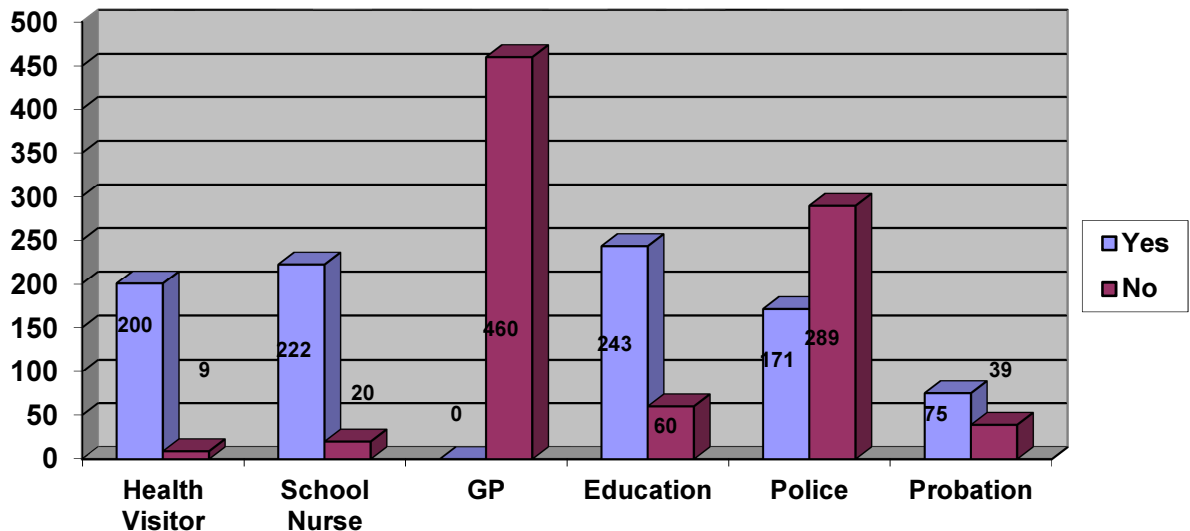
The low attendance at Child Protection Conference reinforces that children's involvement in the decision making process is an area that needs improvement; although the above figures are an improvement from last year. Action will be taken to address this issue by CYSUR (Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children Board) 2014/15

It is not always appropriate for children and young people to attend Child Protection Conference. Where attendance is appropriate then the child or young person should be encouraged to attend and this should be facilitated.

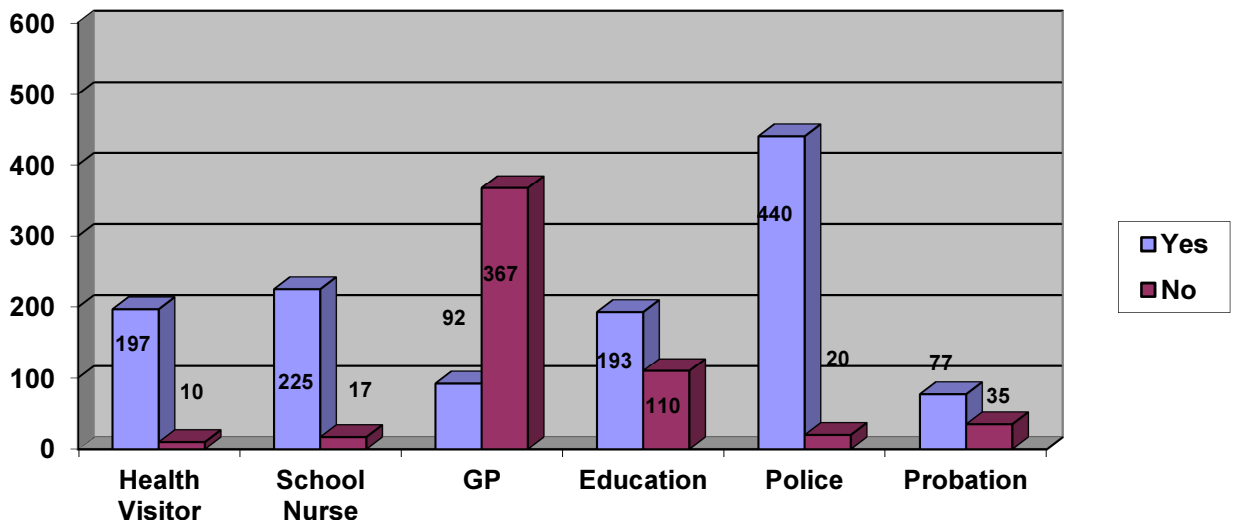
Where attendance is not appropriate then there should be clear evidence that the child has been able to participate in the decisions that are being made about them. Finding creative ways to better engage children in this process is a priority for the Reviewing Service.

Research has been undertaken regarding effective tools for ensuring the engagement and participation of children and young people in the child protection process. Tools have been highlighted and will be piloted in 2015/2016.

**j). Professional Attendance at Child Protection Conference when invited 2014/15.**



**k). Reports written by Professionals for Child Protection Conference 2013/14**



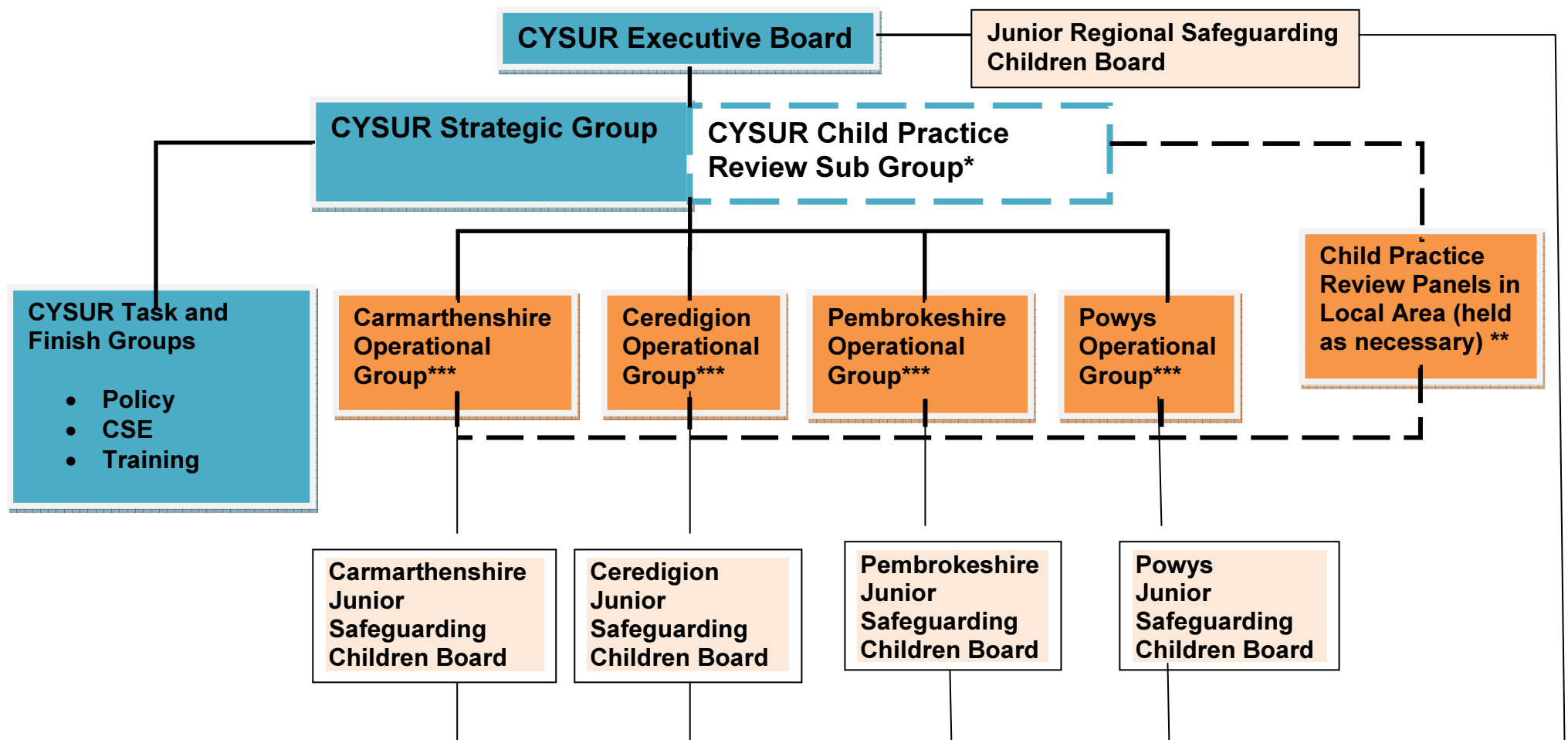
**Analysis/Comment**

The graphs above highlight the attendance and reporting of key professional groups at child protection conferences. It has been recognised by CYSUR, Local

Operational Group, Carmarthenshire that GP attendance and reporting at Child Protection Conference is an area for improvement. Attendance by schools, school nurses, health visitors and the police is consistently good. Where schools do not attend this is often because there are issues providing cover for classes and the limited staffing resources within small schools.

Previously the LSCB agreed that the focus for improvements should be ensuring that a GP report is received for each conference; this year 92 reports were received; which is a similar figure to last year. The health board are continuing to work to address this issue.

The police attend and report to all initial child protection conferences but only attend and report to review child protection conferences where this is necessary. This accounts for the lower than expected attendance and reporting to child protection conference by the police.



\*Accountability for the functioning of CYSUR Child Practice Review Sub Group will be through the Chair of CYSUR Child Practice Review Sub Group both in attendance at CYSUR Executive Board and with regular meetings with the Chair of CYSUR.

\*\*Accountability for Child Practice Review in the Local Area remains with the relevant Head of Children’s Services with professional challenge through their membership of CYSUR Child Practice Review Sub Group

\*\*\*Local arrangements sit under these with flexibility to meet locally defined need

## Appendix 2

<b>Membership of CYSUR Executive Board as at September 2015</b>			
Jake Morgan (Chair)	Statutory Director Social Services		Carmarthenshire County Council
Caroline Oakley (Vice Chair)	Director of Nursing		Hywel Dda Health Board
Rhiannon Jones	Director of Nursing		Powys Teaching Health Board
Karen Toohey	Designated Professional Safeguarding Children		Safeguarding Children Service, Public Health Wales
Stefan Smith	Head of Children's Services		Carmarthenshire County Council
Pam Marsden	Statutory Director Social Services		Pembrokeshire County Council
Allison Parkinson	Head of Children's Services		Pembrokeshire County Council
Amanda Lewis	Statutory Director Social Services		Powys County Council
Pauline Higham	Head of Children's Services		Powys County Council
Parry Davies	Statutory Director Social Services		Ceredigion County Council
Elfed Hopkins	Head of Children's Services		Ceredigion County Council
Kate Evan Hughes	Director of Children and Schools		Pembrokeshire County Council, Lead representative of Directors of Education (ERW)
Andy John	Detective Superintendent		Dyfed Powys Police
Christine Harley	Assistant Chief Executive		National Probation Service
Ella Rabaiotti	Assistant Chief Executive		Community Rehabilitation Company
Steve Davis	Service Manager for Pembrokeshire Youth		Lead representative from all 4 Youth Offending Teams
Marie Mitchell	Director of CAVS		Lead Representative from Voluntary Sector



### Appendix 3

<b>Membership of CYSUR Local Operational Group, Carmarthenshire as at September 2015</b>		
Stefan Smith (Chair)	Head of Children's Services	Carmarthenshire County Council
Angela Lodwick	Head – Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	Hywel Dda Health Board
Bethan Tinney	Senior Practitioner, Safeguarding for Education	Carmarthenshire County Council
Dr V. Vipulendran	Named Doctor	Pembrokeshire County Council
Frances Lewis	Service Manager, Children Services	Carmarthenshire County Council
Hannah Williams	Deputy Assistant Chief Executive	National Probation Service
Julie Breckon	Reviewing Manager	Carmarthenshire County Council
Natalie Hardess	Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator	Domestic Abuse Forum
Neil Edwards	Service Manager, Adult Services	Carmarthenshire County Council
Noreen Jackman	Service Manager, Children Services	Carmarthenshire County Council
Paul Jones	Detective Inspector	Dyfed Powys Police
Rebecca Copp	Child Protection Co-ordinator	Carmarthenshire County Council
Rhian Lovell	Deputy Assistant Chief Executive	Community Rehabilitation Company
Ruth Harrison	Interim Safeguarding Children Lead – Acute Services	Hywel Dda Health Board

## Appendix 4. Glossary of Terms

Adult Safeguarding Board (ASB)	The Adult Safeguarding Board oversees the adult safeguarding work in the county, promoting prevention, effective investigation and appropriate aftercare for victims of abuse. The Adult Safeguarding Board monitors and audits adult safeguarding work.
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service CAFCASS CYMRU provides expert independent advice to Courts on the interests of children involved in family proceedings. All cases are referred to us by a court or high court.
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are part of the National Health Service (NHS). CAMHS provide mental Health Services to children and adolescents.
Care First Database	The Care First Database is used by Children's Services to record information about their involvement with children.
Child Death Review Team	The Child Death Review Team undertakes Child Death Reviews. Child death reviews are needed to understand why children die and to use the findings to take action that can protect other children and prevent future deaths.
Child Protection Referrals	A referral to a Children's Services Assessment Team where it is deemed that a child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm.
Child Protection Register	The Child Protection Register is a register of children within a local authority area who are at risk of significant harm.  The purpose of placing a child's name on the register is to alert all professionals working with a child to the risk of significant harm. It confirms that an interagency plan for the protection of the child is in place and must be complied with, and that a key worker is working with the child and family.
Children and Young People's Partnership	The Children and Young People's Partnership was established at the end of 2006 in response to the statutory requirement contained in the Children Act 2004. Its key responsibility is to improve the outcomes for children and young people (aged 0-25) across Carmarthenshire and implement the single Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011.
Community Safety Partnership	The Community Safety Partnership was formed to deliver safety and security in Carmarthenshire. The partnership's key priorities are to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-social behaviour and fear of crime</li> <li>• Substance misuse</li> <li>• Domestic abuse</li> <li>• Burglary</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violent / Alcohol related crime</li> <li>• Vehicle crime</li> <li>• Road safety</li> </ul>
CSSIW	Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales. Their role is to make professional assessments and judgments about social care, early years and social services and so encourage improvement by the service providers. They inspect and review local authority social services, and regulate and inspect care settings and agencies.
Domestic Abuse	<p>Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.”</p> <p>This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: Psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional</p>
ETE	Education Training and Employment.
Health, Social Care and Well Being Partnership	<p>The Health, Social Care &amp; Well Being Partnership Strategy was formed to focus on improving people's health and well being. Key priorities include:</p> <p>Improve health</p> <p>Promote and enforce good standards of health</p> <p>Support children in need</p> <p>Improve the quality and availability of housing</p> <p>Improve the availability and quality of services for adults and their carers</p>
HMI Probation	Her Majesty's Inspectorate Probation.
Initial Assessment	The Initial Assessment will establish whether a child is in need and additionally whether the child is in need of protection.
Initial Child Protection Conference	<p>The Initial Child Protection Conference brings together family members, the child where appropriate, and those professionals most involved with the child and the family, following child protection s47 enquiries.</p> <p>Its purpose is to:</p> <p>Objectively analyse, in an interagency setting, all the concerns and the information which has been obtained from the initial assessment, the child protection section 47 enquiries, the core assessment to date and from previous knowledge of the family;</p> <p>Make judgements about the likelihood of a child or any other connected or unborn children suffering significant harm in the future, that is, the level of continuing risk;</p>

	Decide what future action is required to safeguard the child and to promote their welfare, agree how to take this forward and clarify the intended outcomes for the child, that is, the need for registration and a child protection plan.
Initial Core Group	The core group is responsible for developing and implementing the child protection plan as a detailed working tool within the outline plan agreed at the initial child protection conference.
Looked After Children (LAC)	A child or young person is 'looked after' if they are cared for by the local authority either under Section 20 or Section 31 of the Children Act 1989.
PPU	Public Protection Unit within police forces
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
Multi Agency Practice Forum	Multi-agency professional forums are a continuous LSCB programme of multi-professional facilitated "learning together" events for practitioners and managers. They can be used for case learning events using a systems approach and for disseminating and exploring learning from audits, inspections and reviews.
Section 28 duty	Statutory duty within the Children Act 2004 for LSCB Member agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
S47 Enquiry	The purpose of child protection s47 enquiries is to determine what if any action is needed to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child.
Child Practice Review	Child practice reviews take place after a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. The purpose is to review what has happened and to learn from the experience so that current inter-agency child protection practice and arrangements can be improved. They are the equivalent of serious case reviews in England; case management reviews in Northern Ireland; and significant case reviews in Scotland.
Strategy discussion	The purpose of the strategy discussion is for the police, social care and the referring agency to share and discuss in detail all information gathered to date, as well as the nature of the concern. A decision must be made whether to initiate child protection section 47 enquiries or to continue with them if they have already begun.
Substance Misuse	Substance taking which harms health or social functioning' - substance misuse may be dependency (physical or psychological) or substance taking that is part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.
Wales Strategic Migration Partnership	The Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (Asylum Seekers, Refugees & Migrants) plays a lead role working with a range of partners from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors in the development of strategic policies and initiatives on asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Wales.

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Revenue & Capital Budget  
Monitoring Report 2015/16**

**To consider and comment on the following issues:**

- That the Scrutiny Committee receives the budget monitoring report for the Education & Children Department and considers the budgetary position.

**Reasons:**

- To provide the Committee with an update on the latest budgetary position, as at 30th June 2015, in respect of the 2015/16 financial year.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:**

- Cllr. David Jenkins (Resources)
- Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Resources</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Chris Moore</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Owen Bowen</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Head of Financial Services</p> <p>Chief Accountant</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b></p> <p>01267 224160 <a href="mailto:cmoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">cmoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01267 224886 <a href="mailto:obowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">obowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

## Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16

The monitoring exercise for the period to the 30th June 2015 is attached and indicates that:

### **Revenue Budgets (Appendix A)**

The Education & Children Department is forecasting an overspend of £602k for the year.

The main adverse budget variations relate to school based EVR and redundancy costs (+£631k); Residential and Respite Units (+£348k); EOTAS (Education other than at School) (+£252k); Adult & community learning (+£176k); Youth Service (+£75k); Out of Hours Service (+£64k); Educational Psychology (£43k); Legal fees in respect of care proceedings (£33k) and FACT & Family Aide Services (£24k).

These are partially offset by under-spends across the department in: Staff vacancies, secondments and maximising use of grant funding (-£713k); Out of County Care Placements (-£132k); Payments to private early years providers (-£98k); Fostering services & support (-£62k); Children's Services management & support (-£37k).

### **Capital Budgets (Appendix B)**

**MEP External Funding -£1,057k** Additional External funding secured.

**Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth £456k** re-profile required due to delays in 14/15 works carried forward to 15/16.

**Seaside CP School -£3,000k** delay in approving outline business case by Welsh Government.

**Ysgol Trimsaran -£664k** Delay due to site selection issues.

*A list of the main variances is attached to this report.*

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

**Signed:            Chris Moore            Head of Financial Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

**3. Finance**

Revenue – The Education & Children Department is currently forecasting an overspend of £602k and will utilise Departmental Reserves in order to break even at year end.

Capital – The capital programme is on target against the 2015-16 approved budget.

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

**Signed:            Chris Moore            Head of Financial Services**

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2015/16 Budget	Resources Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

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## Education and Children Scrutiny Report

Appendix A

### Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year £'000	Note
	Controllable Expenditure £'000	Controllable Income £'000	Net Non Controllable £'000	Total Net £'000	Controllable Expenditure £'000	Controllable Income £'000	Net Non Controllable £'000	Total Net £'000		
<b>Director &amp; Strategic Management</b>										
Director & Management Team	760	0	-151	609	695	0	-151	544	-65	1
<b>Director &amp; Strategic Management</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-151</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-151</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>-65</b>	
<b>Education Services Division</b>										
Schools Delegated Budget	109,708	0	0	109,708	109,708	-0	-0	109,708	0	
School Expenditure not currently delegated	459	0	16,809	17,268	428	0	16,809	17,236	-31	2
School Redundancy & EVR	1,602	0	-714	888	2,233	0	-714	1,518	631	3
School Modernisation	19	-5	62	76	20	-5	62	77	1	
Governor Support & Admissions	265	0	64	328	245	0	64	309	-19	4
Early Years Non-Maintained Provision	500	0	21	521	401	0	21	422	-98	5
Special Educational Needs	3,324	-1,341	174	2,157	3,045	-1,352	174	1,867	-290	6
EOTAS & Behaviour Services	1,015	-206	28	837	1,263	-202	28	1,090	252	7
Rhydygors Day Centre	707	-52	21	676	672	-52	21	642	-35	8
Sensory Impairment	321	-12	11	321	332	-16	11	327	7	
Educational Psychology	928	-45	62	945	1,038	-112	62	988	43	9
<b>Education Services Division</b>	<b>118,848</b>	<b>-1,661</b>	<b>16,537</b>	<b>133,724</b>	<b>119,385</b>	<b>-1,738</b>	<b>16,537</b>	<b>134,184</b>	<b>460</b>	
<b>Strategic Development</b>										
School Milk & Uniform Grants	245	-244	12	13	245	-244	12	13	0	
Information & Improvement	323	-35	101	389	328	-57	101	372	-16	
Business Support	520	0	206	726	520	0	206	726	-0	
Participation	85	0	0	85	84	0	0	84	-1	
School Meals & Primary Free Breakfast Services	7,759	-6,712	745	1,792	7,783	-6,737	745	1,792	0	
<b>Strategic Development</b>	<b>8,931</b>	<b>-6,992</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>3,004</b>	<b>8,960</b>	<b>-7,038</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>-17</b>	

Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year £'000	Note
	Controllable Expenditure £'000	Controllable Income £'000	Net Non Controllable £'000	Total Net £'000	Controllable Expenditure £'000	Controllable Income £'000	Net Non Controllable £'000	Total Net £'000		

## Education and Children Scrutiny Report

Appendix A

### Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Service										
<b>School Improvement</b>										
School Effectiveness Support Services	225	-57	277	445	266	-94	277	449	4	
National Model for School Improvement	1,037	75	79	1,192	1,055	52	79	1,186	-5	
Welsh Language Support	877	-890	0	-13	876	-888	0	-12	0	
Education Improvement Grant	8,863	-8,159	0	704	8,864	-8,159	0	705	0	
Other School Grants incl PDG	3,757	-3,752	133	138	4,416	-4,412	133	138	0	
<b>School Improvement</b>	<b>14,760</b>	<b>-12,783</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>15,476</b>	<b>-13,500</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>-1</b>	
<b>Learner Programmes</b>										
Post 16 Funding	6,192	-6,192	0	0	6,192	-6,192	0	-0	-0	
Music Services for Schools	1,457	-1,556	9	-90	1,450	-1,549	9	-90	-0	
Youth Service	449	-22	149	575	536	-34	149	650	75	10
Youth Service short term grants	220	-220	10	11	224	-223	10	11	0	
Families First Grant (Youth)	795	-795	58	59	795	-795	58	59	-0	
Youth Offending & Prevention Service	879	-481	112	510	879	-481	112	510	-0	
Adult & Community Learning	525	-522	265	268	705	-526	265	444	176	11
<b>Learner Programmes</b>	<b>10,517</b>	<b>-9,788</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>10,781</b>	<b>-9,801</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>251</b>	

### Forecasted for year to 31 March 2016

Service	Working Budget				Forecasted				Variance For Year	Note
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non Controllable	Total Net		
<b>Children's Services Division</b>										
Commissioning and Social Work	5,660	-19	567	6,209	5,394	-19	567	5,942	-266	12
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	724	0	103	827	726	0	103	829	2	
Fostering Services & Support	3,506	0	95	3,601	3,459	-15	95	3,539	-62	13
Adoption Services	489	-55	33	467	562	-132	33	463	-4	
Out of County Placements (CS)	818	-52	3	769	714	-80	3	636	-132	14
Residential and Respite Units	1,386	-405	110	1,091	1,483	-155	110	1,438	348	15
Short Breaks and Domiciliary Care	343	0	7	351	349	0	7	356	6	
Childcare	387	-118	36	306	392	-122	36	306	-0	
Direct Payments	184	0	1	185	203	0	1	204	19	16
Children's/Family Centres and Playgroups	522	-300	90	312	587	-364	90	312	0	
Flying Start Grant	3,927	-3,926	112	113	3,927	-3,926	112	113	0	
Families First Core & Grant	2,363	-2,244	57	176	2,363	-2,244	57	176	-0	
Preventative incl Section 17 payments	222	0	36	258	205	0	36	242	-17	17
Aids & Adaptions	12	0	1	13	6	0	1	7	-6	
FACT and Family Aide Services	197	0	32	229	221	0	32	253	24	18
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	180	0	7	187	323	-141	7	188	1	

## Education and Children Scrutiny Report

Appendix A

### Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Out of Hours Service	250	-64	6	192	314	-64	6	257	64	19
Children's Services Mgt & Support (incl Care First)	1,108	-108	1,116	2,116	1,071	-108	1,116	2,078	-37	20
Legal Fees	430	0	0	430	463	0	0	463	33	21
Education Welfare	407	0	54	461	451	-41	54	464	2	
<b>Children's Services Division</b>	<b>23,115</b>	<b>-7,291</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>18,291</b>	<b>23,212</b>	<b>-7,413</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>18,265</b>	<b>-26</b>	
<b>SERVICE TOTAL</b>	<b>176,930</b>	<b>-38,514</b>	<b>21,011</b>	<b>159,427</b>	<b>178,509</b>	<b>-39,491</b>	<b>21,011</b>	<b>160,029</b>	<b>602</b>	
<b>Contribution to/from Departmental Reserves</b>									<b>-602</b>	
<b>Net Forecasted End of Year Variance</b>									<b>0</b>	

<b>Main Variance Summary</b>		<b>£'000</b>
1	Director & Management Team - Utilisation of grant income which ends March 2016	-65
2	Education Services - School Expenditure not currently delegated - WJEC reviewed and reduced fees for 2015-16	-31
3	Education Services - School Redundancy & EVR - Additional cost of School related EVR and redundancies	631
4	Education Services - Governor Support & Admissions - Expenditure relating to the updating of school plans less than estimated	-19
5	Education Services - Early Years Non-Maintained Provision - Reduction in demand for 10 hours free education for 3 year olds in non maintained settings	-98
6	Education Services - Special Educational Needs - Vacant posts and utilisation of grant. The underspend is being managed in conjunction with the current pressures within Home Tuition below	-290
7	Education Services - EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) & Behaviour Services - Projected overspend in the cost of the EOTAS, specifically the home tuition service	252
8	Education Services - Rhydygors Day Centre - Vacant posts within the day centre are being considered within the review of provision	-35
9	Education Services - Educational Psychology - Additional staffing costs due to increased service demand - recharges are being reviewed to reduce this pressure	43
10	Learner Programmes - Youth Service - Additional staffing costs £37k, URDD £15k, Evolve Licence £5k, transport & travel £14k, and contribution towards communications team £4k	75
11	Learner Programmes - Adult & Community Learning - Forecast overspend due to maintaining & subsidising four Community Centres which are only used in part for the ACL classes £10k and the cost of course tuition exceeding the franchise income by £166k	176
12	Children's Services - Commissioning and Social Work - In year vacancies across the Social Care Teams	-266
13	Children's Services - Fostering Services & Support - Savings anticipated on Boarded out payments -£95k, partially offset by salary overspend on fostering services £20k and transport of children by taxis to maintain stability whenever possible £13k	-62
14	Children's Services - Out of County Placements (CS) - Savings anticipated on Out of County placements based on current levels, with a contingency for a further phase that is being progressed	-132
15	Children's Services - Residential & Respite Units - Forecast overspend in staffing at Garreglwyd £66k, Blaenau £22k & Llys Caradog £10k. In addition, the planned additional contribution from the LHB is unlikely to be achieved in 2015-16 £250k	348
16	Children's Services - Direct Payments - Increasing number of direct payments processed. This should result in savings across other service areas	19
17	Children's Services - Preventative incl Section 17 Payments - Underspend based on current level of payments	-17
18	Children's Services - FACT and Family Aide Services - Additional staffing costs for court duties	24
19	Children's Services - Out of Hours Service - Increasing number of referrals being handled by the out of hours service for Children Services &	64

## Education and Children Scrutiny Report

<b>Appendix A</b>
-------------------

### Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015-16 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

	Communities Department	
<b>20</b>	Children's Services - Children's Services Management and Support Service (incl Care First) - Part year vacant posts in Policy -£41k, staff travelling & other minor efficiencies in management team -£18k partially offset by an increase in SLA costs for Carefirst £22k however there is a potential for additional contribution from Adult Services	-37
<b>21</b>	Children's Services - Legal Fees - Overspend on legal fees based on current level of cases	33
	Other	-11
<b>Forecasted end of year Service variance:</b>		<b>602</b>
<b>Contribution to/from Departmental Reserves</b>		<b>-602</b>
<b>Education and Children Net Variance</b>		<b>0</b>

# Education & Children Services

## Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report for June 2015

Appendix B

			Working Budget			Forecasted		
Net Exp to June 2015 £'000	Scheme	Target Date for Completion	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
-5,516	MEP External Funding Income	Ongoing	0	-12,062	-12,062	0	-13,119	-13,119
4,457	MEP - Tranche 2 & 3		22,048	0	22,048	22,503	0	22,503
56	Ffwrnes - New Two Form Entry School	Completed	1,295	0	1,295	1,295	0	1,295
89	Dinefwr Project - Dyffryn Aman	Sep-16	1,301	0	1,301	1,300	0	1,300
1,123	Dinefwr Project - Maes Y Gwendraeth	Sep-16	7,819	0	7,819	8,275	0	8,275
3,189	Dinefwr Project - Ysgol Bro Dinefwr	Mar-17	11,633	0	11,633	11,633	0	11,633
2,137	MEP - Band A Projects		17,810	0	17,810	14,115	0	14,115
102	Seaside CP School - New Two Form Entry	Sep-19	5,000	0	5,000	2,000	0	2,000
628	Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen - Mobile & New School	Sep-17	3,829	0	3,829	3,832	0	3,832
0	Cwm Tywi - New Area Primary School	Apr-18	100	0	100	100	0	100
863	Burry Port Schools Development	Ongoing	1,826	0	1,826	1,821	0	1,821
36	Ysgol Trimsaran - New School Building	Jan-19	950	0	950	286	0	286
330	Ysgol Y Strade - Phase 1	Ongoing	986	0	986	982	0	982
0	Llandeilo Primary - Band A	Ongoing	100	0	100	100	0	100
9	Ammanford Primary Band A	Ongoing	100	0	100	100	0	100
11	Parc Y Tywyn Band A	Ongoing	100	0	100	100	0	100
3	Llanelli Vocational Village	Ongoing	1,169	0	1,169	1,144	0	1,144
155	Ysgol Coedcae - Phase 1	Ongoing	3,300	0	3,300	3,300	0	3,300
0	St John Lloyd	Ongoing	350	0	350	350	0	350
10	MEP - Band B Projects		0	0	0	10	0	10
10	Five Roads - Band B	Ongoing	0	0	0	10	0	10
1	MEP - Other Projects		300	0	300	286	0	286
0	Glanymor Youth Project & Changing Rooms	Completed	33	0	33	20	0	20
1	Provision Expenditure	Ongoing	265	0	265	246	0	246
0	Ysgol Dewi Sant - Improvements to Space Configuration	Ongoing	2	0	2	20	0	20
11	MEP - Completed / Practically Completed	Completed	0	0	0	43	0	43
13	Flying Start Capital Expansion Programme	Ongoing	762	-755	7	762	-755	7
13	Fostering Services Projects	Mar-16	13	0	13	13	0	13
1,126	NET BUDGET		40,933	-12,817	28,116	37,732	-13,874	23,858

Variance for Year	Comment
-1,057	Additional External funding secured
455	
0	
-1	
456	Reprofile required due to delays in 14/15 works carried forward to 15/16
0	
-3,695	
-3,000	Delay in approving outline business case by Welsh Government
3	
0	
-5	
-664	Delay due to site selection issues
-4	
0	
0	
0	
0	
-25	
0	
0	
10	
10	
-14	
-13	
-19	
18	
43	
0	
0	
-4,258	

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Introduction of a Corporate Safeguarding Policy  
that covers all the Council's service areas**

**To consider and comment on the following issues:**

- That the Scrutiny Committee endorses the proposed policy.

**Reasons:**

- A corporate Safeguarding Policy will ensure that there is satisfactory governance in place across the Authority in relation to the Safeguarding of Children and Adults.
- To formulate views for submission to the Executive Board/Council for consideration.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES**

**Executive Board                      28th September 2015  
County Council                      14th October 2015**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:**

- Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)
- Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health)

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Education &amp; Children</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Stefan Smith</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Stefan Smith</p>	<p><b>Designation:</b></p> <p>Head of Children's Services</p>	<p><b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b></p> <p>01267 246530 <a href="mailto:sjsmith@sirgar.gov.uk">sjsmith@sirgar.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

## Introduction of a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that covers all the Council's service areas

During the period March to May 2014, the Wales Audit Office completed a review of the assurance and accountability arrangements of Carmarthenshire County Council for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and are being adhered to.

The study examined what the Council itself has done to seek assurance that its arrangements to support safeguarding are effective by reviewing how the Council is discharging its safeguarding responsibilities at all levels: cabinet, senior management team, scrutiny and individual officers.

The study focussed on answering the following: Do the Council's governance and management arrangements provide assurance that children are safeguarded?

The main questions that the review sought to answer were:

- Are there clear governance, accountability and management arrangements for overseeing whether the Council is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
- Is the Council monitoring and evaluating appropriate information, which provides assurance that it is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
- Are assurance systems operating effectively?

The review was specifically in relation to children and overall the findings were that the authority had adequate systems in place. There were however, a series of recommendations. One of these was:

- Develop and introduce a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that covers all the Council's service areas.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**



## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

**Signed:            Stefan Smith            Head of Children's Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

**Signed:            Stefan Smith            Head of Children's Services**

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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**Carmarthenshire Council**

**Corporate Safeguarding Policy**

**September 2015**

DRAFT

# **Index of contents**

- 1. Introduction.**
- 2. Objectives and Principles of the Policy and Guidelines.**
- 3. Legal framework.**
- 4. Responsibilities and duties of staff and elected members.**
- 5. The Governance framework for Safeguarding.**
- 6. Reporting, monitoring, and reviewing.**
- 7. The referral process.**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 One of Carmarthenshire Council's main priorities is to ensure that there are robust arrangements and procedures in place to safeguard children and adults.

1.2 Within Carmarthenshire Council, safeguarding is considered to be a priority for every department, while acknowledging that Children's Services and Adult Social Care departments are the lead for dealing with enquiries regarding children and adults that may be suffering significant harm. Therefore Carmarthenshire Council acknowledges its responsibilities for providing direction for staff, Councillors, partnership agencies and the people of Carmarthenshire.

1.3 Safeguarding is not only concerned with the protection of children and adults but also the promotion of:

- physical, emotional and mental health;
- protection from harm and neglect;
- education, training and leisure;
- their contribution to society;
- social and economic well-being.

1.4 Every organisation working with children/young people must follow the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and those working with adults must follow the Wales Adult Protection Policy and Procedures. A number of organisations have statutory roles or duties:

- under Section 28 of the Children Act 2004, Carmarthenshire Council has a duty to ensure that it undertakes its functions from the perspective of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children;
- under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, it is Carmarthenshire Council's duty to ensure that every reasonable step is taken to protect adults and prevent crime and disorder when it undertakes its functions.

- 1.5 The purpose of this document is to introduce Carmarthenshire Council's 'Policy and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Adults'.
- 1.6 Every member of staff of the council and every Councillor will receive a copy of this document.

## **2. Objectives and Principles of the Policy and Guidelines**

2.1 The following are the objectives of the Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines:

- To emphasise the approach in which Carmarthenshire Council undertakes its legal commitments in the field of safeguarding children and adults;
- To give reassurance to members of the public, service users, partner agencies. Council staff, councillors and people working on behalf of the Council that there are clear arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children and adults;
- That Council staff and councillors have clear guidelines to be used when there is doubt that a child or adult is at risk of harm.

2.2 We are of the opinion as a Council that it is always unacceptable for a child or an adult to be abused or be harmed in any way. This is reflected in the following principles which form the basis of the Policy and Guidelines:

- As a Council we believe that every child and adult (whatever their background, culture, age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religious belief) has a right to participate in a safe society without any violence, fear, abuse, bullying and discrimination;
- As a Council we believe that every child and adult has the right to be protected from harm, exploitation and abuse;
- As a Council we will put the welfare of children and adults centrally in our policies and procedures;

- As a Council we will work closely in partnership with children, their parents, carers and adults; partner agencies; and others working on behalf of the Council; to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults;
- As a Council we will respect the rights, wishes, feelings and privacy of children and adults by listening to them and minimising any risks that may affect them;
- As a Council we will invest in preventative work and early intervention and try to avoid situations where abuse or allegations of abuse or harm may occur;
- As a Council we want to ensure a working environment where our staff feel confident to raise any concerns about any perceived malpractice within the Council.

### 2.3 Outcomes

These Policy and Guidelines reflect the Council's commitment to safeguard children and adults and to protect them from being abused when they receive services arranged and provided by or on behalf of the Council.

### 2.4 When the Guidelines are introduced, we will measure the effect regularly and achieve the following high level outcomes:

- there is a clear understanding amongst staff, councillors, partner agencies; and others working on behalf of the Council; of the policies and guidelines for safeguarding children and adults;
- there are robust corporate and departmental procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Policies and Guidelines introduced here;
- there are clear and suitable communication arrangements in place across the organisation, including information about the key officers in each Service who are responsible for children and adult safeguarding issues;
- there is compliance between the procedures and those which are operational on an all-Wales basis and associated protocols for safeguarding children and adults ;

- that staff and councillors receive information and training regarding the guidelines and that this is a continuous and permanent arrangement within the organisation.

### **3. Legal framework**

#### **3.1 Definition of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children**

The definition of a child for the purpose of this document is anyone under the age of 18 years.

3.2 The **Children Act 1989** sets out that the child's welfare is paramount and safeguarding and promoting it is the priority.

3.3 The **Children Act 2004** sets out a duty on local authorities to work closely with those providing services to children and young people.

3.4 **All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008** sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. It is important that all staff and volunteers working to safeguard children and young people understand fully their responsibilities and duties as set out in primary legislation and associated regulations and guidance.

3.5 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on a range of organisations to make arrangements to ensure that their functions, and services provided on their behalf, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development



- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

### 3.6 Definition of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Vulnerable Adults

#### **Wales Interim Policy & Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse First Version: November 2010 Second Version – January 2013**

The *Wales Adult Protection Policy and Procedures* are based on certain principles of the European Convention of Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998:

- Everyone has the right to live their lives free from coercion, intimidation, oppression and physical, sexual, emotional or mental harm.
- Everyone has the right to a family life and privacy.
- Everyone has a right to confidentiality in respect of personal information, where this does not infringe the rights of other people.
- Everyone has the right to receive full and comprehensive information to allow them to make informed choices about their own circumstances.
- Everyone has the right to the protection of the law and full access to the judicial process and criminal justice system.

3.7 Accordingly, adult protection should operate in the context of fully engaged citizenship, not restricted to social care, health services and the criminal justice system.

3.8 A vulnerable adult is a person over 18 years of age who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation. As well as in the adult's own home, abuse can occur in any setting and anywhere, eg, in care homes, day services, the home of a relative, worker or volunteer, in the community, for example when using transport.

### 3.9 Whistleblowing.

We take any malpractice within the Council very seriously, as we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of openness, probity and accountability. If any staff have serious concerns about any aspect of the Council's work then they are encouraged and expected to come forward and voice those concerns.

#### **4. Responsibilities and duties of staff and elected members.**

- 4.1 Every Councillor, every member of staff, every volunteer and every contracted service provider has a responsibility to adhere to the appropriate procedures in this policy.
- 4.2 This means that every Service within the Council has a key role to play and has to take full ownership of the safeguarding field. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that there are clear arrangements and procedures in place within each Service in the Council to ensure that investigations into allegations / concerns that children and adults may be suffering substantial harm receive due consideration.
- 4.3 This document draws together the corporate policies and guidelines in the field of safeguarding children and adults and it will operate as a framework for the procedures of every Service in the Council. Every Service is expected to draw up its own policies and procedures for safeguarding children and adults to fully comply with this corporate Policy and Guidelines.

#### **Functions of key officers and members**

- 4.4 *The Chief Executive* has the general responsibility for ensuring that there is an effective safeguarding policy in relation to children and adults in place; that procedures for reporting concerns are in place and that these are implemented and known within the organisation.

He is also responsible for the development of effective corporate governance and satisfying all the statutory requirements. However, there are some Key Officers who are highlighted because of their responsibilities in the safeguarding field:

4.5 *The Statutory Director (Social Services)* has the final and indivisible responsibility for safeguarding issues. He is responsible for ensuring that the Council has appropriate safeguarding measures to protect children and young people, adults and vulnerable older people and he is responsible for reporting at a corporate level to councillors on their effectiveness.

4.6 The Director is responsible for the following:

- Having oversight of the process of implementing, monitoring and improving the safeguarding and protection procedures for children and adults;
- ensuring that there are robust reporting arrangements and processes for safeguarding children and adults to report at a corporate level and to Members;
- ensuring Carmarthenshire are represented effectively at the Regional Safeguarding Children Board;
- ensuring that lessons are learned as a result of child practice reviews and that they are applied within the county.
- raising the profile, supporting the policy and ensuring that the Council complies fully with the Policy and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Adults;
- ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to enable every member of staff to understand and implement high standards in terms of identifying risks and safeguarding practices;
- Ensuring that the council promotes awareness amongst the public of issues relating to safeguarding children and adults and to adapt social work practices in light of appropriate research;
- Submitting observations in his statutory role in Executive board and Council reports dealing with safeguarding.
- Deliver an annual report to the Chief Executive, Executive Board and Full council.

4.7 Whilst every member of staff has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults, the Statutory Director is the most Senior Officer in the Council with the responsibility for this.

4.8 *Lead Director for children and young people.*

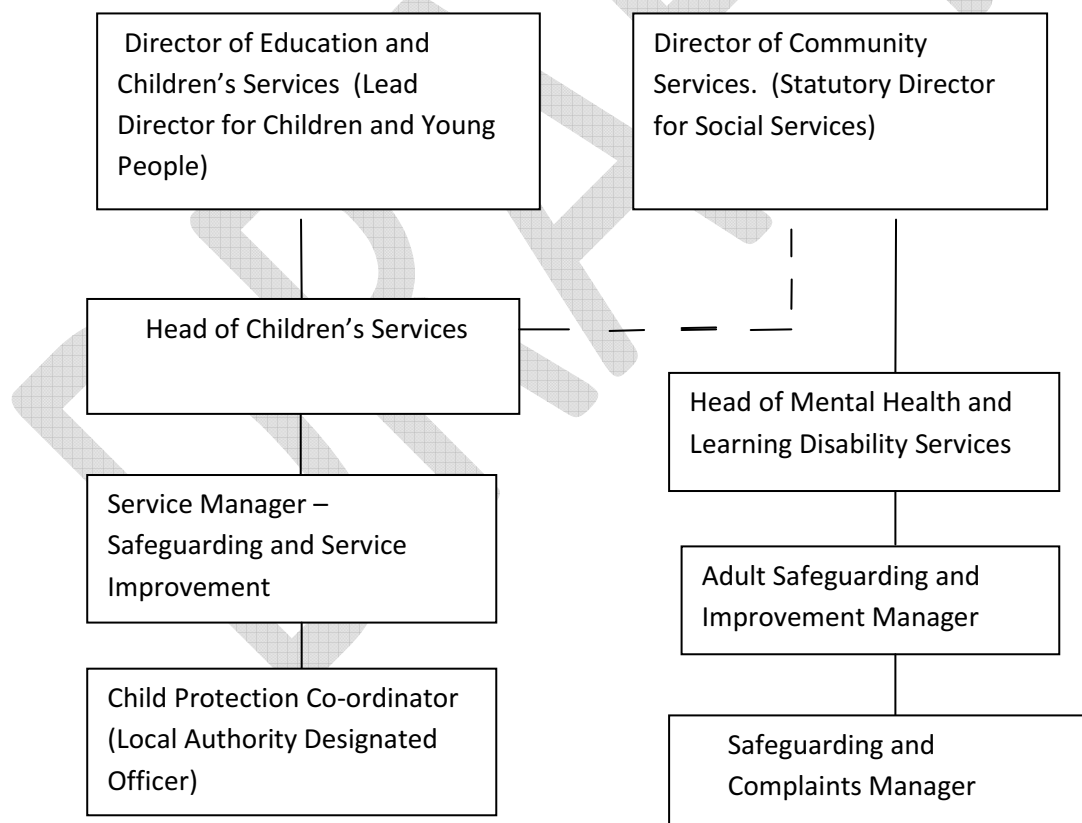
The Children Act (2004) places a responsibility on every local authority in Wales to appoint a Lead Director for children and young people services and to appoint a specified lead member for children and young people services. The role of the Lead Director in Wales does not change the arrangements of an executive authority or change accountability for services. In Carmarthenshire this is the Director for Education and Children. The principle roles of this are :

- To work closely with the Head of Children's Services and the Statutory director of Social Services to ensure Safeguarding is a priority in all aspects of planning and the performance management of services for children.
- To be responsible for promoting a partnership when planning for children and young people corporately across the departments of the local authority and in recognition of his lead role across the authority and its partners;
- To offer the required leadership to ensure that a high profile is given within the local authority to planning in partnership thereby promoting strategic change for children and young people in the field and ensuring that safeguarding practice is inherent in this planning framework is central to the work of the authority;
- for ensuring that the local authority implements the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child in particular the rights that protect and promote their rights to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their full potential;
- For ensuring, with the advice of the Statutory Director and the Head of Children's services that Children's Social care is line managed effectively and an environment is created which promotes the safety of children.

## Liaison arrangements

- 4.9 Formal monthly meetings are held between the Director of Education and Children's Services, Head of Children's Services and the Director of Community Services. Other parties may be included as required or deemed appropriate. Written records will be kept and additional meetings may be held if deemed necessary.
- 4.10 The Head of Children's Services has open access to the Director of Community Services for consultation, information gathering, specific performance issues and workforce development.

**Therefore within Carmarthenshire the lead officer for Safeguarding Children, the Head of Children's Services, reports to both Directors.**



## **All Heads of Service**

- 4.11 All Heads of Service, through their Management Teams, will be jointly responsible for ensuring that all the statutory requirements in terms of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults receive due consideration. This includes the quality, content and frequency of training provided and maintaining sufficient staff training records.
- 4.12 All Heads of Service must ensure that where those posts are designated as regulated activity, (see - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service> ), their staff are checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) procedures and that their staff conform to the Policy and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Adults. All Heads of Service must establish arrangements to ensure that they comply with the requirements of this policy and the Council's Criminal Records Policy. All Heads of Service must arrange that records are kept of every check that is made by the DBS.
- 4.13 All Heads of Service are expected to co-ordinate the process of preparing the Policy and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Adults in their Service. It is expected for this Policy to be prepared in order to highlight the Service's arrangements for responding to issues that could arise in the safeguarding field. It will be a requirement for the Policy to fully comply with the Corporate Policy and Guidelines.

## **Every Member of Staff and Volunteers**

- 4.14 Every member of staff and volunteers are responsible for undertaking their duties in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of children and adults. They must also act in a way which protects them against allegations of abuse as far as possible and in accordance with this policy. They must bring issues of concern regarding the safety and welfare of children and adults to the attention of their Manager.

## **Contractors, Sub-contractors or Other Organisations funded by or on behalf of Carmarthenshire Council**

4.15 Contractors, sub-contractors or other organisations funded by or on behalf of the Council are responsible for arranging checks through the DBS and to ensure that their staff comply with the appropriate Policy and Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Adults. They are also responsible for informing relevant managers of the Council about any concerns they may have and to refer to protection issues.

### **Every Contracted Line Manager**

4.16 Every Contracted Line Manager is responsible for ensuring that the staff for which they are responsible, receive the training which they need and that the training is proportionate to their responsibilities. There are guidelines regarding which members of staff should receive training and to what level and these are available from the Human Resources Service.

### **Role of elected members**

4.17 All elected Members are to:

- understand and apply this policy and procedure in their activities
- identify opportunities and undertake appropriate training to support them in their role
- act appropriately at all times and be able to challenge inappropriate behaviour in others
- be able to recognise harm
- know how to report any concerns in a timely and appropriate way

4.18 Any lessons from Child Practice Reviews will also be identified to Elected Members as part of the Annual Report.

4.19 Members of the Services Scrutiny Committee's will receive information regarding the work of Children's Services and Adult's Services in an Annual Report. This will provide an opportunity for Members to scrutinise and challenge Members of the Executive Board. Members of the Scrutiny Committee will receive information regarding the work programme of Social Services, the progress against this work programme and the main messages stemming from the performance management arrangements.

4.20 Every Member will receive information – by means of the annual report – on the efficiency of the Council's arrangements and procedures for safeguarding children and adults.

4.21 It will be expected that every Councillor attends training in the field of safeguarding children and adults. A register will be kept of those attending and this will be reported as part of the performance monitoring arrangements to the Corporate Safeguarding group that reports to the Chief Officers Management Team (CMT). The training will raise awareness amongst Carmarthenshire Councillors of this Policy and Guidelines and increase the Councillors' understanding of the safeguarding procedures which exist within the Council.

## **5. Corporate Governance on Safeguarding**

5.1 Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults has steadily risen in profile in Wales and across the UK. Having a clear line of sight across departments in this sensitive area is essential.

5.2 The corporate safeguarding group will report to CMT on a regular basis. The Corporate Officers Group will:

- Produce and keep updated the Corporate Safeguarding Policy;
- Produce, lead and monitor the development of a work-plan for the council in relation to Corporate Safeguarding;
- Develop and contribute to corporate policies and procedures that impact on children
- Quality assure and monitor the impact of such policies



- Ensure each department meets best practice guidance in relation to vulnerable children and adults;
- Implement the findings of any inspection of services that has corporate implications for safeguarding;
- Advise the Chief Executive as to any action that may need to be taken to improve corporate safeguarding practice. This will be formally done through quarterly reporting in the first instance;
- Produce an annual report on Corporate Safeguarding;
- Have oversight of corporate training on safeguarding;
- Guide the role of internal audit in monitoring safeguarding practice and have oversight of any reports as required;
- Review the reporting mechanisms to elected members as appropriate;

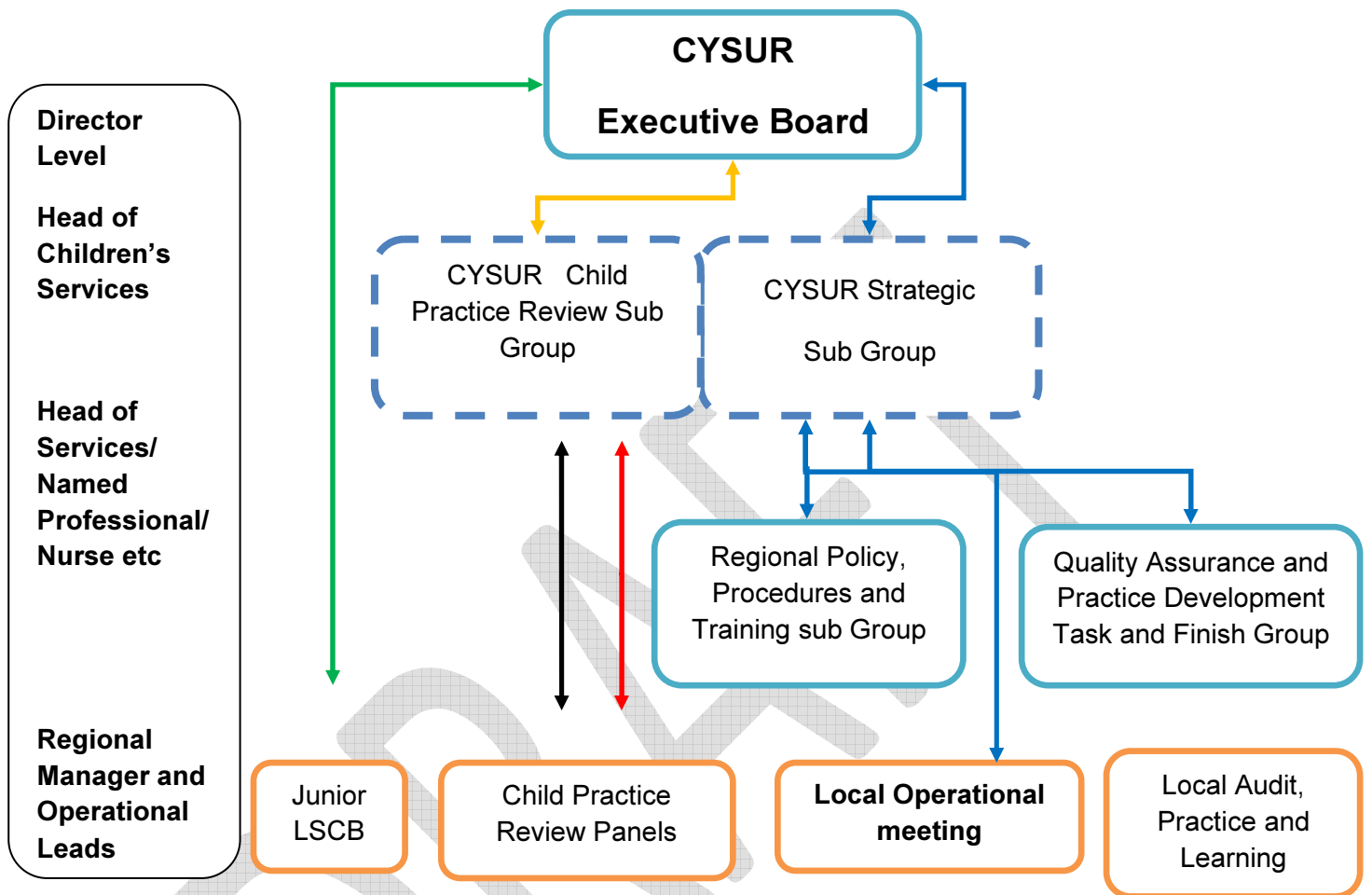
### 5.3 **Membership:**

- Director of Community Services (Chair and Statutory Director);
- Director for Education & Children's Services (Lead Director for Children and Young People);
- Assistant Chief Executive, People Management & Performance or his/her representative;
- Other departmental representatives as nominated .
- A Children and an Adult Protection Services lead;

The group meets monthly.

### **Operational Group for Safeguarding Children.**

- 5.4 **Children's Services** Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group (CLOG) is accountable to CYSUR, the Regional Safeguarding Board and acts in accordance with the guidance and requirements of that Panel.



5.5 The CLOG core functions are to:

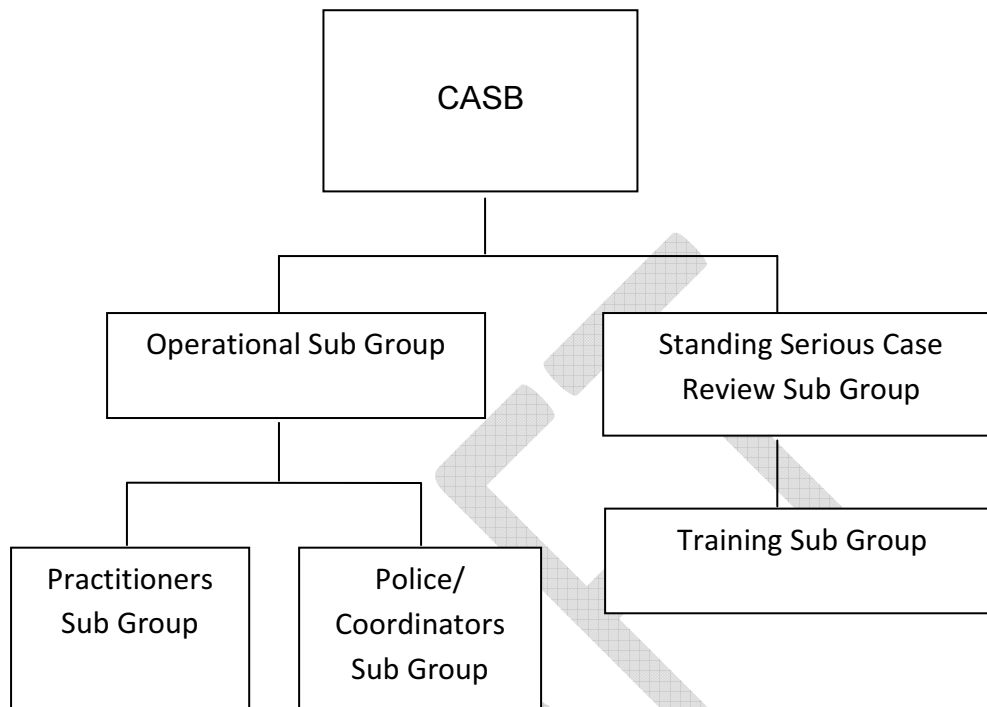
- Ensure safeguarding and child protection practice locally is in line with The All Wales Child Protection Procedures and that all new policy and procedure agreed by CYSUR is implemented locally;
- Set policy and procedures on protecting children from harm, preventing abuse and neglect, and improving inter-agency practice;
- Co-operate with all neighbouring authorities to encourage uniformity of policies and procedures;
- Undertake practice development in those areas identified in the CYSUR Business Plan;

- Maintain and improve the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection practice within the area by monitoring performance through regular reporting mechanisms within the Audit and Evaluation framework;
- Monitor member agencies' effectiveness in terms of their work to safeguard and promote children's welfare;
- Work with the Training Subgroup on identifying training and development needs in the area, through the successful implementation of the Training and Development Strategy;
- Act as a point of reference for agencies regarding safe recruitment and other child protection policies;
- Review private fostering procedures;
- Work in conjunction with local Children and Young People's Partnership to ensure that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is taken into account in the local planning and commissioning of children's services;
- Evaluate county wide child protection statistics and other management information to identify trends and making recommendations for action;
- Identify local issues connected to child protection and safeguarding on which action is required and developing and implementing local plans to address these;
- Provide quarterly reports to the CYSUR Executive Board.

### **Adult Services**

5.6 Carmarthenshire Adult Safeguarding Board is a standing committee of senior/lead officers within Adult Social Care, Hywel Dda Health Board, Dyfed Powys Police and the Crown Prosecution Service. It is chaired by the Director of Community Services. The Board's role is to promote the well being and protect adults at risk in its area.

## Carmarthenshire Adult Safeguarding Board



5.7 Carmarthenshire Adult Safeguarding Board is reported into each member agency's strategic safeguarding committee/board and into the Local Service Board.

The Board has seven strategic objectives:

- 1 Effective strategic leadership, accountability and governance
- 2 Making adult safeguarding everyone's business
- 3 Develop and implement joint policies, procedures and processes for safeguarding
- 4 Engagement with service users, carers and partner organisations
- 5 Develop best practice, experience, skills in safeguarding and adult protection for those who work with adults at risk
- 6 Ensure that learning is undertaken through serious case reviews, management reviews or appropriate learning experiences
- 7 To develop a regional collaborative approach

5.8 In order to effectively achieve the Board's objectives, the following subgroups have been established with specifically agreed functions and remits:

Multi agency:

- a) Operational subgroup
- b) Serious case review standing panel subgroup
- c) Practice evaluation subgroup
- d) Police/coordinators subgroup
- e) Training subgroup

5.9 These subgroups will be chaired by nominated members of the Board who will be held accountable for delivering and reporting on the Board's objectives. Each subgroup has its own terms of reference approved by the Board.

5.10 The Board will:

- Work to relevant guidance and legislation as set out in s7 Local Government Guidance, s44 Mental Capacity Act, In Safe Hands Guidance and the interim Wales Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults
- Undertake steps to foster and maintain a relationship of mutual trust and understanding amongst the persons or bodies represented on the Board in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults/adults at risk within the area of the Board

### **Carmarthenshire Council's Services Scrutiny Committee**

5.11 The Council's Services Scrutiny Committee has committed to convene specific meetings of the Committee on an annual basis to scrutinise and challenge the work and performance of the Strategic Panel for Safeguarding Children and Adults. It is considered that this is crucial so that Committee Members gain experience and understanding in the field and become completely aware of the breadth and depth of the Panel's work and the corporate arrangements.

## **The Integrated Community Strategy 2011 – 2016**

5.12 This establishes the strategic direction for the Council's work over the years to come and identifies clear priorities and outcomes and the strategic partnerships which will respond to these priorities.

5.13 There is already a commitment that the field of safeguarding children and adults will be a specific outcome priority in the Strategy. Realising the outcome in this field will strengthen the Council's arrangements in the safeguarding and will fully respond to some of the messages stemming from CSSIW and Estyn Inspections. The Corporate Safeguarding Group for Children and Adults will monitor the performance of Services in relation to Safeguarding.

### **6. Reporting, monitoring and reviewing**

6.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Group for Safeguarding Children and Adults will publish an Annual Report. This Annual Report will draw attention to the Council's performance in complying with the Corporate Policy and Guidelines. The Annual Report will be submitted to the Corporate Management Team, the Executive Board and to the full Council.

6.2 It is proposed to submit the Annual Report every June. Specific attention will be given to the following Performance Indicators:

No. of POVA referrals completed in the period

No. of child protection referrals in the period

% of Child referrals during the year where a decision is made within one working day

% of adult protection referrals completed during the year, the percentage where the risk has been managed

% of child protection reviews held within the statutory timetable during the year

% of adult clients with a care plan on 31 March whose care plans should have been reviewed that were reviewed during the year

% of risk assessments submitted to a Case Conference which were considered as exhibiting quality in decision-making

% of referrals re-referred within 12 months

% of staff commencing in post with two references and a CRB check

% of staff receiving safeguarding training as they receive induction

% of Councillors attending safeguarding training

6.3 The Corporate Safeguarding Group for Safeguarding Children and Adults will receive a quarterly report noting the performance of indicators dealing with the safeguarding field. In addition, the Carmarthenshire Local Operational Group will receive a copy of the performance report. Any concerns regarding underperformance will be reported directly to the Statutory Director and the appropriate Head of Service and a clear action plan will be required in order to respond to the concerns.

6.4 It is planned to ensure the independent validity of the performance reports in order to give credibility to the process.

6.5 Several methods will be used to monitor the understanding of and compliance with the procedures, e.g. inspections, one-to-one, annual service reviews, a quarterly corporate monitoring process, staff feedback, regular and ad-hoc checks.

6.6 This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually or if any amendments occur in legislation or in consideration of changes in working practices which may stem from incidents or allegations.

## **7. Clarity regarding the referral process**

7.1 Any member of staff with concerns regarding the behaviour of a colleague towards children or an adult should contact the Designated Manager within the Service immediately.

7.2 If a Councillor (or any member of the public) has concerns regarding the safety of an individual, then the **Children Services Referral Team (Children's Services)** should be contacted immediately on **01554 742322** or the **Adult Services Advice and Assessment Team** on **01558 825371**.

7.3 The **Social Services Out-of-Hours Team** should be contacted on **01558 824283** if the issue arises **after 5.00pm, Monday to Friday and on weekends and Bank Holidays**.

7.4 The Police must be contacted immediately if the child or adult is in danger.

This document will be reviewed annually.

DRAFT



## EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

### Provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and provisional school attendance data

**To consider and comment on the following issues:**

- Foundation Stage Teacher Assessment Results
- Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessment Results
- Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessment Results
- 2015 GCSE Results- Level 1, Level 2, Level 2i
- 2015 A Level Results
- Primary and Secondary Schools Attendance rates
- Literacy and Numeracy 2015 Test Results

**Reasons:**

- To enable the Committee to consider the provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and provisional school attendance data.
- To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Education &amp; Children</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Gareth Morgans</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Gareth Morgans</p>	<p><b>Designation:</b></p> <p>Chief Education Officer</p>	<p><b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b></p> <p>01267 246450 <a href="mailto:edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

### Provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and provisional school attendance data

Officers usually present a finalised and verified performance data report to members and other stakeholders as part of the January Annual Performance Report.

Following comments from members in respect of scrutinising performance data earlier in the school year, it was agreed to present data in the September scrutiny committee meeting with the health warning that some data will be unverified.

Officers will present the data and outline priorities and actions to respond to identified challenges at the meeting.

In addition the attached report will include some narrative on performance, comparisons with national and regional performance and possible areas to develop.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

## IMPLICATIONS

**I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.**

**Signed: Gareth Morgans Chief Education Officer**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### 3. Finance

It is imperative that we maintain and improve attainment outcomes to ensure that Carmarthenshire's learners have the best start in life. At a time of reduced funding the County Council needs to consider protecting our contribution to the regional school improvement service (which is charged with improving school performance and securing improved outcomes for all learners) and the budgets of Local Authority services which support Carmarthenshire's most vulnerable learners (LAC, SEN, ALN, EAL, Travellers, Sensory impaired etc). Without the support from these services we will not be able to ensure further improvement in standards.

The Council also needs to consider the impact of reducing school budgets on the raising standards and improving schools agendas. A high % of a school's budget is spent on teaching and support staff and inevitably a reduced budget will result in redundancies and less support for our learners.

### 6. Staffing Implications

The current Education EVR budget is under considerable pressure with a substantial forecasted overspend for 2015/16. When school budgets are reduced this will result in redundancies which will place even greater pressure on this budget, Education and HR officers are working on a revised policy to try and address this challenge.

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Gareth Morgans Chief Education Officer

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

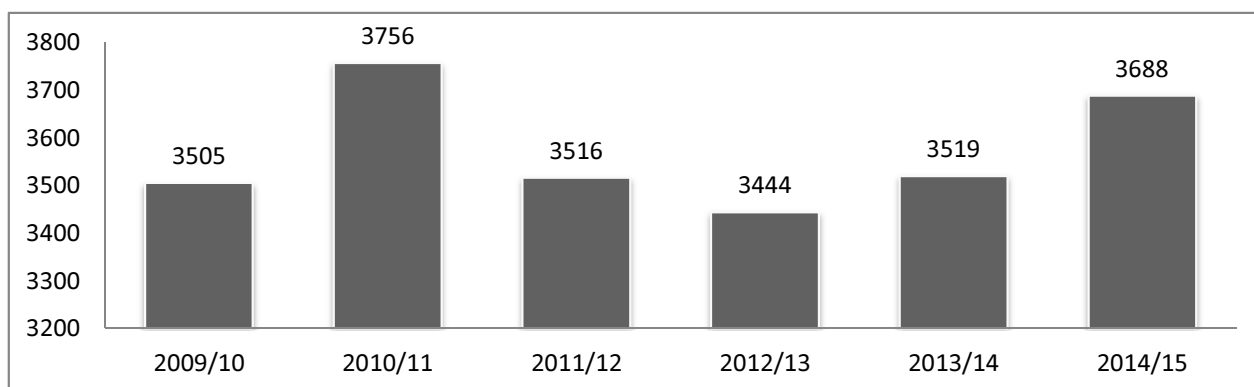
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## Provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and provisional school attendance data

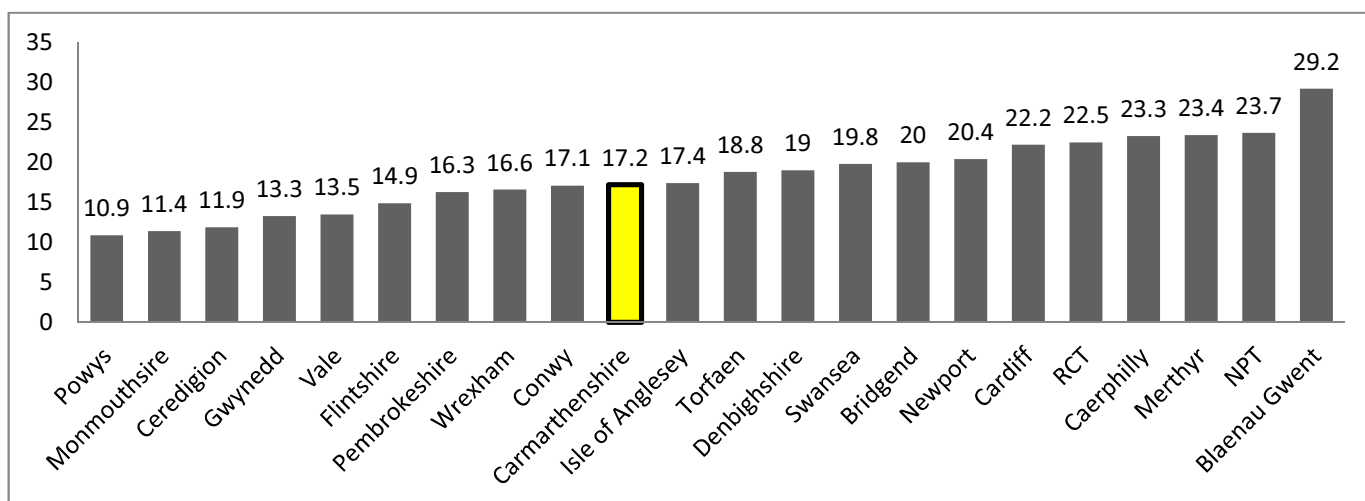
Officers usually present a finalised and verified performance data report to Members and other stakeholders as part of the January Annual Performance Report. Following comments from Members in respect of scrutinising performance data earlier in the school year it was agreed to present data in the September Scrutiny with the health warning that some data will be unverified.

Officers will present the data via a presentation and outline priorities and actions to respond to identified challenges. In addition this report will include some narrative on performance, comparisons with national and regional performance and possible areas to develop.

### Context- Free School Meals Benchmarking



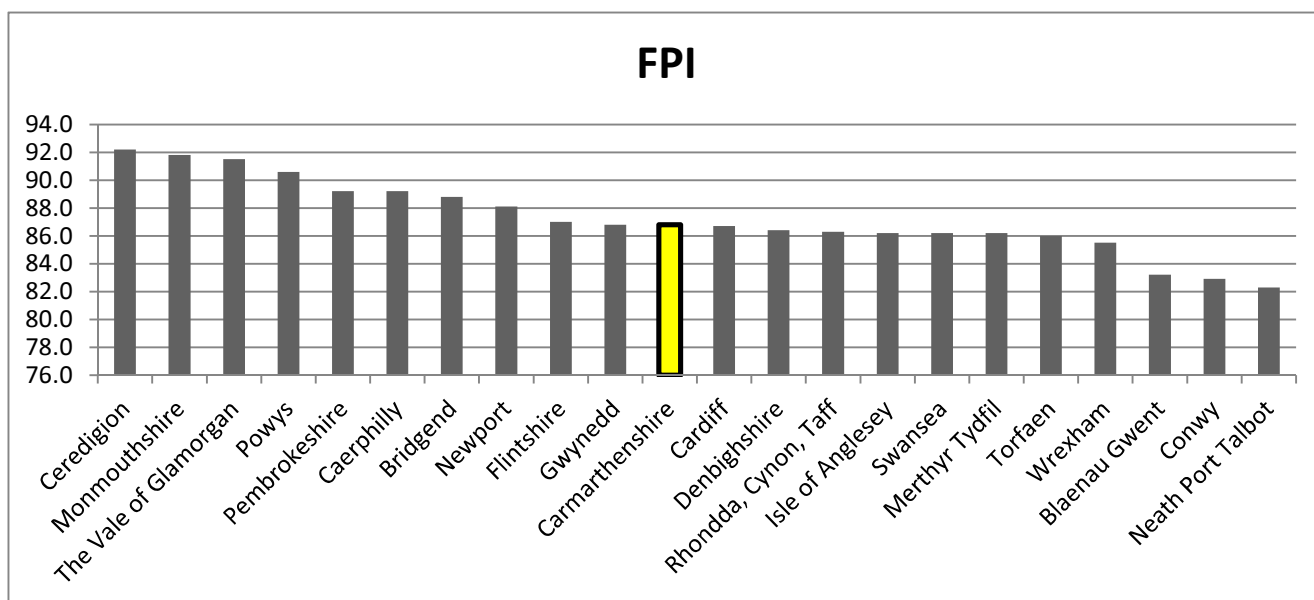
Over the last three years we have seen an increase in pupils eligible for free school meals. **17.2%** of Carmarthenshire's pupils aged 5-15 are currently entitled to free school meals. FSM levels in the Primary sector are 18.2% (Rank- 11<sup>th</sup>) and 15.7% (Rank- 10<sup>th</sup>) in the Secondary sector. The Welsh average is 18.8%.



When considering benchmarks we should be performing around the 10<sup>th</sup> position when considering our cohort.

## Foundation Stage Teacher Assessment Results (\*Outcomes 5+)

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator</b>	<b>81.6 (16)</b>	<b>84.1↑ (13)</b>	<b>86.8↑ (=10)</b>
Welsh	86.2	89.2	91.4↑
English	81.0	81.1	83.4↑
Mathematics	85.9	88.1	89.8↑
Personal and Social Development	93.0	94.0	95.2↑



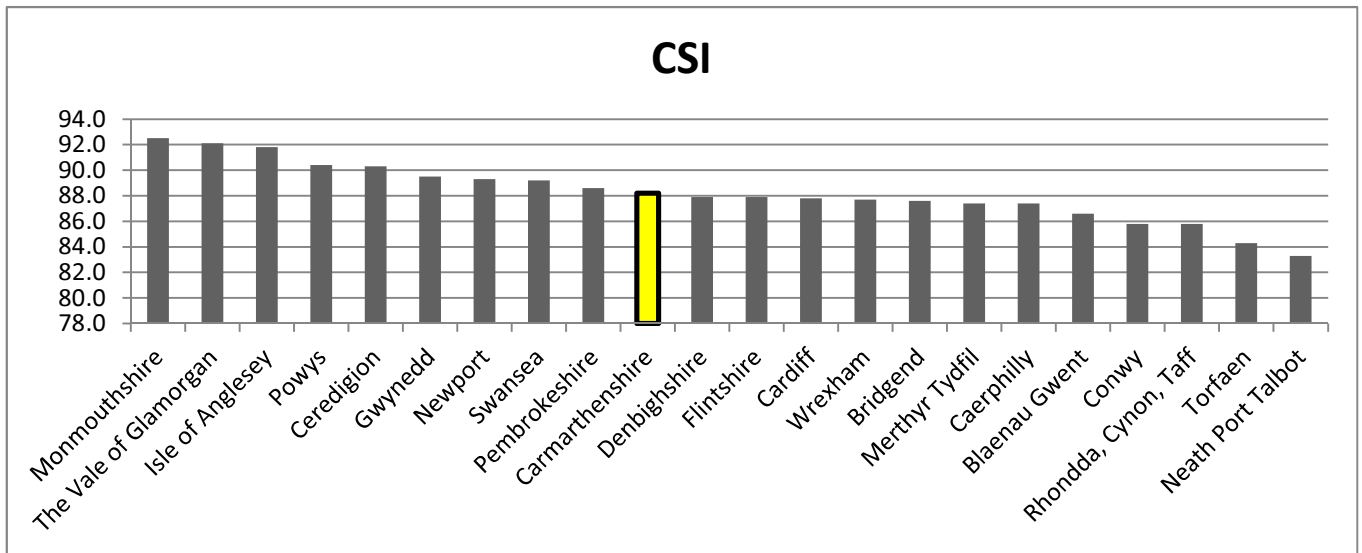
### Commentary

- Continued improvement- Carmarthenshire's best Foundation Phase results.
- 2.7% improvement in Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator from last year
- Equal to Welsh average of 86.8% but slightly below ERW average of 87.1%
- Improved fsm ranking- above expected position
- ACTION- through ERW Challenge Adviser Core Visits continue to secure further improvements in core areas especially English.
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

### Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessment Results (Level 4+ in Mathematics/Science/Language)

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator</b>	<b>85.4 (10)</b>	<b>87.4 ↑ (6)</b>	<b>88.2↑ (10)</b>
Welsh	84.5	84.4	88.6↑
English	87.22	90	90 ↔
Mathematics	88.1	89.7	90.4↑
Science	90.7	91.1	91.9↑



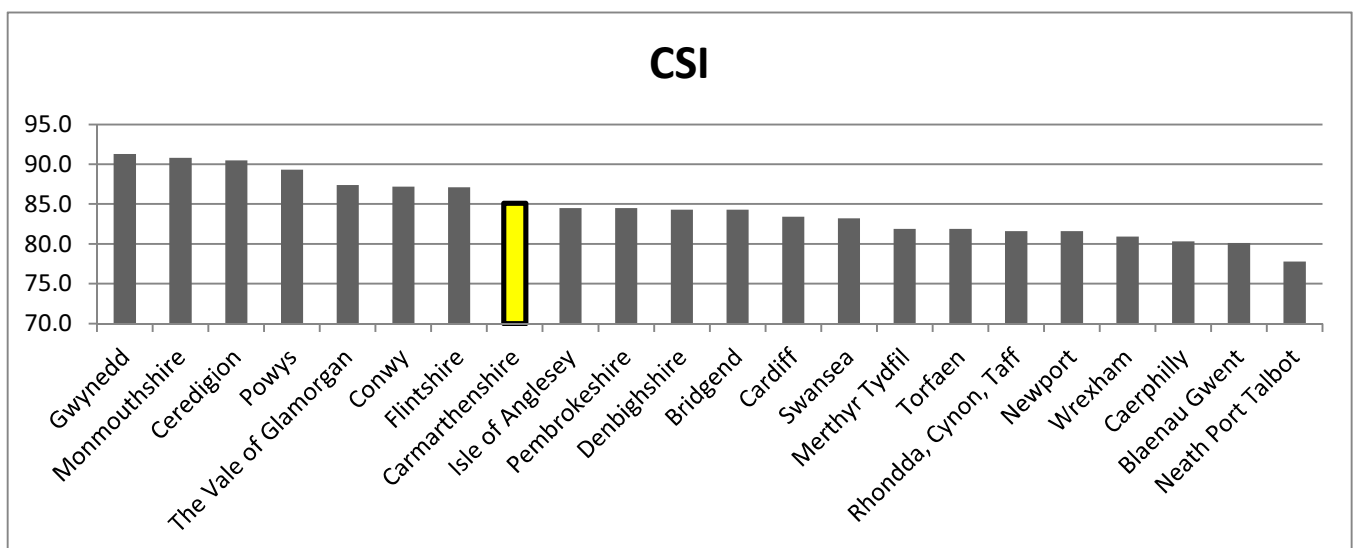


**Commentary**

- Continued improvement- Carmarthenshire's best Key Stage 2 results
- A further 0.8% improvement in Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator from last year
- Above Welsh average of 87.7% but slightly below ERW average of 88.3%
- fsm ranking above expected position
- ACTION- continue to secure further improvements in core areas.

**Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessment Results (Level 5+ in Mathematics/ Science/ Language)**

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator</b>	<b>77.1 (13)</b>	<b>84.5 ↑ (3)</b>	<b>85.1 ↑ (8)</b>
Welsh	83.6	88.7 ↑	86.5 ↓
English	83.1	88.5 ↑	88.4 ↓
Mathematics	83.8	88.4 ↑	90.4 ↑
Science	86.2	91.1 ↑	91.9 ↑
Welsh Second Language	70.64	77.65 ↑	



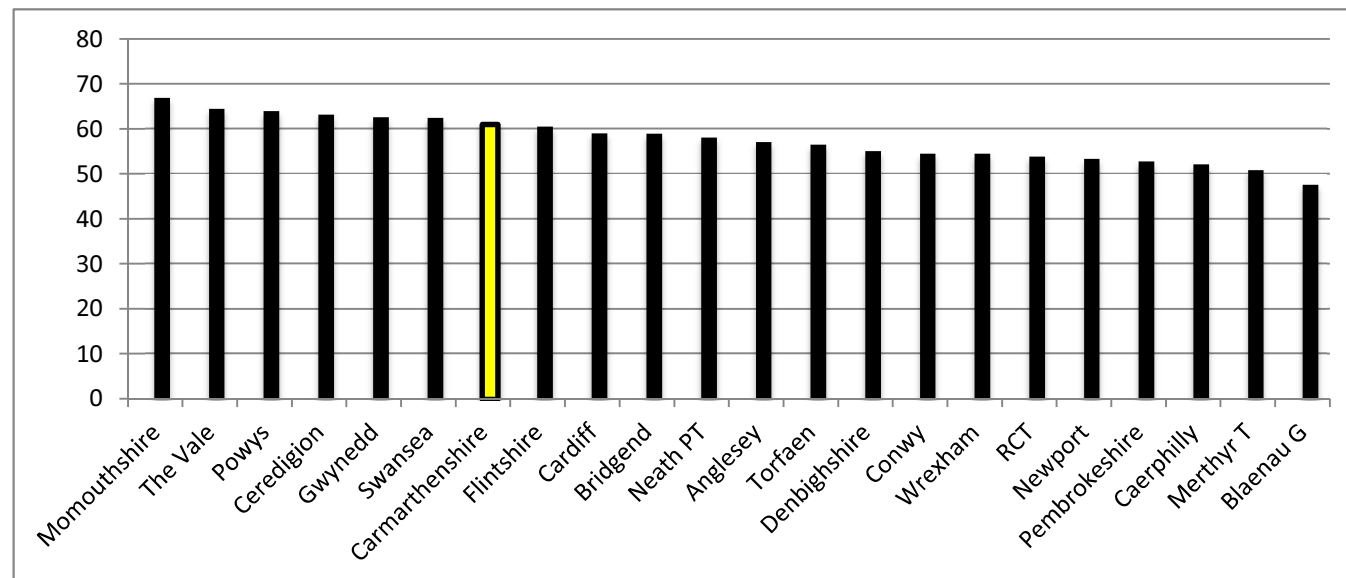
**Commentary**

- Continued improvement- Carmarthenshire's best Key Stage 3 results
- Above Welsh average of 83.9% and ERW average of 84.3%
- fsm ranking- above expected position
- ACTION- through ERW Challenge Adviser Core Visits continue to secure further improvements in core areas especially Welsh.
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

## GCSE Results-

	2013	2014	2015*
<b>Level 1</b> (5 GCSE passes)	94.8	95.7	95.2 ↓
<b>Level 2</b> (5 GCSE passes at grade A*-C)	78	84.7	86.3 ↑
<b>Level 2 Inclusive</b> (5 GCSE passes at grade A*-C including A8-C in Welsh First language or English and Mathematics)	<b>53.9 (11)</b>	<b>58.7 (8)</b>	<b>60.9 ↑ (7)</b>

\*unverified results



### Commentary

- Continued improvement- Carmarthenshire's best Level 2i results
- Improved fsm ranking- above expected position
- ACTION- through Challenge Adviser Core Visits provide detailed feedback to all schools on areas to develop/improve.
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

## A Level Results

	2013	2014	2015*
<b>Level 3</b> (2 A Levels at grade A-E)	97.3 (8)	98.6 (5)	
<b>A*</b>	4	5.6	5
<b>A*-A</b>	23.5	23.7	21.9
<b>A*-C</b>	81	81	81
<b>A*-E</b>	98.6	99.4	98.4

### Commentary

- Continued high performance at A levels
- ACTION- work with schools on increasing A\*/A grades achieved.
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

## Literacy and Numeracy 2015 Test Results

### NATIONAL READING TEST ENGLISH

	Disapplied	Absent	Less than 85	Between 85 and 115	Greater than 115	Above 85	Rank
<b>2015 WALES</b>	1.8	1.3	13.4	67	16.6	83.6	
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<i>7th</i>
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.9	1.8	12.1	67.5	16.7	84.2	<i>9th</i>
<b>2013 Carmarthen</b>	1.5	1.6	12.7	68.2	16.0	84.2	<i>8th</i>

### NATIONAL READING TEST WELSH

	Disapplied	Absent	Less than 85	Between 85 and 115	Greater than 115	Above 85	Rank
<b>2015 WALES</b>	0.7	0.9	13.8	67.5	17.1	84.6	-
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<i>12th</i>
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.3	1.3	12.8	67.4	17.2	84.6	<i>12th</i>
<b>2013 Carmarthen</b>	1.2	1.6	14.4	65.9	16.9	82.8	<i>12th</i>

### NATIONAL NUMERACY TEST- PROCEDURAL COMPONENT

	Disapplied	Absent	Less than 85	Between 85 and 115	Greater than 115	Above 85	Rank
<b>2015 WALES</b>	1.6	1.2	12.9	68.2	16	84.2	-
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<i>3rd</i>
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.5	1.4	10.6	68.5	18	86.5	<i>5th</i>
<b>2013 Carmarthen</b>	1.6	1.5	11.3	68.2	17.5	85.7	<i>6th</i>

### NATIONAL NUMERACY TEST- REASONING COMPONENT

	Disapplied	Absent	Less than 85	Between 85 and 115	Greater than 115	Above 85	Rank
<b>2015 WALES</b>	1.6	1.7	11	68.8	16.8	85.6	-
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>89</b>	<i>5th</i>
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.6	2.1	10.8	67.9	14.8	82.7	<i>7th</i>

#### Commentary

- Overall very positive outcomes for Carmarthenshire's learners
- Need to focus on increasing the number of pupils securing above average scores.
- Need further analysis of the scores for Welsh and compare ourselves with similar authorities in respect to provision through the medium of Welsh
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

#### PRIORITIES FOR 2015/16

1. Performance of e-fsm learners
2. Performance of more able and talented learners
3. Performance at the Foundation Phase

## Primary and Secondary Schools Attendance rates- 3 year comparison (2012-2015)

Our schools, in partnership with parents the Education Welfare Service and Local Authority, have achieved the best ever school attendance rates in both primary and secondary schools.

### Primary

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (Provisional results- Return to WG 15/09/15)
<b>Present</b>	93.5	95.0	<b>95.1</b>
<b>Authorised</b>	6.1	4.3	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Unauthorised</b>	0.4	0.7	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Welsh Average</b>	93.7	94.8	<i>Comparable data published Dec 2015</i>
<b>Rank</b>	<i>15th</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>Comparable data published Dec 2015</i>

### Secondary

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
<b>Present</b>	92.0	93.9	<b>94.2</b>
<b>Authorised</b>	7.6	5.6	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Unauthorised</b>	0.4	0.5	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Welsh Average</b>	92.6	93.6	<i>Comparable data published Nov 2015</i>
<b>Rank</b>	<i>19th</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>Comparable data published Nov 2015</i>

### Commentary

- *Continue to focus on improving attendance and reducing absences.*
- *EWS to focus on learners with attendance is below 85% using a person centred planning and/or Team Around the Family approach.*
- *Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.*

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

### Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18, Action Plan and Children's Rights Promise

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee provides observations on the Strategy, Action Plan and Promise for consideration by Executive Board Members on 12th October 2015 before final adoption by County Council on 11th November 2015.

#### Reasons:

- To formulate views for submission to the Executive Board / Council for consideration, to ensure that the County Council delivers on its statutory and moral obligations for ensuring children and young people have their say on decisions that affect them, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to formalise the Council's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child through the Children's Rights Promise.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)**

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Education &amp; Children</p> <p><b>Name of Director:</b> Robert Sully</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> David Astins</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Director of Education &amp; Children's Services</p> <p>Strategic Development Manager</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b></p> <p>01267 224888 <a href="mailto:rasully@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">rasully@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01267 246426 <a href="mailto:dastins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">dastins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

## Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18, Action Plan and Children's Rights Promise

Involvement in decisions that affect their lives is a fundamental right for all children and young people (Article 12, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). To deliver this commitment effectively a culture of engaging children and young people needs to be embedded across the County Council.

The Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18 (attachment 1) succinctly brings together the key drivers, identifies the benefits, and sets out 10 clear priorities to take this commitment forward. The Action Plan (attachment 2) sets out the key things we need to do to deliver on our 10 priorities. It will be a living document, reviewed formally every 12 months in line with our business planning cycle.

One of the actions in the plan is to develop a Children's Rights Promise, which is all about the County Council setting out a clear commitment to children's rights as set out in the UNCRC. The Promise will be a visible symbol of the Council's commitment to the whole of the UNCRC that children and young people can use to hold us to account.

Children & Young People from across the county have worked together to develop the Promise (attachment 3) which they feel will give them the commitment required from the local authority to ensure their rights are upheld and are seen as active citizens in their own lives.

The hope is that this Promise will help to create a clearer understanding of children's rights and how we can work together to ensure they are delivered.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>YES</b>  <b>1. Children &amp; Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18</b> <b>2. Action Plan 2015-18</b> <b>3. Children's Rights Promise</b>
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## IMPLICATIONS

**I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.**

**Signed:            David Astins            Strategic Development Manager**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>

<p><b>2. Legal</b></p> <p>Section 12 of the Children &amp; Families (Wales) Measure 2010 states that:</p> <p><b>Participation of children in local authority decision making</b></p> <p>(1) A local authority must make such arrangements as it considers suitable to promote and facilitate participation by children in decisions of the authority which might affect them.</p> <p>(2) A local authority must –</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(a) publish information about its arrangements under subsection (1), and</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(b) keep the information published up to date.</p> <p>This was covered in the Welsh Government Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery guidance on partnerships and plans. This strategy and action plan are the means to deliver this.</p>
<p><b>4. ICT</b></p> <p>Properly engaging with children and young people will rely on use of modern technology such as social media and electronic survey tools.</p>
<p><b>5. Risk Management Issues</b></p> <p>The Departmental Risk Register identifies failing to properly engage children and young people in decisions that affect them as a key risk.</p>
<p><b>6. Staffing Implications</b></p> <p>We will be recruiting a Modern Apprentice through the Work Ready Programme to help us deliver the Action Plan over the next 18 months.</p>

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: David Astins Strategic Development Manager

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – N/A

3. Relevant Partners – An early draft of the strategy was discussed by the Children & Young People's Partnership.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Children & Families Wales Measure 2010	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/pdfs/mwa_20100001_en.pdf">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/pdfs/mwa_20100001_en.pdf</a>
UNCRC	<a href="http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/uncrc/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/uncrc/?lang=en</a>



# Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-2018

Effective engagement  
in Local Authority  
decision making

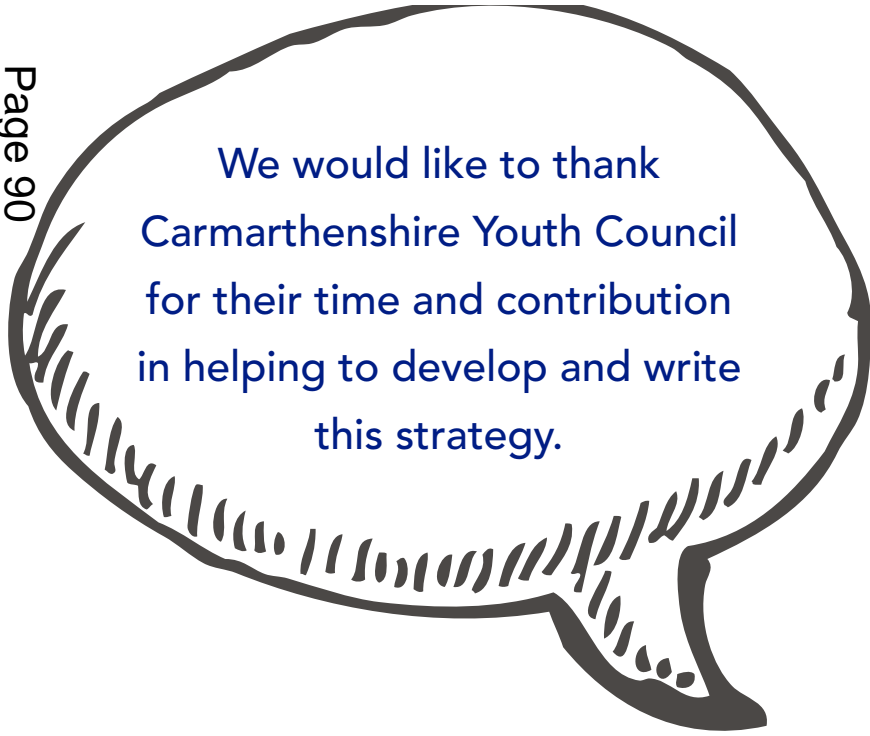


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**YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE, SO USE YOUR VOICE!**



**YOUR COUNCIL doitonline**  
[www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales)



We would like to thank  
Carmarthenshire Youth Council  
for their time and contribution  
in helping to develop and write  
this strategy.

If you require this information in large print,  
Braille or on audiotape, please telephone  
01267 24567

## FOREWORD



We want to embed a culture of participation across the County Council, by positively engaging with children and young people and ensuring that children and young people know how to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives and futures.

We will provide and develop opportunities and initiatives that truly engage children and young people in decision making. Our success depends on the meaningful involvement of children and young people. This means listening to their opinions, concerns and views in the design and delivery of our services that they use, to ensure that we meet their needs and improve the way we work.

We are committed to ensuring that children and young people are at the centre of all that we do. Through their long-term involvement we hope that children and young people are at the heart of planning and shaping our services. If we do not meet this commitment then please let us know so that we can put it right.

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Cofiwch ailgylchu'r cyhoeddiad yma

## OUR VISION

Over the next three years we aim to embed a culture of participation across the Council, that gives all children and young people a voice, and ensures that their opinions can influence decisions that affect them and their daily lives.



## WHAT WE MEAN BY PARTICIPATION

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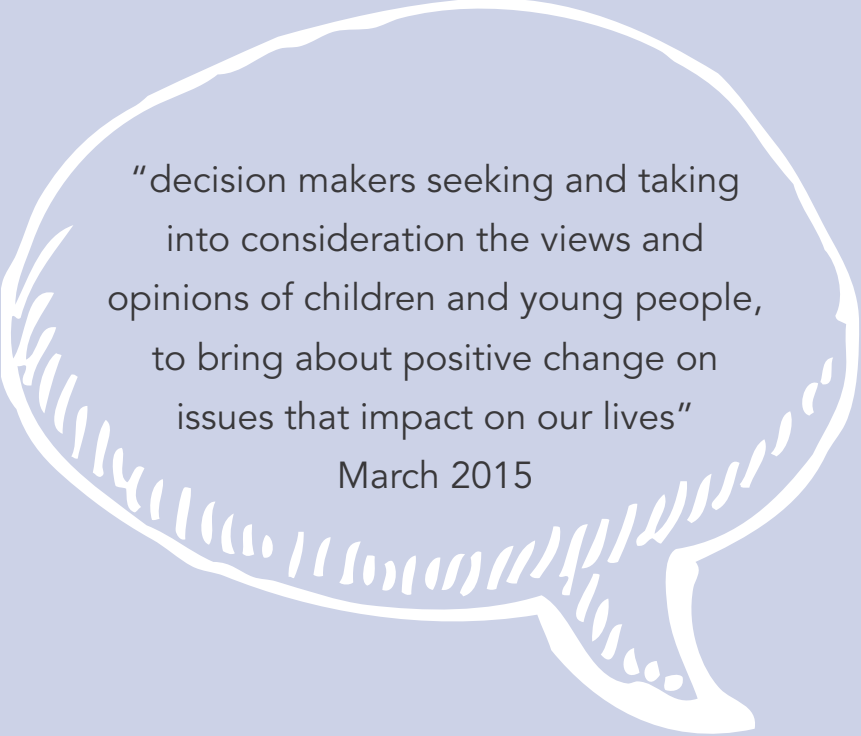
Involvement in decisions that affect their lives is a fundamental right for all children and young people; The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child or UNCRC says that children and young people

*“have the right to say what you think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect you and to have your opinions taken into account”  
(Article 12 of the UNCRC)*

Therefore, participation is about giving children and young people the opportunity to have their voices heard and to support them to make decisions for themselves.

We are committed to driving forward Article 12 to make sure that all children and young people in Carmarthenshire have opportunities to contribute to and have their voices heard.

## CARMARTHENSHIRE YOUTH COUNCIL SAY THAT PARTICIPATION MEANS...



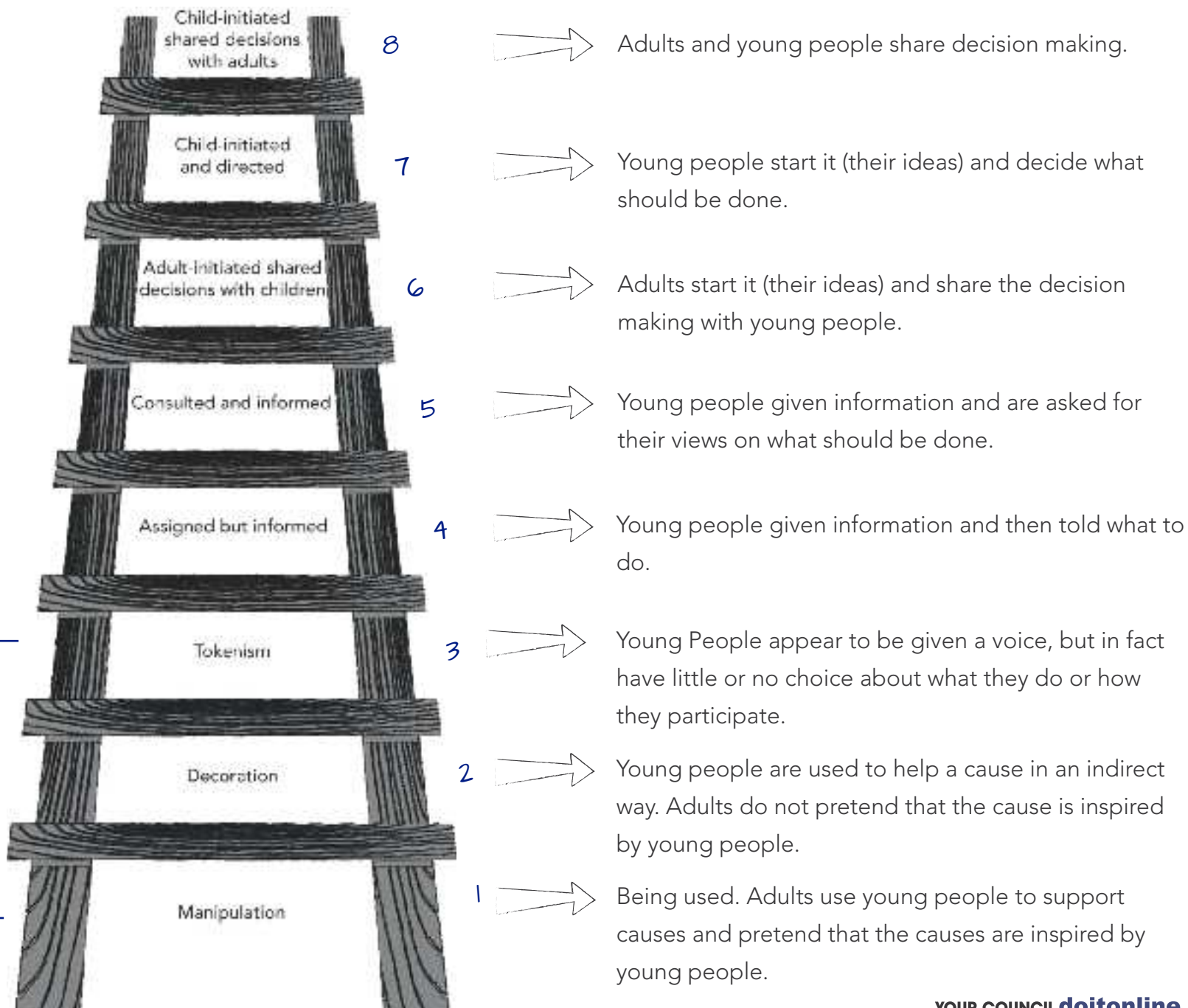
*“decision makers seeking and taking into consideration the views and opinions of children and young people, to bring about positive change on issues that impact on our lives”*

March 2015

# LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

The ladder of participation is an idea developed by Roger Hart (1992) that identifies eight levels of children and young people's participation. It is designed to demonstrate the degrees to which children and young people can be involved in organisations, with the bottom three levels seen as 'Non- Participation'.

Non- Participation



## WHY HAVE A STRATEGY?

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This strategy helps young people and decision makers understand the importance of meaningful participation and what we can achieve.

Building on good work already happening, this Strategy and the supporting Action Plan sets out our commitment and priorities for engaging children and young people in our decision making processes.

**We must involve children and young people in order to understand their needs otherwise it is impossible to create and deliver effective services that meet their needs.**



## PARTICIPATION:

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

#### FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Participation has the potential to;

- Give children and young people a role within an organisation or service where our opinions are taken seriously, valued and listened to and we feel respected.
- Make changes for us and other young people by challenging and holding decision makers to account.
- Develop and improve our skills and knowledge, while also having the chance to gain accreditations and awards.
- Increase our confidence, self esteem and aspirations that in turn creates a better quality of life.
- Play an active part in our communities and understand how we can make a difference by understanding systems and processes.
- Giving us a sense of pride in our own achievements.





## FOR ORGANISATIONS AND SERVICES


Encouraging and supporting participation can;

- Plan, create and shape better quality services that meet the needs of children and young people.
- Help make sure that money is spent in a better and more efficient way.
- Improve attendance, attainment and behaviour.
- Help improve the quality of life for children and young people by services recognising, understanding and responding to their needs.
- Bring new perspectives and influence outcomes to improve organisations and services

## FOR THE COMMUNITY

Encouraging and supporting young people to participate in decision making can;

- Promote active citizenship and ownership so children and young people feel valued and respected.
- Improve the quality of life for children and young people in their community.
- Make better use of resources
- Promote working with others and working together more effectively
- Help dispel negative stereotypes of young people
- Adult decision makers know what young people want and need.



Meaningful and sustainable engagement of children young people requires commitment from children and young people, the whole organisation and the community.



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# 7 NATIONAL PARTICIPATION STANDARDS

In Wales there are 7 National Standards that organisations working with children and young people should aim to meet so that children and young people have a good experience of participation. (see appendices for poster)

## The Seven National Participation Standards are;



### **INFORMATION -**

which is easy for children and young people to understand

### **IT'S YOUR CHOICE -**

enough information and time to make an informed choice

### **NO DISCRIMINATION -**

every child and young person has the same chance to participate.

### **RESPECT -**

Your opinion will be taken seriously

### **YOU GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT -**

You will enjoy the experience

### **FEEDBACK -**

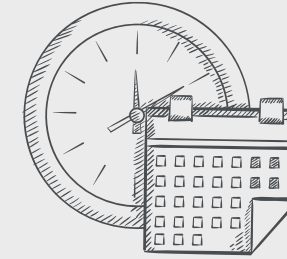
You will find out what difference your opinion has made

### **IMPROVING HOW WE WORK -**

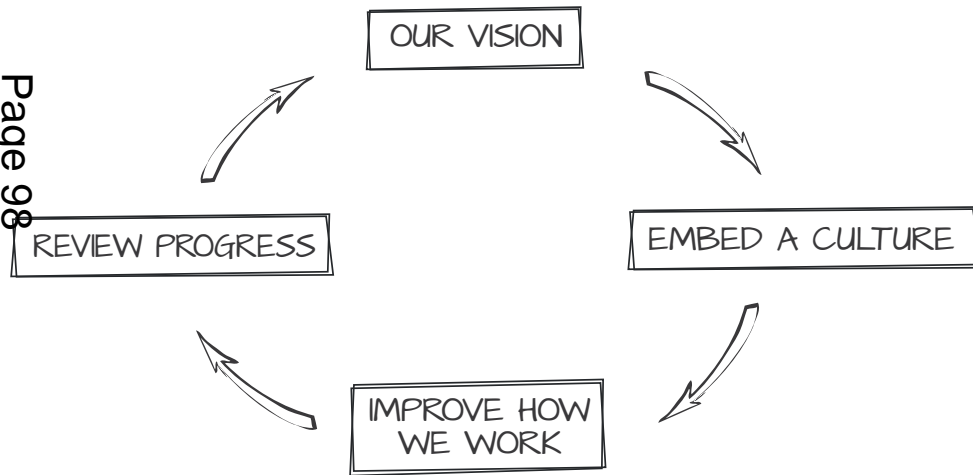
Adults will ask you how we can do our work better.



## OUR PRIORITIES



1. To be a County Council that has embedded a culture of participation that positively engages with listens to and takes into account what children and young people say.
2. To have children and young people involved in shaping current County Council work (when there is the proposal of a new policy and any review of, or change to, an existing policy, strategy and service delivery that may impact on the lives of children and young people in Carmarthenshire)
3. To generate a culture of participation that truly respects, protects, values and supports children and young people in Carmarthenshire.
4. To have greater awareness of children's and young people's needs and providing services that are meeting their needs appropriately.
5. To enable children and young people to voice issues important to them through recognised representative groups on local, regional and national decision making.
6. To make sure that children and young people have different ways to get their views and opinions heard to influence decision making processes that affect them.
7. Ensure pupils have meaningful opportunities to influence their school work, education and school life.
8. To raise awareness and promote meaningful participation and Children's Rights
9. To make sure that Carmarthenshire County Council Staff have the ability to communicate and work positively with children and young people to ensure more efficient, better quality and more accessible services.
10. Ensure children and young people are aware of how to give comments, suggestions and complaints about the services they use.



## BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Our **VISION** - that highlights how important listening to children and young people is to us.
- **EMBED A CULTURE** - that truly supports and values the participation of children and young people
- **IMPROVE HOW WE WORK** - by improving our ways of engaging and working with children and young people to support their participation individually and as a group to bring about positive change
- **REVIEW PROGRESS** - evaluate the impact of children and young people's participation on the decisions we make and the outcomes for children and young people

## HOW WILL WE KNOW WHAT'S CHANGED?

- We will closely monitor our Action Plan throughout the year to ensure we are on track
- We will produce an Annual Report that will report on our progress with our Action Plan, updated it if needed, and report on the activity we have undertaken and what difference it has made
- Our progress will be monitored by the Welsh Government (next scheduled for 2016) and they will review whether we are doing well or not

# Having a Voice – a Choice

## Do we meet your standards?\*

\*'We' means anyone asking children and young people to participate. 'You' have a right to expect these standards.

"Participation means that it is my right to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing any action that might affect me. Having a voice, having a choice"



### INFORMATION



#### This means:

- Information that is easy to understand for everyone
- Adults working with you who know what is going on and are up front and clear.

#### We will:

- Ensure everyone has enough information to get properly involved
- Let you know what difference you being involved will make
- Inform you about who is going to listen and make changes.

#### This means:

- You choose if you want to get involved or not
- You choose to work on things that are important to you
- You choose what you do and how you do it.

#### We will:

- Give you enough information and time to decide if this is something you want to do.

### IT'S YOUR CHOICE



### NO DISCRIMINATION



#### This means:

- Children and young people are all different but you all have the same right to have a say about the things that matter to you.
- We want everyone to feel welcome and be able to get involved if they want to be.

#### We will:

- challenge any discrimination
- get in touch with children and young people in lots of different situations
- get you involved in things you want to do.

#### This means:

- Everyone has a chance to have a say, your opinions are important and we will respect them.

#### We will:

- listen to your ideas, views and experiences
- take you seriously and treat you fairly
- work with you to do something about the things you tell us are important
- work with you to help change things for the better.

### RESPECT



### YOU GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT



#### This means:

- We want you to enjoy and benefit from taking part
- We know that you have other things to do in your lives as well!
- Making sure that participating is a positive not a negative experience.

#### We will:

- work in safe, fun, and enjoyable ways
- make the most of what you know
- do positive things that build your confidence
- meet in friendly places that are easy for all young people to use
- value and respect what you have to offer.

#### This means:

- It's really important that you know what difference you have made and how your ideas have been used.

#### We will:

- keep you up to date with what is happening
- give feedback as soon as possible and in ways that are easy to understand for everyone.

### FEEDBACK



### IMPROVING HOW WE WORK



#### This means:

- We want to learn and get better at the way we work with you.

- ask you what has gone well and what needs to change
- make sure your views make a difference to the way we make plans and decisions.

#### We will:

- look at the way we work with you and how to improve it



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# Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18

*Effective engagement in Local Authority decision making*

## Action Plan

(last updated 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015)

Action	Priority Links	Start	Finish	Lead(s)
Develop a <b>Children's Rights Charter</b> to be adopted by the County Council	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9	June 2015	Nov 2015	Zoe Morgan
Undertake a <b>comprehensive survey of young people</b> to better understand their priorities & views on services, feeding into formal consultation on the Council's budget	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 & 10	Jan 2016	Mar 2016	Sarah Powell
Support the further development of the <b>Carmarthenshire Youth Council</b> , including broader representation from across Carmarthenshire and better engagement with Council decision makers including Elected Members	1, 2, 5 & 6	April 2015	March 2018	Sarah Powell
Develop the <b>awareness and confidence of key staff and service managers</b> within the County Council of Children's Rights & participation, including use of UNCRC e-learning module	1, 9	April 2015	March 2018	Dave Astins (Sarah Powell / Zoe Morgan)
Ensure Children's Rights are actively considered when decisions are being taken, through the corporate <b>Equalities Impact Assessment</b> process	1,2, 3 & 9	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Wendy Walters (Llinos Evans / Dave Astins)
Ensure <b>vulnerable children &amp; young people</b> have opportunities to have their say (e.g. LAC, Care Leavers, C&YP subject to CPR & C&YP with disabilities)	1, 2, 5 & 6	April 2015	March 2018	Zoe Morgan (Stefan Smith)
Implement the <b>National Participation Standards</b> when they are re-launched by Welsh Government	1, 8	Jan 2016	March 2016	Sarah Powell (Zoe Morgan)
Develop <b>accessible information &amp; engagement tools</b> for children & young people using a variety of methods, including digital media (Facebook & Twitter) and on-line survey tools (e.g. Viewpoint, SNAP)	1, 6, 9 & 10	Sept 2015	March 2018	Wendy Walters (Deina Hockenhull / Kevin Pett / Sarah Powell / Zoe Morgan)
Ensure there is an <b>active, representative &amp; effective school council</b> in every primary & secondary school & provide support & guidance as & when required	1, 6 & 7	April 2015	March 2018	Sarah Powell (Zoe Morgan)
Ensure that children & young people are involved in the <b>recruitment &amp; selection</b> of relevant County Council staff	1, 2, 3, 4 & 9	Jan 2016	March 2016	Zoe Morgan (Sarah Powell)

Action	Priority Links	Start	Finish	Lead(s)
Ensure children & young people actively engage in making the Council's <b>safeguarding arrangements</b> better through SNUG	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	April 2015	March 2018	Zoe Morgan
Involve young people in commissioning of key council services through support and training of <b>Young Commissioners</b>	1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	April 2015	March 2018	Wendy Thomas (Zoe Morgan)
Ensure our <b>complaints and compliments</b> procedure is accessible to children and young people	1 & 10	Jan 2016	March 2016	Wendy Walters (Noelwyn Daniel / Sarah Powell)
Ensure that young people are targeted during <b>Local Democracy Week</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> October), linked to the concept of <b>active citizenship</b> identified in the Donaldson review of the Welsh Curriculum	1, 3, 6 & 8	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Wendy Walters (Amanda Bebb / Sarah Powell / Zoe Morgan)



# MAE GENNYCH HAWL I WNEUD EICH BARN HYSBYS

## ADDEWID HAWLIAU PLANT



“Mae dyletswydd gan bob oedolyn sy'n gweithio i Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin i sicrhau bod plant a phobl ifanc yn ddiogel, yn hapus ac yn iach. Gallwn wneud hyn drwy sicrhau bod plant a phobl ifanc yn gwybod beth yw eu hawliau a sut i'w cael”

**BYDDWN OND YN ADDO ICHI BETHAU Y GWYDDOM Y GALLWN EU CYFLAWNI**

**BYDDWN YN EICH CYNWYS MEWN PENDERFYNIADAU SY'N YMWNEUD A CHI A'CH BYWYD OND HEFYD MEWN PENDERFYNIADAU A ALLAI EFFEITHIO ARNOCH CHI**

**BYDDWN YN EICH TRIN FEL UNIGOLION AC YN GWRANDO AR YR HYN SY'N BWYSIG I CHI**

**BYDDWN YN GWNEUD I BETHAU DDIGWYDD PAN DDYLENT DDIGWYDD**

**BYDDWN YN EICH RHOI CHI MEWN CYSYLLTIAD A'R BOBL IAWN I'CH HELPŪ A'CH CEFNOGI PAN FYDD ANGEN**

**BYDDWN YN SICRHAU BOD ARWEINYDD AR GYFER HAWLIAU PLANT AC Y BYDD EF/HI YN SICRHAU BOD HAWLIAU PLANT YN GANOLOG WRTH WNEUD PENDERFYNIADAU BOB AMSER**

**BYDDWN YN DANGOS ICHI SUT RYDYM WEDI GWRANDO ARNOCH A BETH SYDD WEDI NEWID FEL CANLYNIAD I'CH CYFRANIAD CHI**

**BOB BLWYDDYN BYDDWN YN ADOLYGU SUT RYDYM YN CYFLAWNI'R ADDEWID HWN**

Mae CCUHP 1989 (Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn) yn nodi hawliau ehangach Plant a Phobl Ifanc

# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE YOUR VIEW KNOWN

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROMISE



“All adults working for Carmarthenshire County Council have a duty to make sure children and young people are safe, happy and healthy. We can do this by ensuring children and young people know about their rights and how to access them”

**WE WILL ONLY PROMISE YOU THINGS WE KNOW WE CAN DO**

**WE WILL INVOLVE YOU IN DECISIONS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR LIFE BUT ALSO DECISIONS THAT MIGHT AFFECT YOU**

**WE WILL TREAT YOU AS INDIVIDUALS AND LISTEN TO WHAT MATTERS TO YOU**

**WE WILL MAKE THINGS HAPPEN WHEN THEY SHOULD**

**WE WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO HELP AND SUPPORT YOU WHEN NEEDED**

**WE WILL ENSURE THERE IS A LEAD PERSON FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WHOSE ROLE WILL BE TO ENSURE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE CENTRAL TO ALL DECISION MAKING**

**WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW WE HAVE LISTENED TO YOU AND WHAT HAS CHANGED AS A RESULT OF YOUR INPUT**

**WE WILL REVIEW HOW WE ARE DELIVERING ON THIS PROMISE EVERY YEAR**

The UNCRC 1989 (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) sets out the wider rights of Children and Young People

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) – A Carmarthenshire Perspective**

**To consider and comment on the following issues:**

- The actions proposed to further reduce the number of young people aged 16-25 not in employment, education and training in Carmarthenshire.

**Reasons:**

- To provide members with an update regarding the current actions to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education and training, as requested by the Committee at its meeting on the 18th May 2015.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)**

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Education &amp; Children</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Aeron Rees</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Matt Morden</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Head of Learner Programmes</p> <p>Lifelong Learning Networks Manager</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b></p> <p>01267 246532 <a href="mailto:jarees@cararthenshire.gov.uk">jarees@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01267 246648 <a href="mailto:msmorden@cararthenshire.gov.uk">msmorden@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

## Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) – A Carmarthenshire Perspective

The Department of Education and Children has a long-standing commitment to supporting young people aged 16-25 who are not in employment, education and training (NEET). This work dates back to a Big Lottery Fund Bid in 2000 and has been followed by two successful ESF projects (Youth First and Engage) and the use of both core and grant funding by the Youth Service, together with a wide range of partners, to reduce the number of young people in this category. This work has been closely linked to the implementation of 14-19 Learning Pathways in the county and has been co-ordinated by a dedicated NEET Strategy Group since 2008. This work pre-dates any co-ordinated Welsh Government policy initiative to address the needs of young people who are NEET.

At its meeting on the 18th May 2015, the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee requested that an update report including numbers and support for NEETs in the Youth Services, be included in its Forward Work Programme for 2015/16.

The attached report includes:

- Carmarthenshire Implementation of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework
- The Youth Service Budget 2010-2015
- Careers Wales Pupil Destination Data – Carmarthenshire Context
- Departmental Actions to Reduce the Number of Young People Becoming NEET
- Future Challenges to Reducing the Number of Young People Becoming NEET

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed:      **Aeron Rees**                      **Head of Learner Programmes**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – Youth support services linked to the Welsh Government’s Youth Engagement and Progression Framework for young people aged 11-25 in Carmarthenshire play an important role in promoting social inclusion via activities including:

- The identification of young people at risk of not succeeding in formal education via a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) of all pupils on school roll;
- Tracking of young people when they leave school via the Careers Wales IO Database;
- The follow up and use of targeted youth work to engage with young people known to be not in employment, education or training;
- A wide range of youth work projects in schools, youth centres and local communities;
- Welsh medium and bilingual education and youth support service delivery.

**2. Legal** – All secondary schools are required to be compliant with the Welsh Government Education (Local Curriculum for Pupils in Key Stage 4) (Wales) Regulations 2009. Secondary schools and further education colleges are required to be compliant with the Welsh Government Education (local Curriculum for Students 16 to 18) (Wales) Regulations.

These regulations set out the minimum curriculum offer requirements for young people in the 14-16 and 16-19 age cohorts. The details of these regulations are available in the documents accessible via the links below:

Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009:

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/mwa2009/mwa\\_20090001\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/mwa2009/mwa_20090001_en_1)

Education (Local Curriculum for Pupils in Key Stage 4) (Wales) Regulations 2009:

[https://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2009/wsi\\_20093256\\_en\\_1](https://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2009/wsi_20093256_en_1)

Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009: Local Curriculum for Pupils in Key Stage 4 Guidance:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/circulars/learningandskillsmeasure/?lang=en>

### 3. Finance

Details of the current youth Service funding arrangements are included in the attached report.

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed:      Aeron Rees      Head of Learner Programmes

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information**  
**List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
WG Guidance on the Youth Engagement & Progression Framework	<b>Cymraeg:</b> <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?skip=1&amp;lang=cy">http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?skip=1&amp;lang=cy</a> <b>English:</b> <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en</a>
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee (18th May 2015)	<b>Minutes:</b> <a href="http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC20150518/MINUTES.HTM">http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC20150518/MINUTES.HTM</a>

# Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) – A Carmarthenshire Perspective

## 1.0 Background

The Department of Education and Children has a long-standing commitment to supporting young people aged 16-25 who are not in employment, education and training (NEET). This work dates back to a Big Lottery Fund Bid in 2000 and has been followed by two successful ESF projects (Youth First and Engage) and the use of both core and grant funding by the Youth Service, together with a wide range of partners, to reduce the number of young people in this category. This work has been closely linked to the implementation of 14-19 Learning Pathways in the county and has been co-ordinated by a dedicated NEET Strategy Group since 2008. This work pre-dates any co-ordinated Welsh Government policy initiative to address the needs of young people who are NEET.

## 2.0 Carmarthenshire Implementation of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework

In October 2013, the Welsh Government launched the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework implementation plan setting out the Welsh Government's expectations for this policy in Wales at a local, national and regional level. This framework sets out the Welsh Government's expectations of local authorities in reducing the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The six areas of the framework are:

- Identifying young people most at risk of disengagement;
- Better brokerage and coordination of support;
- Stronger tracking and transitions of young people through the system;
- Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people;
- Strengthening employability skills and opportunities for employment;
- Greater accountability for better outcomes for young people.

All Welsh local authorities are required to develop an action plan to implement the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This action plan is to be developed in the context of other local authority plans and strategies such as school improvement schemes, Families First, Communities First and the Integrated Community Strategy. The Welsh Government believes that strong strategic leadership from local authorities is a critical part of the successful implementation of these plans.

The Welsh Government set out its on-going commitment to tackling poverty by prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion in the 'Tackling Poverty Action Plan 2012-2016'. A key part of that plan was a commitment to reduce the number of young people who are NEET.

New targets were set out in the plan and re-affirmed in the role of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to:

- Reduce the numbers of NEET young people aged 16 - 18 to 9% by 2017;
- Reduce the proportion of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017.

Working closely with the Pembrokeshire 14-19 Network and Careers Wales, the Carmarthenshire 14-19 Network and the youth service have refocused a range of youth support services to meet the needs of young people and the requirements of the Welsh Government's YEPF. These actions have included:

- Restructuring of the youth service on a thematic basis to ensure greater consistency of support services for young people;
- The establishment of a principal youth officer role and three county wide senior youth officer roles (responsible for school and college based youth work, post 16 NEET reduction and positive activities);
- Gaining agreement that school and college based youth work together with post 16 youth work will be "made services" in Families First commissioning process and thus ensuring funding of these roles to 2016;
- Implementation of a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) programme to identify all young people in secondary schools at risk of becoming NEET at 16;
- Use of information gained from the VAP to identify pupils in need of support in schools and supporting the post 16 transition of young people likely to become NEET;
- Using monthly 5 Tier NEET data from Careers Wales and Job Centre Plus to follow up and support young people aged 16-19;
- Mapping of the learning provision (core and additional NEET related) available in the county to avoid duplication;
- Better sharing of information regarding job and training vacancies locally;
- Development of ESF bids with regional partners for submission to the EU 2014-2020 programme to support the young people most at risk of becoming NEET.
- Continued close working with Pembrokeshire on these developments via the shared Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire 14-19 & YEPF steering group and shared training events

As a result of these requirements, much of the Carmarthenshire youth service delivery is now focused on more targeted support for young people. Targeted youth work provision has an important contribution to make in supporting young people to succeed in education, stay safe, stay healthy, play a positive role in their communities and make informed life choices.

The targeted work of the youth service is ensuring better outcomes for young people by providing support strong and efficient connections with other forms of provision, wider support networks and relevant partnerships. This includes the role of youth work in supporting young people to progress into education, training and employment.

A key part of the implementation of the YEPF in Carmarthenshire is the implementation of a network of 'lead workers' providing continuity of support and contact to vulnerable young people and supporting them to engage with and access

wider support services. Carmarthenshire youth service staff are both suitably skilled and best positioned to provide the lead worker role for many of the young people identified as being in need of support to prevent their disengagement from education and training, or to support them to re-engage.

Full details of all the current activities linked to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework are included in the YEPF action plan for 2014-2015.

### 3.0 The Youth Service Budget 2010-2015

Each year, the Welsh Government allocates a core budget to each county council via the Revenue Support Grant to be used to fund the local authority youth service. The Carmarthenshire Youth Service receives the lowest percentage of this funding of any authority in Wales, with only 28% of the amount allocated) to the Council for the Youth Service (£563k of £1.9M actually being received by the service in the 2013-2014 year. This percentage figure has declined year on year from 42% in 2010-2011. The average Welsh local authority core youth work budget as a percentage of local government revenue settlement was 70% in 2013-2014. The year on year cuts to the core amount received by the service have affected its ability to fully deliver youth support services, the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and to provide funding to support voluntary sector youth organisations in Carmarthenshire. Full details of Youth Service funding in Wales can be found here: <http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2014/141022-youth-work-2013-14-en.pdf>

The table below summarises the funding arrangements for the Youth Service in the period 2012-2016.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Core Budget (via RSG)	£634,060	£563,975	£547,117	£415,565
		<i>Reduction of 11%</i>	<i>Reduction of 3%</i>	<i>Reduction of 24%</i>
Cymorth / Families First Grant	£985,699	£983,351	£935,433	£694,540
Other Grants / Income (inc ESF funding)	£328,533	£191,967	£214,030	£264,307
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>£1,948,292</b>	<b>£1,739,293</b>	<b>£1,696,580</b>	<b>£1,374,412</b>
<b>OVERALL REDUCTION</b>		<b>10.7%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>19%</b>

The longstanding shortfall in core funding for Carmarthenshire Youth Service has meant that officers have had to be pro-active in gaining funding from other sources. In the period 2010-2013, significant additional funding was gained from the regional Engage ESF project to reduce the number of young people becoming NEET.

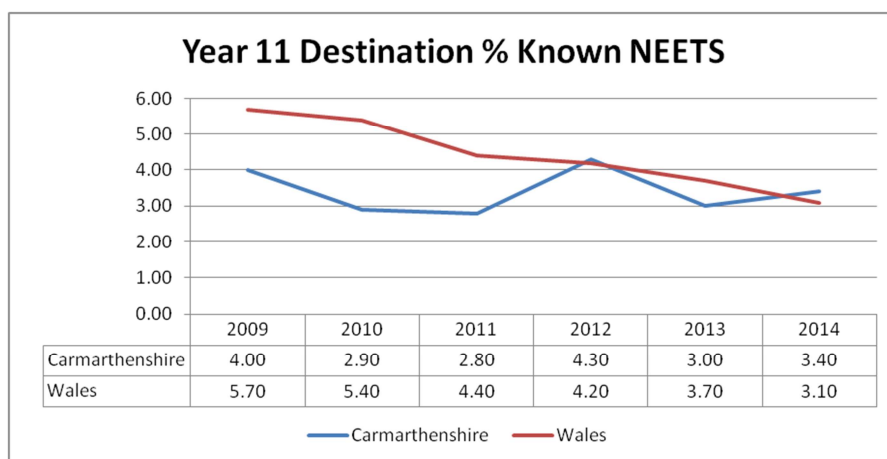
However, the closure of this project and Welsh Government delays in implementing a successor ESF programme for young people has meant a significant funding shortfall for the youth service in the period 2013-2015. Officers are currently (July 2015) preparing the Carmarthenshire elements of two regional ESF bids focussing on young people at risk of becoming NEET to be submitted to the Wales European Funding Office in September 2015. These bids will be led by Pembrokeshire CC on behalf of the 5 south west Wales authorities in the ESF area.

Additionally, officers secured Families First funding via the associated grant commissioning for school, college and Post 16 outreach youth work as “made services”, thus ensuring funding for these roles to 2016. However, the uncertainty generated by a combination of core budgets cuts and unconfirmed grant funding in the 2014-2015 financial year affected the ability of staff to fully deliver range of youth support services offered previously. Restructuring of the service during this period resulted in four youth workers leaving council employment in the financial year.

Despite the identified reductions in funding, the Youth Service provided support services for 29% of young people aged 11-19 and 19% of the 11-25 population in Carmarthenshire in 2014/15. The Youth Service is also responsible for delivering the best performing Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme in Wales, with more young people taking part, achieving awards and undertaking the scheme through the medium of Welsh than in any other county.

#### 4.0 Careers Wales Pupil Destination Data – Carmarthenshire Context

School destination, and NEET “snapshot” data is captured by Careers Wales at the end of October each year for Year 11, 12 and 13 leavers and is published annually in the following April. Carmarthenshire Year 11 data reflects the current “mixed economy” for Post 16 provision, comprising of school Sixth Forms, Coleg Sir Gar FE delivery including an academic Tertiary system for the Llanelli area, vocational courses and work based learning provision. Data for Year 12 and Year 13 relates to Carmarthenshire school sixth form data only and does not include FE college destination data, which WG record this in a different way, making comparison of outcomes difficult.



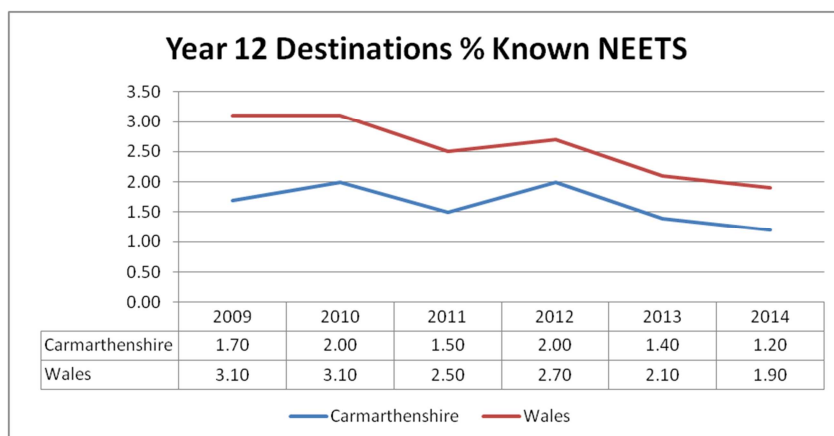


The percentage of Carmarthenshire Year 11 pupils becoming NEET has risen from 3.0% (65 yp) in 2013 to 3.4% (69 yp) in 2014 – Wales av 3.1%. In 2014, Carmarthenshire ranked 14<sup>th</sup> of 22 local authorities in Wales for this key performance indicator.

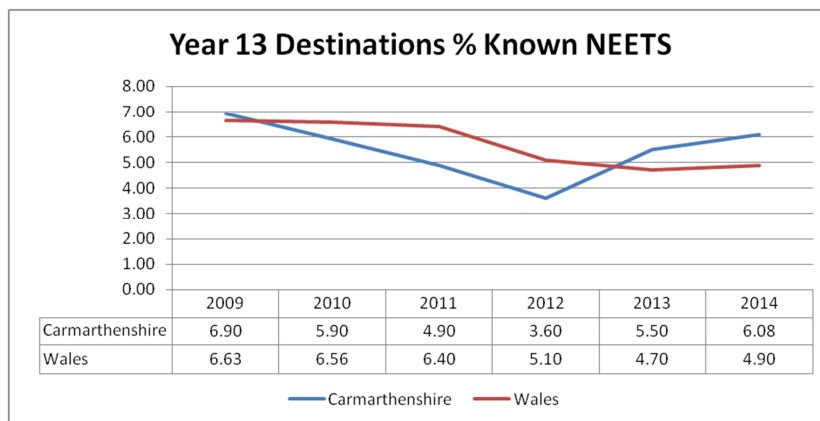
This small increase is a function of the effects of the following factors:

- The high level of dependency on grant funding to support the Youth Service and YEPP;
- Restructuring of the Youth Service linked to the required departmental budgetary savings, with the resulting effects on staff morale, performance and numbers of staff employed;
- An increased focus on pupil attendance leading to more young people being educated at home (given parents are concerned about fines if pupils do not attend school and thus are withdrawing their children to avoid this) and where this happens in Years 10 and 11, the likelihood of these young people becoming NEET increases significantly.
- The Welsh Government and Wales European Funding Unit delays in implementing the 2015 -2020 ESF programme which offers opportunities for targeted project work with this cohort of young people.

Additionally, the percentages of pupils progressing to 6<sup>th</sup> Form (41%) and FE college – primarily Coleg Sir Gâr (45%) -have remained fairly static over the last three years. This is a reflection of the strength of local educational partnership working which is acknowledged as sector leading. Consequently, there is not great “competition” locally for Post 16 pupils.



In 2014, Carmarthenshire schools retained 84% of their Year 12 leavers, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> of 22 Welsh Authorities for this KPI (Wales average 82%). This suggests a high degree of pupil satisfaction with the Sixth Form experience on offer in schools. The percentage of young people becoming NEET at the end of Year 12 was 1.2% (Wales average 1.9%) with Carmarthenshire ranking 6<sup>th</sup> of 22 Welsh Local Authorities for this KPI. The percentage of young people becoming NEET varied across the schools from 0% to 4%. However, focus on this cohort of young people remains a priority since levels of pupil drop out from Year 12 can be an indicator of dissatisfaction with the curriculum on offer, particularly for those pupils who return to the Sixth Form without a clear focus for progression and/or weak GCSE grades.



The percentage of Year 13 pupils becoming NEET has risen from 5.5% (40 yp in 2013 to 6.0% - 46 yp) in 2014. Carmarthenshire ranks 17 of 22 Welsh authorities, with the Wales average being 4.9%. Initial analysis suggests that this trend is linked to particular schools where the levels of progression from Sixth Form to University are low, and there is significant variation in the outcomes here at an individual school level. For example, the highest rate of progression by pupils from a Carmarthenshire school to Higher Education is 74.5%, while the lowest is 38%. And the school with the lowest rate of progression to HE also has both the highest rate of Year 13 progression to FE (24%) and the highest rate of Year 13 pupils becoming NEET (16%), with the lowest Carmarthenshire school having 1.2% of pupils in this NEET category.

This data suggests that pupils who were not well suited to A levels stayed on at school when they would have been better served progressing to FE College or work-based training. These pupils did not achieve good grades at A Level in school and thus either went to FE post A Level (in effect wasting two years in school) and/or did not progress and became NEET. This area is a particular focus for the new Post 16 Planning and Funding System and will be a key area of study in the current 11-19 Education & Training review.

## 5.0 Departmental Actions to Reduce the Number of Young People Becoming NEET

There are a range of actions on-going to reduce the number of young people becoming NEET. These actions are linked to the local authority's responsibilities via the YEPF and other departmental and partnership work to access additional resources to support this group of young people. In addition to the YEPF actions identified elsewhere in this briefing paper, Post 16 progression and retention during the 2015-2016 year will be supported by:

- **Year 11 Information Advice and Guidance** – Young people in Year 11 receive assemblies from Job Centre Plus staff that provides them with information about the local labour market. These are timed to coincide with them beginning their post-16 options choices. This compliments the work undertaken by Careers Wales.

- **Careers Events** – All Year KS4 young people in compulsory education have the opportunity to meet Carmarthenshire Post-16 education providers face at a Careers Event. This enables them to get a better understanding of their potential learning pathways and they are further signposted onto options evenings.
- **Year 11 AS level entry requirements** – Each school needs to be confident that all learners have the appropriate ability to complete their courses. From September 2015, all pupils entering Sixth Forms without GCSE Maths and English will be required to resit these qualifications.
- **Common Area Prospectus and Application Process (CAP)** – All Year 11 learners will apply for their post-16 education and training through the Welsh Government's new CAP system from September 2016. This system will allow learners to view the full range of educational opportunities in the county, and will greatly contribute to tracking their progression through the post-16 transition process. This is similar to the UCAS university application process.
- **A review of 11-19 Education in Carmarthenshire** – This work is being undertaken in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar and will include the development of a Carmarthenshire curriculum offer and clear links to the economic regeneration of the County and region. This will be underpinned by the development of an inclusive curriculum for learners in all settings. This will be underpinned by a revised departmental structure including a new head of Inclusion post.
- **Closer links with CCC Regeneration colleagues** – To ensure that all opportunities to promote work related education, entrepreneurship, apprenticeships and traineeships locally are utilised and links to Swansea Bay City Region developments;

It is possible that additional resources for NEET preventative work will be available from early 2016 via the regional ESF *Cynnydd* project (for 11-19s at risk of becoming NEET) and the *Cam Nesa* Project (for 16-25s who are NEET). These projects will include the potential for direct funding for CCC delivery and procurement of a range of support and enhancement services. Both of these regional projects are being led by Pembrokeshire County Council.

## 6.0 Future Challenges to Reducing the Number of Young People Becoming NEET

While the Carmarthenshire NEET steering group has overseen a largely successful and joined-up approach to reducing the number of young people who become NEET in the county over the period 2006-2015, there will be very significant challenges to further work in this area in the period to 2020.

These challenges include:

- Reducing WG budgets for 14-19 collaboration work which will reduce the opportunity for young people to take vocational courses at KS4;
- A focus on teaching and learning to deliver school improvement that does not consider how the wider local authority support services contribute to improving outcomes for young people and families experiencing poverty;

- The withdrawal of universal advice, guidance and work experience services by Careers Wales, placing additional responsibility for these areas on the local authority without any associated budget to fund this work;
- An increasingly academic 11-16 curriculum that many pupils will not find interesting or engaging;
- A reduced “alternative curriculum” offer for young people in Key Stage 4 who are disaffected with school;
- Reducing Welsh Government Post 16 budgets (predicted to be a minimum of 5% p.a. to 2020) that will limit the potential for secondary schools and Coleg Sir Gâr to offer a broad A Level curriculum;
- Reducing youth service budgets and a focus on WG grant funding that does not enable the flexible approaches required to engage with young people;
- New models of youth service delivery currently being considered by the Welsh Government and likely to feature in political party manifestos for the 2016 Welsh Assembly election;
- Welfare cuts by the Westminster Government that will significantly affect the ability of young people to stay in education and find employment (e.g. the removal of Housing Benefit for 18-21 year olds).

Given this context, and despite the on-going commitment of Council staff and the wider partnership to supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET, there is a very significant risk that the number of young people aged 16-25 in Carmarthenshire becoming NEET and/or experiencing poverty will increase in the next 5 years.

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Matt Morden  
Lifelong Learning Networks Manager

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Explanation for non-submission  
of scrutiny reports**

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER(S)	EXPLANATION	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
Families First Update	Noeline Thomas / Janine Patrick	Due to the number of items on the agenda, this update has not been reported. However, it is proposed that members of the Committee be invited to the launch of the revised Families First Programme in November 2015.	N/A
Flying Start Update	Noeline Thomas / Nia McIntosh	Due to the number of items on the agenda, this update has not been reported. It is proposed that instead of a formal update at a Committee meeting, members visit the Flying Start facilities in Llanelli as part of the visits programme in 2015/16.	N/A

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**(NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING)**

**Present: Councillor J.E. Williams (Chair)**

**Councillors: D.J.R. Bartlett (Vice-Chair), C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, I.W. Davies, W.K. Davies, J.D. James, P.E.M. Jones, M.J.A. Lewis, D.W.H. Richards, T. Theophilus.**

**Councillor J.S. Williams – Substitute for Councillor P. Hughes-Griffiths**

**Mrs. V. Kenny – Roman Catholic Church Representative**

**Also in attendance:**

**Councillor G.O. Jones – Executive Board Member (EBM) for Education & Children**

**Also in attendance as an observer:**

**Councillor J. Williams**

**The following officers were in attendance:**

- Mr. G. Morgans – Chief Education Officer
- Mrs. B. O'Connor – Managing Director of ERW
- Mr. A. Rees – Head of Learner Programmes
- Mr. S. Smith – Head of Children's Services
- Mr. S. Davies – School Modernisation Manager
- Mr. M. Morden – Lifelong Learning Networks Manager
- Mr. P. Davies – Capital Accountant
- Ms. S. Nolan – Group Accountant
- Ms. B. Dolan – Senior Consultant
- Mr. M. Hughes – Assistant Consultant

**Venue:** Spilman Street Chamber, Carmarthen (10:00am – 12:30pm)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors W.G. Hopkins and P. Hughes-Griffiths.

Apologies were also received from Mr. S. Pearson (Parent Governor Co-opted Member) and Mr. R. Sully (Director of Education & Children)

The Chair welcomed Councillors M.J.A. Lewis and K. Davies to their first meeting as new members of the Committee.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Minute Item(s)</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor D.J.R. Bartlett	Item 4	In that he is President of Carmarthenshire NUT

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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### 3. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

### 4. ERW BUSINESS PLAN 2015/16 AND REVIEW OF 2014/15

*Councillor D.J.R. Bartlett declared an interest in that he is President of Carmarthenshire NUT*

The Chair welcomed Betsan O'Connor, Managing Director (MD) of the Education through Regional Working (ERW) Consortium, to the meeting.

The Committee received a presentation in relation to the work of the ERW Consortium during 2014/15 and its business plan for the years ahead. The presentation outlined ERW's functions, the continuation of the statutory responsibilities within each local authority as well as the collaborative working across the region.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

The gap in attainment by pupils eligible (e) for and receiving free school meals (e-FSM) was referred to and it was asked what was being done to reduce this. The MD ERW advised that there was a regional strategy however within Carmarthenshire there were supportive services beyond education such as the Team around the Family approach. Tracking of every pupil was also important so that Headteachers could provide additional and appropriate support. This however had to be done sensitively and within the context of the individual school. ERW had also identified professional learning schools and was funding them to share their expertise. The Pupil Deprivation Grant was not having the impact expected and WG with Estyn were looking at this. ERW intended monitoring and auditing the use made of the PDG by schools and its impact going forward.

A question was asked about families who did not take up their FSM entitlement and how their children were supported. The MD ERW re-iterated the need to track all pupils using flight-path principles to plan the support they needed. The Head of Learner Programmes agreed there was excellent support from ERW across the county and at a school level. It was important to have strategies to move all pupils on but also to work with individuals on a one to one basis as needed. Children from middle class backgrounds had support at home, were imbued with ambition by interested parents as well as having additional tuition if necessary. Young people could fall below the radar due to poverty and disadvantage. The new curriculum provided opportunities to enhance and enrich the lives of young people and children within education by interweaving education and well being.

It was asked why new Challenge Advisors (CA) were being recruited. The MD ERW stated that it was intended to create a transient workforce with a third fulltime, a third secondees and a third on a consultant basis. This would ensure that the workforce skills were recent and relevant. It was however difficult as head teacher



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## 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015

salaries were greater and the CA role required the ability to challenge. Schools could also be reluctant to release a lead teacher in case there was an adverse impact on the school. The CAs also required regular training to ensure the quality of their work remained high and consistent.

It was asked what schools thought of ERW. The MD ERW advised that it was important to look at outcomes however teachers and head teachers were happy with the direction of travel. It was also a transition for them to take leadership roles and for all schools to become self-improving.

A question was asked about which schools had been identified to undertake the PISA tests. The MD ERW stated that a private company had chosen the sample at random. She believed that the information was confidential but would, if allowed, circulate the detail.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.**

*The Committee unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting for 5 minutes.*

### 5. **CARMARTHENSHIRE ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE – PROGRESS REPORT – ACL SERVICE PROVISION 2015-16**

The Committee considered a progress report in relation to the Carmarthenshire Adult & Community Learning (ACL) Service. It was reminded that at its meeting on the 11th of March 2015, members had requested such a report, which would include options for the provision of ACL in 2015/16. The report outlined implications of recent Welsh Government funding cuts on the service and the proposed transfer of the provision to Coleg Sir Gâr, as well as options for delivering the service during 2015/16.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

Concerns were expressed at the news that the TAD construction centre in Llanelli would be closing when its lease ended. The Lifelong Learning Networks Manager clarified that the 14 – 19 related work with Coleg Sir Gâr providing construction vocational courses would progress into the vocational village at Bryngwyn School site. Adult learner courses would however cease at the TAD centre from July 2015. He emphasised that the vocational village would be used by all of Llanelli and beyond, making the School truly community focused. The School Modernisation Manager advised that the project utilising £600k of WG capital grant was due for completion in February 2016.

It was asked how the new programme would be publicised. The Lifelong Learning Networks Manager advised that the service has stopped sending brochures to all households 3 years ago as only 1% of the population were accessing the courses. The programme would however be promoted at all public information points, through Carmarthenshire News as well as the corporate website.

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Express was concerned that the Felinfoel Community Education Centre would go to waste given there were no alternative plans to run the facility. The Lifelong Learning Networks Manager highlighted that in the three public consultation meetings held in June 2015, Community Education Centre users expressed their view that they valued these facilities and requested that the County Council continue to run these buildings. He emphasised however that the ACL Service and Department for Education and Children would not have sufficient funding to continue to run these buildings in the 2016-2017 financial year and that additional funding from outside the Department would be required if these sites are to remain open in the future.

### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:**

**5.1 The report be endorsed.**

**5.2 The Executive Board be asked to consider the possibility of finding funding to maintain the Community Education Centres going forward.**

### **6. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME – PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY OF YSGOL BRO MYRDDIN FROM BILINGUAL (2A) TO WELSH-MEDIUM (WM)**

The Committee received a report outlining a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin. The Committee was informed that the Education & Children Department fully supported the school's desire to continue along the Welsh language continuum and to change the language category to Welsh Medium (WM). Members were informed that informal consultation with pupils, governors, staff and parents of existing and prospective pupils had recently been completed. However, under the 2014 School Organisation Statutory Code a regulated alteration such as a change in the language category of a school required a proposal to be published to formalise arrangements. The Authority was therefore required to complete a statutory consultation process which, if approved, would commence in the Autumn Term 2015. The Committee welcomed the report and the proposal.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

It was asked what the timescale for the consultation would be. The School Modernisation Manager advised that this would be between the 19<sup>th</sup> of October and the 14<sup>th</sup> of December providing the proposal was approved by Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to endorse the proposal to proceed with the statutory consultation process regarding the planned change in the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin.**

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### 7. END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – 1ST APRIL 2014 TO 31ST MARCH 2015

The Committee received, for consideration, the End of Year Performance Management Report for the services within its remit, for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015. The report included:

- A. Heads of Service Overview of Performance
- B. Improvement Plan Monitoring – Actions and Performance Measures
- C. Additional Provisional Performance Measures Data
- D. Complaints and Compliments Monitoring

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

Clarification was requested in relation to the reference to a possible review of catchment area for one secondary school in report A. The Chief Education Officer stated that he would circulate the detail following the meeting. In response to an additional question, he advised that a comprehensive review of catchment areas was resource intensive and that it would be extremely challenging to find the capacity within the department to repeat the exercise that was carried out in 2011/12.

References were made to elective home education. The Chief Education Officer advised that a detailed report was included in the Committee's forward work programme. Home education was a parental choice which the Authority could not prevent unless there was a statement of special educational needs. Parents were always asked the reason for their choice however were not obliged to respond. Guidance and legislation in regard to monitoring were currently weak and the Authority had responded to WG's consultation asking for stronger guidance and monitoring arrangements. Parents do not have to follow the national curriculum or have any qualifications. More than 170 children and young people in the county were being educated at home and the trend was increasing.

Concerns were expressed at the increase in young people classed as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The Chief Education Officer stated that schools were responsible for putting young people at risk on alternative courses and monitoring their progress. A Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) was used to flag up those at risk of becoming NEET and this was shared with the school. Youth services also worked with those at high risk. He agreed to report progress to the Committee later in the year. The Head of Learner Programmes added that he was working with the Lifelong Learning Networks Manager on a report about the 11 – 19 curriculum review. This would be presented to the Committee later in the year.

The distribution of the Young Carers' Charter to all schools and relevant settings was queried. The Head of Children's Services stated that an e-learning module for staff and pupils developed by Hywel Dda Health Board had been sent to all schools.

It was asked if schools had to pay for the new information management systems, SIMS and Teacher Centre, which had been introduced during the year. The Chief

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Education Officer advised that this was not the case however schools could also decide locally to use another tracking system which did have an annual fee.

It was asked why the percentage of schools graded as "Good" or "Satisfactory" for school building condition was off target. The Chief Education Officer stated that 2 of the 4 schools that had closed during the year had been classed as in good condition which had affected the result.

A progress report was requested in relation to disposal of empty school buildings as there were concerns about them attracting anti-social behaviour. The Chief Education Officer agreed to request an update from the Head of Corporate Property including which buildings had been sold and the price achieved. He would then circulate this to the Committee.

The 2013 result of 93.7% pupils in Welsh-medium and bilingual primary schools transferring to Welsh-medium secondary schools was queried. The Chief Education Officer advised that this result did not include English-medium primary schools. The percentage was 55% across the entire primary sector.

The increase in compliments to the department was welcomed. The Chief Education Officer stated that the department had improved its logging of complimentary letters and messages.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.**

### 8. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2014/15

The Committee considered a report outlining the end of year financial position for the revenue and capital expenditure in relation to the remit of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee, in respect of the 2014/15 financial year. The revenue budget had a net underspend of £98k at the end of the year.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

The end of year revenue result was welcomed however it was noted that the budget monitoring results varied widely during the year. It was asked if anything was being done to strengthen the monitoring arrangements. The Chief Education Officer advised that budget managers were receiving annual training and work was being done to help managers with budget forecasting. The Group Accountant added that a number of contingencies were built into forecasts during the year due to the nature of the services and where there could be changing circumstances at short notice. Detailed monitoring was done on a bi-monthly basis.

**RESOLVED that the report be received.**

### 9. EXPLANATIONS FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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The Committee noted the reasons for the non-submissions of the Mid & West Wales Regional Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15, as well as the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub update.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the explanations for the non-submissions be noted.**

### 10. EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND REFERRALS UPDATE

The Committee considered a report detailing progress in relation to actions, requests or referrals emerging from previous meetings.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.**

### 11. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Committee was provided with a list of forthcoming items to be considered at its next meeting scheduled for the 24th September 2015. The Committee agreed to defer the School Attendance and Education Welfare Update report and School Visits Activity report 2014/15, given the length of the agenda.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items be endorsed, subject to the deferment of the School Attendance and Education Welfare Update report and School Visits Activity report 2014/15.**

### 10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015

It was noted that Councillor C.A. Campbell's declaration of interest in relation to minute 5 was that his brother and sister-in-law were teachers.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th May 2015, be signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment above.**

**CHAIR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **JOINT EDUCATION & CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015**

***(NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING)***

**Present:** Councillor J.E. Williams (Chair)

**Education & Children Scrutiny Committee**

**Councillors:** D.J.R. Bartlett, C. Campbell, J.M. Charles, T. Davies, W.G. Hopkins, P. Hughes-Griffiths, J.D. James, G.O. Jones, P.E.M. Jones, D.W.H. Richards, T. Theophilus.

**Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee**

**Councillors:** S.M. Allen, S.M. Caiach, S.L. Davies, H.A.L. Evans, H.I. Jones, E. Morgan, B.A.L. Roberts, E.G. Thomas, G. Thomas (Chair), J. Williams, J.S. Williams.

**Also in attendance:**

**Councillor J. Tremlett – Executive Board Member for Social Care & Health**

**The following officers were in attendance:**

Mr. J. Morgan – Director of Community Services  
Mr. R. Sully – Director of Education & Children  
Mr. G. Morgans – Head of Education Services  
Mr. A. Rees – Head of Learner Programmes  
Mr. S. Smith – Head of Children's Services  
Mrs. H. Smith – Executive Support Manager  
Mrs. S. Sauro – Performance Review Officer  
Ms. B. Dolan – Senior Consultant

**Venue: Spilman Street Chamber, Carmarthen (10:00 – 11:05am)**

### **1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to appoint Councillor J.E. Williams as chair for the meeting.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I.W. Davies, D.J.R. Llewellyn and Mr. C. Brown (Parent Governor).

# **JOINT EDUCATION & CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015**

Apologies were also received from Mrs. V. Kenny, the Roman Catholic Church Representative on the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

There were no declarations of personal interest.

### **4. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS**

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

### **5. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN CARMARTHENSHIRE 2014/15**

The Director of Community Services presented his annual report on the effectiveness of the Social Care Services in the county. The Committee considered the report which gave an overview of the progress made on areas identified for improvement in last year's report and highlights those areas to be developed in the current year. It noted that there is a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to the Council on the delivery, performance and risks as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of Social Services. The Committee welcomed the comprehensive report which showed the achievements across the services as well the challenges and priorities for the future.

The following issues were raised during consideration of the report:

A question was asked for the reasons behind the increased expenditure on Adults and Learning Disabilities Services over the years. Concerns were also expressed about year on year over spends and consequent impact on other services and departments. The Director of Community Services advised that there were a number of factors including; the increasing number of people needing services, a greater level of complex and profound disabilities, more complex and changing needs with longer life expectancy, fragmented family circumstances and a higher level of expectation. The new Older People Strategy that would be developed in the coming months was designed to offer options and choices for Members to make decisions whilst understanding the financial consequences. His role was to advise what is needed to meet increased responsibilities and statutory duties going forward.

It was noted that expenditure on Children's Services had decreased in recent years. It was asked if this was impacting adversely on social worker teams. The Head of Children's Services highlighted a significant increase in the level of referrals over



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the last year; up by one third. He advised that an independent consultant had looked at frontline duty services and had concluded that these were being more responsive. 99% of referrals went on for further assessment. More supportive family services were being provided and consequently the number of Looked After Children (LAC) was reducing; leading to reductions in costs.

The drop in Adult Services assessments during 2014/15 was queried, given less than half of referrals had been assessed. The Director of Community Services noted that the report was a draft and that the End of Year data had not yet been finalised. The referral and assessment process had been redesigned to prevent people undergoing complex and lengthy assessments that concluded they were not eligible for services. People were instead signposted elsewhere as appropriate. Assessments were now performed where there was a high level of need. Care plan reviewing was however an area that needed improving as the current systems were not able to deal with the pace of changing need.

It was asked if there was duplication in the regional and local Safeguarding Children Boards (SCB). The Director of Community Services that the regional Board was statutory. CYSUR covered the Mid and West Wales region, a large rural area. The practicalities of providing services across the region had resulted in a local safeguarding arrangement which was chaired by the Head of Children's Services. A Junior local SCB had also been established. He also met with all Lead Members across the region so they could input into the process. The regional arrangement was not however a utopia for decreasing costs across the region.

Clarification was requested about the role of the Relevant Person's Representatives (RPR's) in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). The Director of Community Services stated that DoLS had developed out of a case law precedent which had increased the level of assessments needed. This had needed to be managed in an absence of national guidance therefore the Authority had developed some working tools. CSSIW had carried out a health check across Wales during the year with a positive report for Carmarthenshire. He would check the precise nature of the RPR's role and circulate to the Committee's following the meeting.

It was asked why Direct Payments (DP's) were increasing and if these could be misused. The Director of Community Services advised that people could employ their care provision directly following assessments. This allowed more choice for the individual and less cost for the Authority. DP's were audited by a third party organisation and any funding that was not used was reclaimed.

Reablement was referred to and further detail requested. The Director of Community Services advised that there were positive outcomes for people benefiting from the service as it helped remove that fatalism and depression that getting older could generate. There was a correlation between hospital admissions and rapid deterioration in older people without some form of reablement. The

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interim Head of Integrated Services was looking at best practice as there was a range of models.

Further information was requested about the Night Care and Rapid Response Service. The Director of Community Services stated that this was intended to organise appropriate support for people to prevent hospital admissions. Early indications were that it was successful in terms of benefits to the individual and in preventing high level care post admission. Significantly more investment in community services was required to expand this provision and prevented the thousands of unplanned hospital admissions.

A question was asked about Dementia Services and the work in rural communities. The Director of Community Services advised that this was a major theme going forward due the huge growth in numbers and the multiple factors associated with the disease. Decisions were needed around the nature of day care provision and how to better support community groups and local carer networks. Strategies were being developed to support Dementia friendly communities such as the one that had been piloted in Pontyberem. Rural areas were more challenging as residential care was not cost effective. Dementia would be a significant theme in the new Older People Strategy going forward.

The options appraisal regarding Domiciliary Care was referred to and it was asked if the impact of the uncertainty on staff was being considered. The Director of Community Services stated that he had spoken to staff about their concerns. The Older People Strategy was an opportunity to consider the options around provision as the status quo was not financially sustainable. Trading Company models retained public ownership of the service and could help reduce costs. All options would be considered and business cases developed.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to endorse the report to the Executive Board.**