

# Document Pack



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**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**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, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN AT 10:00AM ON THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**, FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

*Mark James*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



PLEASE RECYCLE

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Matthew Hughes</b>
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<b>Ref:</b>	<b>AD016-001</b>

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2 NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS AND 3  
ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS

## PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 6 MEMBERS

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

## INDEPENDENT GROUP – 3 MEMBERS

- |    |            |                 |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Councillor | I.W. Davies     |
| 2. | Councillor | D.W.H. Richards |
| 3. | Councillor | VACANCY         |

## LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS

- |    |            |                              |
|----|------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | D.J.R. Bartlett (Vice-Chair) |
| 2. | Councillor | J.D. James                   |
| 3. | Councillor | P.E.M. Jones                 |
| 4. | Councillor | J. Williams                  |

## NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)

- |    |               |                                      |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. V. Kenny | Roman Catholic Church Representative |
| 2. | Canon B. Witt | Church in Wales Representative       |

## ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS (3)

*Term of office expires on the 31/03/2018*

- |    |                 |                     |
|----|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. E. Heyes   | Area 3 – Llanelli   |
| 2. | Mrs. K. Hill    | Area 1 – Dinefwr    |
| 3. | Mrs. A. Pickles | Area 2 – Carmarthen |

# AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
3. DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
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6. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17 7 - 48
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8. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2016/17 61 - 74
9. 2016/17 IMPROVEMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 1 – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 75 - 114
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11. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS 151 - 152
12. TO SIGN AS CORRECT RECORDS THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:
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  - 12 .2 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 167 - 172
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13. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEES, HELD ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2016 193 - 196

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# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

**Forthcoming items for next meeting –  
Monday 10th October 2016**

Discussion Topic	Background
TIC Project Update	<p>The TIC Team was established to support a programme of transformational change across the Local Authority and to seek opportunities to drive out waste and inefficiency by delivering more purposeful services. This item will provide the Committee with an update on the work of the Team and examples of projects that it has supported in services that are within the Committee's remit.</p>
MEP Proposal – Laugharne, Llanmiloe & Tremoilet	<p>At its meeting on the 9th March 2016, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive Board that a formal consultation process on the proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe CP, Tremoilet VCP and Laugharne VCP Schools and to create a new area school, be initiated during the summer term of 2016.</p> <p>However, at its meeting on the 21st March 2016, the Executive Board decided to defer consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal, to allow further information to be gathered and evaluated, and for officers to bring a subsequent report to the Education &amp; Children Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter.</p> <p>This item will provide the Committee with another opportunity to consider the proposal to consult on the future of these schools.</p>

<b>Discussion Topic</b>	<b>Background</b>
ERW Business Plan 2016/17 & Review of 2015/16	The Committee will have the opportunity to monitor the progress made by the ERW (Education through Regional Working) Consortium during 2015/16 and its Business Plan objectives for 2016/17. The Committee has also requested details regarding the role of Challenge Advisors and examples of the types of interventions, their effectiveness and outcomes in terms of supporting schools improving standards and pupil attainments. The recent ESTYN inspection of the ERW consortium will also be covered as part of this item.
School Improvement Panel Annual Report 2015/16	<p>This Executive Board Member led Panel including ten non-Executive Members was introduced during 2014/15. A key activity of the Panel is to receive copies of every ESTYN school inspection report following their publication and to summon the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher of every school to appear before the Panel in order to hold the senior school leaders to account for the outcome of the inspection and any further action required, in response to it.</p> <p>Part of the Panel's Terms of Reference also requires it to produce an annual report on its activity for consideration by the Executive Board and the Education &amp; Children Scrutiny Committee, to include any proposals or recommendations that the Panel considers could improve provision or performance.</p>
School Visit Activity Report 2015/16	This is an annual update report regarding the Committee's school and children's settings visits programme during the previous academic year.

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service  
Business Plan 2016-17**

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

- That the Committee consider and comment on the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service Business Plan 2016-17.

**Reasons:**

- The Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service Business Plan 2016-17 provides information about the Youth Support Service Structure; governance arrangements and resources available to the service (finance and staff).
- The Youth Support Service Business Plan describes the main areas of activity and identifies the principle risks associated with children and young people in the Youth Justice System. Information is included about the use of data, the development of the workforce and the possible risks to future service delivery.
- 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)**

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children	<b>Designations:</b>	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>
<b>Names of Heads of Service:</b> Aeron Rees	Head of Learner Programmes	01267 246532 <a href="mailto:jarees@sirgar.gov.uk">jarees@sirgar.gov.uk</a>
Gareth Morgans	Chief Education Officer	01267 246450 <a href="mailto:edgmorgans@sirgar.gov.uk">edgmorgans@sirgar.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Gill Adams	Principal Manager – Youth Support Service	01554 744322 <a href="mailto:gmadams@sirgar.gov.uk">gmadams@sirgar.gov.uk</a>



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

## Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service Business Plan 2016-17

Service Background – Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service was established on 1/1/16 bringing together the Carmarthenshire Youth Service and the Carmarthenshire Youth Offending Service under a single integrated management structure. The Youth Support Service allows for the development of a more holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire. The service retains the statutory functions of the Youth Justice Team; promotes the ethos of working together to deliver targeted support and retains elements of direct universal youth work provision.

Vision – A service that provides a robust range of support from open access to specialised support, enabling children, young people and young adults (aged 8-25 years) to access *what* they need, *when* and *where* they need it so that they can reach their full personal, social and educational potential.

Developing a Youth Support Service Business Plan for Carmarthenshire – The production of an annual Youth Support Service Business Plan has to meet the requirements of a variety of audiences:

- The Youth Justice Board – as a legislative requirement (Crime & Disorder Act 1998) and condition of grant
- YSS Youth Justice Local Management Board members and others who are part of the YOT partnership
- The County Council – both strategically and for scrutiny
- Youth Support Staff as an operational plan

The plan therefore has to meet legislative, grant making and business planning requirements.

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**

**Gareth Morgans**            **Chief Education Officer**

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** – The Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service Business Plan 2016-17 contributes to one of the key themes of the Integrated Community Strategy, namely that of, “Feeling Secure –Safer Communities.” It also actively contributes to section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, which requires Local Authorities to have done all we reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder locally.

## 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**

**Gareth Morgans**            **Chief Education Officer**

- 1. Local Member(s)** – N/A
- 2. Community / Town Council** – N/A
- 3. Relevant Partners** – The Youth Support Service - Youth Justice Local Management Board members have been consulted about this plan.
- 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**



# **Gwasanaeth Cymorth Ieuenctid: Cynllun Busnes**

## **Youth Support Service: Business Plan 2016/17**



**NATIONAL  
PROBATION  
SERVICE**



**GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES**

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Hywel Dda  
University Health Board



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## 1. The Service

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service was established on 1/1/16 bringing together the Carmarthenshire Youth Service and the Carmarthenshire Youth Offending Service under a single integrated management structure. The Youth Support Service allows for the development of a more holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire. The service retains the statutory functions of the Youth Justice Team; promotes the ethos of working together to deliver targeted support and retains elements of direct universal youth work provision.

### Vision

**A service that provides a robust range of support from open access to specialised support, enabling children, young people and young adults (aged 8-25 years) to access *what* they need, *when* and *where* they need it so that they can reach their full personal, social and educational potential.**

### Core Principles

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service:

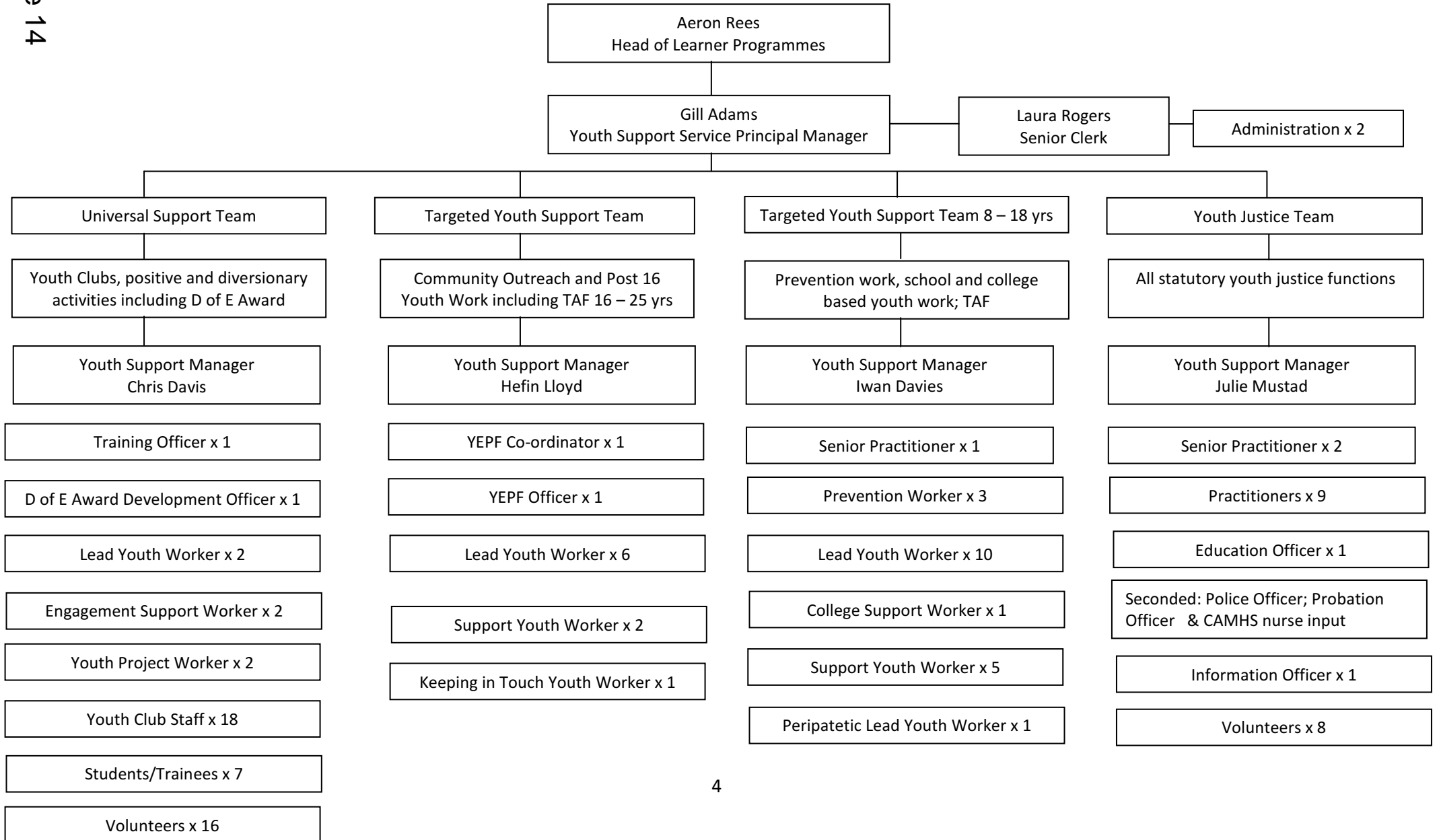
- is innovative and creative in its service delivery;
- contributes to the Welsh Government priority of reducing poverty;
- utilises restorative approaches within its practice;
- promotes inclusion and participation of children and young people;
- has a well-trained, skilled and supported workforce, able to offer a range of services in Welsh and English;
- has a team of trained, skilled volunteers ( e.g. Referral Order Panellists; Bureau; Duke of Edinburgh's Award and universal provision);
- engages with families and carers for better outcomes.

### Staffing

The Youth Support Service brings together staff responsible for providing a range of services extending from youth work provision and support to the delivery of youth justice services and administrative, performance management and business support. Staffing numbers comprise of total of 83 posts (including two seconded officers) equating to 73 members of staff. Access to a link nurse is provided by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The Youth Support Service also utilises volunteers who assist in the delivery of key aspects of work and provides for student placements.

Staffing profiles relating to each team within the Youth Support Service are set out in Appendix 1.

**Youth Support Service Structure**



## Delivery of Youth Work Provision and Youth Support

The statutory requirement of the local authority for youth support services is identified in the *Learning and Skills Act 2000, section 123(1)* directing local authorities to provide, secure the provision of, or participate in the provision of, youth support services. Youth support services are available to 11- 25 year olds and are services that encourage, enable or assist young people to:

- participate effectively in education and training;
- take advantage of opportunities for employment;
- participate effectively and responsibly in the life of their communities.

The Welsh Assembly Government's vision of the future for young people in Wales aged between 11-25 years, is based on the concept of *universal entitlement*, which means that every young person in Wales has a basic entitlement to a range of high quality services which will enable them to participate effectively in opportunities for learning, employment, good health, citizenship and social inclusion. In 2012, the Cymorth Grant to supporting delivery of the WG's flagship "Extending Entitlement" programme was transformed into the Families First Grant. This grant is intended to be used to support families and young people experiencing poverty and to support transitions to employment, education and training.

Welsh Government National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-2018 identifies how youth work should be delivered across Wales. It highlights the importance of the statutory youth service in meeting a variety of ministerial portfolio agendas including poverty, health, education, employment and skills, community, housing and prosperity. This work is integral to developing Carmarthenshire Team Around the Family (TAF) approaches; reducing poverty and improving school outcomes.

The strategy identifies 4 outcomes:

- Young people across Wales continue to have access to diverse informal and non-formal learning opportunities that stretch horizons, challenge their thinking, and develop their skills. It underlines the importance of the use of open-access provision in order to effectively connect young people with more targeted or specialised support as appropriate.
- Strengthening of the strategic relationship between youth work organisations and formal education on a national basis. This requires targeted youth work being embedded in how partners work to support positive outcomes for young people in mainstream education and training.

The strategy underpins the delivery of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to support a more consistent and integrated offer to young people. On that basis, the strategy supports a sustained reduction in young people who are not in education, training or employment, be that as a result of education, health or other related interventions and support.

- A better coordinated and more consistent youth work offer to young people from youth work organisations in the statutory and voluntary sector. The strategy sets out a desire to see statutory and voluntary youth work organisations working together to build, deliver and offer quality youth work opportunities to young people.

- Securing a robust evidence base, capturing the outcomes and impact of youth work provision.

Support offered to children, young people and young adults is based upon the principal of voluntary participation, and draws from ‘The Five Pillars of Youth Work in Wales’: Educative, Expressive, Participative, Inclusive and Empowering.

Youth Work National Occupational Standards state that the key purpose of youth work is to “enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential”.

### **Delivery of Youth Justice Services**

Youth Offending Teams (known in Carmarthenshire as ‘Youth Justice Team’) were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the stated intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending. The Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Team is a statutory, multi-disciplinary partnership that is co-ordinated by the Local Authority. The local governance is carried out by a management board made up of the partners, and nationally by The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, which is part of the Ministry of Justice. The work of the service is based on individual, holistic and comprehensive assessments which generate individual intervention plans to address the areas identified as raising the likelihood of further offending.

The Youth Justice Team is made up of staff from Children’s Services, Police, Probation, Health and Education, working together with their communities to ensure that young people take responsibility for their criminal behaviour and put something back into their community and that:

- Parents take responsibility for their children.
- Opportunities exist to prevent youth crime.
- Young people achieve their potential.
- Justice is delivered swiftly;
- Punishment reflects the seriousness of the crime committed.

The Youth Justice Team engages in a wide variety of work with young people from 10-17 years, who have offended. Staff provide assessment and reports for Bureau (‘Out of Court Disposals’); provide information courts for sentencing purposes and supervise children and young people subject to community sentence and custodial sentences. Restorative Justice underpins the work of the team. This includes victim- offender mediation; arranging restorative justice meetings (bringing together the victim and the young person who has offended) as appropriate; arranging reparation work to be undertaken in line with the wishes of the victim.

### **Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service - Teams**

Services to children, young people and young adults are delivered by 4 Youth Support Service Teams:

- Universal Support Team
- Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 years)
- Targeted Youth Support Team (8-18 years)
- Youth Justice Team



## Universal Support Team

Responsible for the delivery of open access provision including; adventurous outdoor activities and programmes; youth club provision; supporting the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; programmes of accredited learning; delivery of activities to support community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour; co-ordination of staff training and continuing professional development; support for young people's participation in decisions that affect them; residential programmes for young people both in the UK and abroad.

## Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 years)

Responsible for the delivery of detached, outreach youth work provision in the community funded by WG Families First to meet the requirements of developing Team Around the Family approaches. The team provides for the co-ordination role linked to the delivery of WG Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (targeted provision and support for young people at risk of becoming 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET).

The team accepts referrals in relation to young people and young adults who are identified as requiring targeted and preventative youth work support. Interventions are voluntary; are based upon assessed need and are designed to offer a range of practical interventions, guidance and advice so that young people and young adults are enabled to access appropriate opportunities, entitlements and services.

## Targeted Youth Support (8-18 years)

The development of this team recognises the potential for shared responsibility in the prevention of negative outcomes for young people, including offending behaviour and disengagement from education. The structure of the team facilitates identification and intervention with children and young people across the spectrum of low to high need.

The team includes school-based youth workers based in all Carmarthenshire secondary schools and Coleg Sir Gar. The work is supported by WG Families First to meet the requirements of developing Team Around the Family approaches linked with WG Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. Prevention workers within the team deliver intervention programmes and work with a range of services to reduce youth crime, support community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

## Youth Justice Team

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service retains its statutory Youth Justice Team functions being a statutory multi-agency partnership which draws resources from the Local Authority, Dyfed Powys Police, National Probation Service and Hywel Dda University Health Board with the principal aim of preventing youth offending. A number of grant funding streams supplement the resources contributed by statutory partners. The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales monitor the performance of all Youth Offending Teams in Wales against seven performance indicators:

- re-offending rates
- number of first time entrants
- custodial sentences

- young people's access to substance misuse assessment and treatment
- young people's access to suitable accommodation
- young people's access to education, training or employment
- young people's access to emotional and mental health assessment and treatment

The Youth Justice Team works with approximately 100-120 young people at any given time, either as subject to court orders or a pre-court scheme, providing a range of interventions to reduce assessed risk of re-offending.

### Administration, Performance Management, and Business Support

A range of administrative functions and support to the Youth Support Services is provided by a Senior Clerk and 2 Clerical Officers. Youth Justice Team performance management and submission of data to the Youth Justice Board is supported by the Youth Support Service Information Officer. The Service Co-ordinator and Awards Administrator from the departmental Education Systems Team provide a range functions such as monitoring and compliance against conditions of grant funding; collating performance data; financial planning and management; project management, human resource requirements, asset management and the administration of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

## **2. Context**

### Local

The Youth Support Service is a business unit overseen by the Head of Learner Programmes that sits within the Education Services Division within the Department for Education and Children. The Youth Support Service provides two key service delivery areas for Carmarthenshire County Council's Families First Programme, and provides a co-ordination function in implementing the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, and associated projects including the Carmarthenshire Vulnerable Assessment Profile (VAP), the Supporting Education, Employment and Training (SEET) case loading project, and the Carmarthenshire Youth Guarantee.

The Carmarthenshire Local Service Board commissioned a full review of all Strategic Partnerships during October 2014. This review was timely in terms of the legislative landscape within Wales with the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 coming into force in April this year. The Act places Public Service Boards on a statutory footing and also places a legal requirement for a needs assessment to be conducted and a Well-being Plan created and delivered. The Youth Support Service will sit within the Fair and Safe Communities Thematic Group under the Public Service Board from April 2016.

The priorities of the Youth Support Service are also channelled through the Education Services Business Plan; Education and Children Services Departmental Business Plan and are reflected in the high level outcomes contained within the Carmarthenshire Integrated Community Strategy. The Youth Support Service Business Plan is approved by the Local Management Board; presented at the Local Authority's Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee and at the Hywel Dda University Health Board. It is formally submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, as a statutory requirement. It is be reported to the Community Safety Partnership and

submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as the Carmarthenshire County Council Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

The local governance of Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Team is the responsibility of the Local Management Board where all the statutory partners are represented:

- Children's Services
- Education
- Police
- Probation
- Health

The Local Management Board is further strengthened by membership from the Community Safety Partnership and membership at a senior level from key stakeholders: the Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (Specialist CAMHS), Local Authority Housing Services, H.M. Courts and Tribunals Service and the Deputy Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council.

### Composition of the Youth Support Service Local Management Board

Name	Agency representing	Post in agency	Ethnicity	Gender
Jake Morgan (Chair)	Carmarthenshire County Council	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing	White	Male
Anna Bird (Vice-Chair)	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Head of Partnership Development Vulnerable Children and Families	White	Female
Aeron Rees	Carmarthenshire County Council	Head of Learner Programmes	White	Male
Stefan Smith	Carmarthenshire County Council	Head of Children's Services	White	Male
Dyfed Bolton	Dyfed Powys Police	T/Chief Inspector	White	Male
Christine Harley	National Probation Service	Assistant Chief Executive	White	Female
Mike Jones	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Mental Health Advisor, Specialist CAMHS	White	Male
Kate Thomas	Carmarthenshire County Council	Community Safety Manager	White	Female
Robin Staines	Carmarthenshire County Council	Head Of Housing Services	White	Male
John Davies	H.M. Court and Tribunal Service	Legal Advisor	White	Male
Councillor Pam Palmer	Carmarthenshire County Council	Deputy Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council	White	Female

Gill Adams	Carmarthenshire County Council	Youth Support Service Principal Manager	White	Female
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The Youth Justice Team operates as a local partner to other criminal justice agencies who all contribute to the administration of justice. Equally, the Youth Justice Team operates with other services, some universal and some targeted, which deliver services to children and young people.

The Youth Support Service Principal Manager represents the service at Community Safety Partnership meetings including those organised for the delivery of the 'Prevent Duty' (Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) and at the Dyfed Powys Criminal Justice Board. Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service is represented at the Multi Agency Public Protection (MAPPA) Strategic Management Board and the Area Planning Board (APB) and at the regional Safeguarding Children forum: Children and Youth Safeguarding- Unifying the Region (CYSUR) and CYSUR Local Operational Group as well as at Integrated Offender Management meetings.

### Regional

Regionally the Youth Support Service links with the Youth Engagement & Progression Framework South West & Mid Wales Regional Working Group; and the Joint Carmarthenshire & Pembrokeshire (11-25) Executive Group. The service is also represented at the Regional Principal Youth Officers' Group.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 initiated the election of the regional Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012 and May 2016 respectively. The Police and Crime Plan 2013-18 contains six priorities, several of which have direct application to the prevention of offending by children and young people.

The Youth Justice Team is represented at the Dyfed Powys Criminal Justice Board which comprises of representation from all the criminal justice agencies who work collaboratively to deliver an efficient and effective local criminal justice system. The Board recognises the importance of preventing children and young people from offending.

Publication by the Welsh Government in 2011 of the preferred regional footprints in Wales for public service delivery and more recently, in January 2014, the publication of the recommendations from the Williams Commission, have left little doubt that there will be change in the landscape of public service governance and delivery in Wales.

The commissioning of substance misuse treatment services through the development of Area Planning Boards has resulted in decision-making moving to a regional forum and has led to managers of county-based services collaborating to ensure representation at a regional level. Good working protocols exist with the universal substance misuse treatment provider for young people - Choices.

The governance arrangements for safeguarding children and young people have also moved to a regional structure, namely; Children and Youth Safeguarding- Unifying the Region: (CYSUR). Collaboration with our neighbouring counties has preserved the representation of Youth Offending Teams at the new regional forum.

During 2013, the Dyfed Powys Prevention of Youth Crime Steering Group was established and began the task of coordinating regional activities and strategies aimed at preventing young people from engaging in offending behaviour.

The Youth Support Service is increasingly working regionally with the other Youth Offending Teams in the Dyfed-Powys region to ensure that youth crime prevention is aligned with the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Youth Justice Board and the Welsh Government.

### National

The Youth Support Service delivers its services in accordance with key legislation, policy and guidance underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; Welsh Government 7 Core Aims and Children's Rights in Wales. Two significant pieces of legislation are of particular importance to the delivery of service provision:

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014) came into force on 6/4/16. It sets out to improve the well-being of people who need care and support as well as carers who need support. The Act changes the way people's needs are assessed and the way services are delivered; people will have more of a say in the care and support they receive. Youth Support Service staff have engaged in training arranged via Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to this legislation in order to ensure that responsibilities are being met in delivering services.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 came into force on 1/4/16. The Act will make the public bodies (listed in the Act) think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other and take a more joined-up approach. This new law will mean that, for the first time, public bodies listed in the Act must do what they do in a sustainable way. Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future.

The Act establishes a statutory Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, whose role is to act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards achieving the well-being goals.

Welsh Government National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-2018 identifies how youth work should be delivered across Wales and includes a commitment to developing a Quality Mark for youth work organisations as set out in The Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales: Introduction and guidance (September 2015).

In March 2016 the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology announced The Wales Charter for Youth Work. This sets out the Welsh Government's minimum expectation for youth work to young people across Wales. It has been designed to secure the conditions for such provision to be more consistently accessible to all young people as they grow to adulthood in Wales, and to be adapted to the changing needs and interests of individuals and communities.

Welsh Government and the YJB published, "Children and Young People First", a joint strategy to improve services for young people from Wales at risk of becoming involved in, or in, the youth

justice system (July 2014). Sitting below the strategy is a national annual delivery plan which will be monitored by the Wales Youth Justice Advisory Panel.

Justice Secretary, Michael Gove announced a review of the Youth Justice system in September 2015. The review is to examine evidence on what works to prevent youth crime and rehabilitate young offenders, and how this is applied in practice; how the youth justice system can most effectively interact with wider services for children and young people; and whether the current delivery models and governance arrangements remain fit for purpose and achieve value for money. In February 2016, the: 'Review of the Youth Justice System. An Interim Report on Emerging Findings.' was published. A second report is due to be published during in July 2016. Interim proposals include:

- Placing education at the centre of youth custody
- Replacing youth prisons with smaller secure schools which help provide high quality vocational education in a more “*therapeutic environment*”
- Devolving responsibility, control and money for the way children who have offended are managed, to local areas.

The findings and recommendations of the review will be significant in shaping the future delivery of youth justice services in England and Wales.

### 3. Resources

#### Youth Justice Specific Funding Comparison - 2015/16 and 2016/17

FUNDING BODY	FINAL BUDGET 2015/16	FINAL BUDGET 2016/17	COMMENTS
Probation Service	£10,771	£5,000	
Youth Justice (YOT) Grant	£221,457	£201,021	
Youth Justice Board Unpaid Workers Grant	£5,191	£0	
Restorative Justice Development Grant	£2,000	£0	
WG Promoting Positive Engagement Fund	£227,566	£201,168	
Police & Crime Commissioner	£0	£25,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£466,985</b>	<b>£432,189</b>	<b>Reduction in funding of £34,796 (7.45%)</b>

**Rest of Service Funding Comparison - 2015/16 and 2016/17**

<b>FUNDING BODY</b>	<b>FINAL BUDGET 2015/16</b>	<b>FINAL BUDGET 2016/17</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Local Authority - Youth Support Services	£812,134	£793,728	This is now a combined budget for the Youth Support Service; it also includes an additional £50k from CCC for 2016/17
Families First - School Support Youth Work	£425,574	£422,333	
Families First - Post-16 Youth Work	£268,966	£239,643	
WG Youth Strategy Grant	£150,057	£150,645	
WG Youth Engagement & Progression Framework Grant	£70,000	£56,326	
WG Education Improvement Grant	£35,300	£53,778	Not yet confirmed
Local Health Board	£12,250		
WG Post 16 Grant	£0	£67,114	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,774,281</b>	<b>£1,783,567</b>	<b>Increase in funding of £9,286 (0.5%)</b>

### Youth Justice Funding 2016/17 \*

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>Staffing Costs</b>	<b>Payments in kind</b>	<b>Other Delegated Funds</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Dyfed Powys Police	£0	£54,000 <small>(note 1)</small>	£0	£54,000
National Probation Service	£0	£42,124 <small>(note 2)</small>	£5,000	£47,124
Hywel Dda University Health Board <small>(note 3)</small>	£0	£45,280	£0	£45,280
<b>Carmarthenshire County Council</b> <small>(note 4)</small>	£793,728	£0	£0	£793,728
Welsh Government Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People (at risk of offending)	£201,168	£0	£0	£201,168
Police and Crime Commissioner <small>(note 5)</small>	£0	£0	£25,000	£25,000
Youth Justice Board Youth Justice Grant	£201,021	£0	£0	£201,021
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,195,917</b>	<b>£141,404</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	<b>£1,367,321</b>

\*set out as required by the Youth Justice Board

#### Notes

1. Dyfed Powys Police second a full-time Police Officer to the Service.
2. The National Probation Service seconds a full-time Probation Officer to the Service.
3. The Youth Support Service has access to a Registered Mental Nurse, input from a Mental Health Advisor (£10k) and access to Dialectical Behaviour Therapy and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.
4. Core funding from Carmarthenshire County Council represents the total amount awarded to the YSS as a whole.
5. The Police and Crime Commissioner made a £100,00 contribution to the 4 Dyfed Powys YOTs for 2016/17.

YJB Youth Justice Grant funding is used to deliver and contribute to staffing and service provision in the following areas:

Senior Practitioner management oversight, including gate keeping and quality assurance; provision of assessments of children and young people; production of reports for courts and panels; case management and intervention planning; provision of substance misuse services; services to the courts; sentence planning and resettlement; work with victims.



The Youth Support Service will monitor and meet conditions set out in the Youth Justice Grant by timely submission of data, compliance with secure estate placement information, completion of national standards audits and procedures for reviewing community safeguarding and public protection incidents.

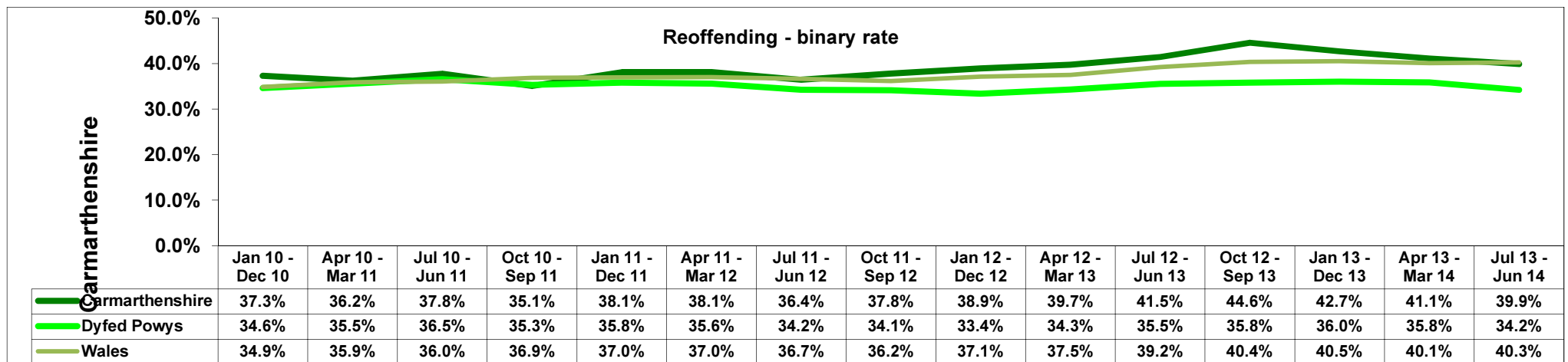
Across the Youth Support Service, there is a funding reduction from £2,241,266 in 2015/16 to £2,215,756 in 2016/17, which represents an overall budget reduction of £25,510 (1.1%).

4. Performance Report 2015/16Extract from Carmarthenshire County Council Performance and Improvement Management System

Objective	Target Completion Date	Comment	Achieved
Develop a shared management structure for the Youth Offending & Prevention Service (YOPS) & the Youth Service	31/03/2016	The Youth Support Service was established on 1/1/06 bringing together the Youth Service and the Youth Offending and Prevention Service under a single Principal Manager. 4 Team Managers were identified at the end of January 2016 and from 1/2/16 they have been directly reporting to the Principal Manager.	✓
We will further reduce the number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time	31/03/2016	Within Carmarthenshire, First Time Entrants have fallen from 410 (April 2006/7) to 40 (April 2015/ March 2016).	✓
We will reduce the rate of proven reoffending amongst children and young people	31/03/2016	The service has sought to work towards a reduction in the rate of proven reoffending amongst children and young people by a range of actions implemented from summer 2014 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of Live' Reoffending Tracker.</li> <li>• Trained staff accessing clinical supervision via specialist S-CAMHS / TISSHB during 2015- 16; continued investment in management, supervision and staff resourcing into this complex area of work.</li> <li>• Participation in the testing of the Enhanced Case Management Approach.</li> <li>• Use of creative supervision planning through the use of a Person Centred Planning approach.</li> </ul>	✓
Working closely with the Youth Service to provide targeted youth support to those children and young people outside the youth justice system	31/03/2016	The Youth Support Service structure allows for the development of a more integrated and targeted response to working with young people outside the Youth Justice System through the provision of targeted prevention interventions in line with TAF approaches and in conjunction with Families First Funding.	✓
Contributing to Team around the Family assessments and plans as appropriate	31/03/2016	Performance data is analysed in relation to the scale of the contribution to Team around the Family assessments and plans. The Youth Support Service Principal Manager leads a development group for advancing arrangements for TAF for 16-25 year olds. Families First Performance data is used to inform practice development and performance improvements where appropriate.	✓
Using Bureau as a mechanism for actively diverting young people out of the youth justice system	31/03/2016	Bureau arrangements are now well established and are embedded in the work of the Youth Support Service.	✓
Understanding the profile of reoffending and re-offenders	31/03/2016	Use of 'Live' Reoffending Tracker to profile current reoffending. This gives an insight into the profile of young people identified as having re-offended. Information gathered in forms intervention planning and management of risk.	✓
Introducing a "live" reoffending tracker to provide current data.	31/03/2016	Use of 'Live' reoffending tracker allowing real time analysis of offending.; meetings are convened which generate a set of actions in order to determine how best to influence intervention planning in respect of individual children and young people.	✓
Testing the Enhanced Case Management model that seeks to apply a trauma recovery model to a	31/03/2016	Carmarthenshire YSS remains one of four test sites for an Enhanced Case Management Approach.	✓

community setting.			
Continuing to invest resources in work to address sexually harmful behaviour	31/03/2016	Trained staff have continued to access clinical supervision via specialist S-CAMHS / TISSHB during 2015-16. This has supported intervention planning with children and young people at risk of harmful sexual behaviour.	✓
Continuing to promote the use of compliance panels	31/03/2016	The use of compliance panels has been limited as there are fewer young people on court orders requiring enforcement action. However the panel remains in place should the need arise.	
Continuing to promote creative supervision planning	31/03/2016	Creative supervision planning continues alongside exploration of more effective ways of engaging younger children through the use of a Person Centered Planning approach.	✓

The Youth Justice Team's overall performance as reported to, and monitored by, the Youth Justice Board remains very positive. However, the re-offending rate of young people supervised by the service has fluctuated slightly over a number of years and started to show signs of increase during the October 11/September 12 period. Since then it has climbed several percentage points. Most recent figures indicate a gradual decline in re-offending rates to 39.9%; though this still represents a higher percentage as shown for previous periods.

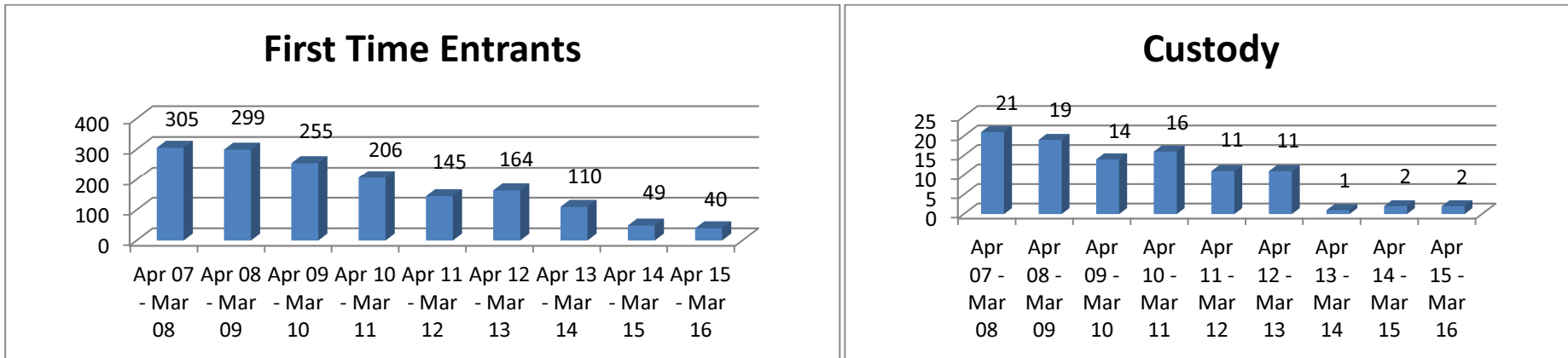


It is significant to note that should the Youth Support Service continue to supervise most young people in the community and see very few sentenced to custody, some of those presenting the highest likelihood of further offending will remain at risk in the community where they can bring pressure on the reoffending rate. Moreover, if the number of young people entering the youth justice system continues to fall, the size of the cohort which contributes to the reoffending rate will decrease. In real terms the actual number of re-offenders could decrease; nevertheless the percentage rate could increase dramatically, the smaller the cohort becomes. Put simply, the actions of one or two young people who may commit several offences within a shrinking cohort size would have a significant impact upon re-offending rates. This situation has required careful management oversight. Indeed, a number of strategies have been implemented since the summer of 2014 designed to tackle re-offending rates. These have included use of the 'live re-offending tracker' to profile and target

Interventions including prevention and early intervention work; provision of specialist training for example, to deliver the Enhanced Case Management Model as well as AIM 2 assessments (for those young people who display harmful sexual behaviour); use of more person centered intervention planning techniques. In recent months, staff have been trained in AssetPlus - a new assessment and planning interventions framework developed by the Youth Justice Board to replace Asset and its associated tools. AssetPlus has been designed to provide a holistic end-to-end comprehensive assessment and intervention plan, allowing one record to follow a child or young person throughout their time in the youth justice system. It is anticipated that the framework will provide better quality assessments, plans and will improve outcomes. The Management Board are regularly involved in monitoring and review of re-offending through use of the YJB toolkit, local data review and use of case study information.

During 2016/17, in addition to sustaining the success in the reduction of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice system, work will be undertaken to explore and strengthen the interface between the School Based Youth Workers and prevention staff to ensure more effective and efficient targeting of interventions.

Custody figures have been maintained at a low level as evidenced in the graph below. Re-settlement work is critical to ensuring that those young people subject to custody are given every possible opportunity to address factors associated with their offending behaviour risks. Work to strengthen protective factors such as family relationships, education, employment and training and accommodation are also addressed in order to ensure that suitable provision is in place upon release into the community. This would include release on temporary licence as appropriate in order to maximise access to services and resources in the community.

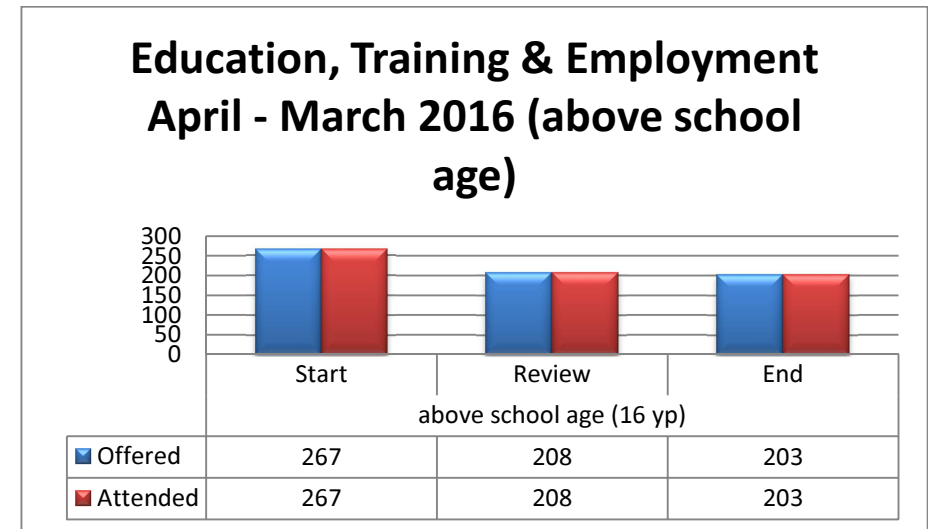
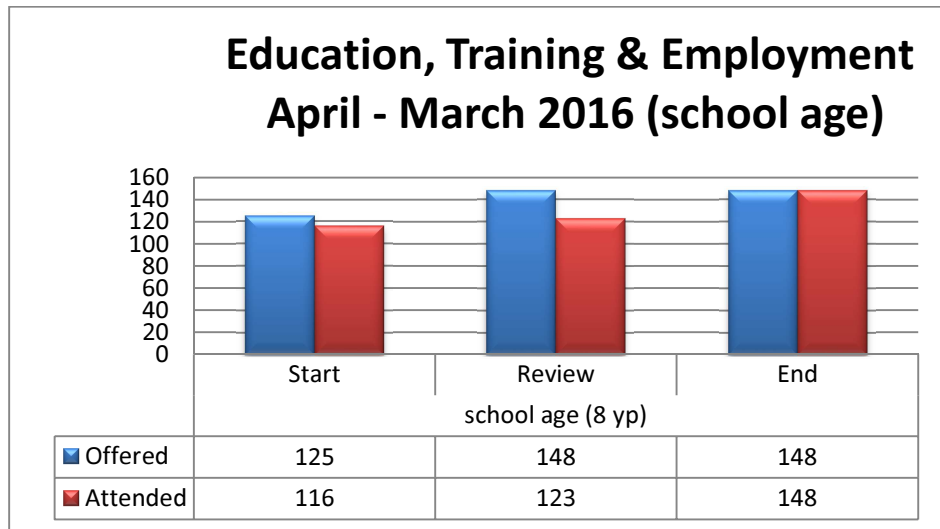


Substance Misuse performance for 2015/16 (access to assessment and intervention) has been maintained at 100% for each quarter which is very pleasing to report. Youth Support Service Substance Misuse Workers have strong links with the lechyd Da/Youth Health Team as well as the Dual-Diagnosis Nurse (Specialist CAMHS). In 2015/16, 3 young people whose statutory orders ended in the period were identified as requiring a mental health assessment and

were referred to Specialist CAMHS. 2 of these young people received a service from CAMHS. The Youth Support Service, CAMHS and Iechyd Da will work together to monitor those young people entering their services to ensure that the appropriate emotional, mental health and well being services are in place.

Performance against accommodation suitability shows that all young people under statutory supervision have been in suitable accommodation for the period.

In relation to Education/Training/Employment provision, 8 young people of school age achieved an average of 18.5 hours a week of educational provision at the end of their supervision period. This fell short of the 25 hour per week entitlement. 16 young people above school leaving age achieved an average of 12.68 hours per week provision out of the desired 16+ hours at the end of their supervision period. There are examples across the age range where appropriate provision was arranged during the supervision period, and in one case this proved very successful. There were however, instances where young people disengaged from provision arranged for them during the supervision period.



During 2015/16 964 hours of reparation work was completed by young people within Carmarthenshire as part of an agreed youth justice intervention plan.

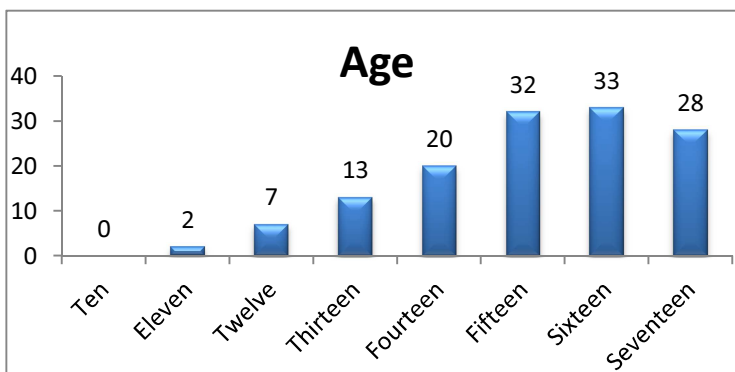
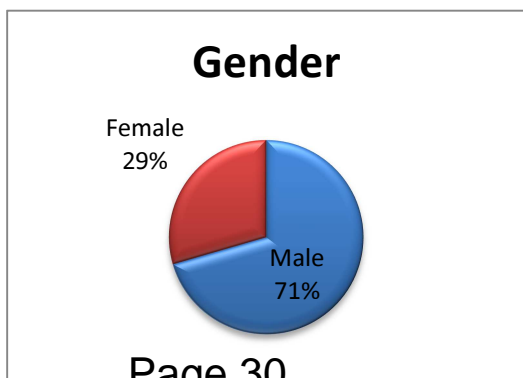
By March 2016, the Youth Support Service had provided support services for 19% (4102 individual young people) of Carmarthenshire young people aged 11-19 and 14% (4397 individual young people) of the 11-25 population.

**Performance Achievements in relation to Families First funded Projects 2015/16**

<u>Post 16 Youth Work Project</u>	<u>School Based Youth Work Project</u>
675 young people were supported on a one to one basis	1799 young people were supported on a one to one basis
46 disabled young people received support	248 disabled young people received support
85 young parents were supported	219 young people were supported with transition from primary to secondary school
162 young people were support to find employment	423 improved their school attendance with support from the project
36 TAF plans were Key Worked by the project	49 TAF plans were Key Worked by the project
91 young people entered further learning or training	86 young people entered further learning or training
23 young people entered employment.	6 young people entered employment.

The establishment of the Youth Support Service allows for the delivery of prevention and early intervention allowing for the alignment of youth work with prevention of offending work. In 2015/16, links between the multi-agency TAF and the Prevention provisions were strengthened, with representation from the TAF ‘Central Team’ at the prevention allocation meeting. Such innovation allows for better judgements in relation to resource allocation and ensures that duplication is avoided and provides a better response for those children, young people and young adults who can fall through gaps between services. The Youth Support Service is also involved in the development of TAF approaches for those aged from 16-25 years.

Bureau arrangements, which were introduced in Carmarthenshire in June 2014, are now well established and are in place across Dyfed-Powys. This marks a very positive and significant shift away from formal court processes and associated statutory court orders towards diversionary processes. This approach is conducive with the Welsh Government’s ‘child first, offender second’ agenda. Bureau allows for children, young people and families to access appropriate interventions required to support them to lead productive lives free from further offending. Sign- posting on to other suitable services to address identified need is also an essential element of diversion.



During 2015/16, 180 disposals have been administered to 156 young people. Out of 170 young people offered an intervention, only 4 chose not to engage.

Regional Bureau arrangements have been subject to an independent evaluation and review conducted by Aberystwyth University in 2015. The core findings and recommendations have been considered in a work shop event led by the Youth Justice Board earlier this year. An action plan has been formulated which is designed to unify, consolidate and build on the success of working practices across the region. Arrangements are in place to work with the YJB and key stakeholders to progress this work. The Dyfed-Powys Youth Crime Prevention Steering Group will oversee delivery against the action plan.

Restorative Approaches continue to inform practice delivery within the Youth Support Service from prevention and early intervention interventions through to the delivery of youth justice work. This approach is also promoted within other key agencies, partnerships and settings; for example, via training provision to the police, within schools and with accommodation providers.

The Youth Support Service has recently consulted with the Environmental Enforcement Unit on the Children's and Young People Enforcement Procedure allowing for restorative approaches to be utilised in certain circumstances.

Members of staff within the Youth Justice Team have attained the NVQ Level 4 Diploma in Restorative Approaches which underpins the maintenance of the highest standards of practice in their work with children, young people and the victims of crime.

Welsh YOTs are awaiting WG and YJB regulations and statutory guidance in relation to Resettlement and Re-integration Partnership Boards aimed at improving resettlement outcomes for children and young people who have experienced custody. As part of an interim measure therefore, in April 2016, the Youth Justice Local Management Board agreed to provide arrangements for the establishment of Carmarthenshire's Re-integration and Re-settlement Panel in order that this area of work can be overseen from a multi-agency perspective.

The Youth Support Service remains committed to the county-wide Therapeutic Intervention Service for Sexually Harmful Behaviour (TISSH-B). 7 members of staff and 3 team managers received training in the assessment (AIM2) and delivery ('Good Lives Model') in 2014, and have since developed confidence and expertise within this specialist area of work. The Youth Support Service is in a strong position to provide robust and timely assessments; risk management plans and intervention plans to the court in the formulation of sentencing outcomes. Bespoke interventions often include work alongside family members/carers as appropriate, in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. It is also hoped that there will be opportunities to develop joint working with colleagues from Children's Services over the forthcoming months.

The Youth Support Service aligns its safeguarding practices with the regional multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy and Action Plan. The service will continue to contribute to multi-agency strategy meetings under the All Wales Protocol for Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children who are at Risk of Abuse through Sexual Exploitation (AWCPPRG, 2013) when planning is required for children and young people presenting with SERAF risk factors.

Similarly, arrangements exist in this way for children who go missing under The All Wales Protocol – Missing Children (2011) and for Looked After Children.

The Youth Support Service will continue to link closely with Children's Services and the Police in relation to children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Attendance by management representatives at CYSUR's Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Conference in March 2016 underlined the importance of awareness raising and training in the identification of associated risks. In order to focus upon this area of work further from 1/4/16, Youth Support Service Substance Misuse staff will collect data in relation to substance misuse cases (including dual diagnosis cases) for a 12 month period in order to establish identified Child Sexual Exploitation risks, taking into consideration Looked After Children; Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework and 'Missing Person' information. A report outlining findings will be presented to the Local Management Board in 2017.

In line with Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Youth Support Service staff have received 'Prevent' training and have accessed e-learning in order to be familiar with 'Prevent Duty' responsibilities. The Youth Support Service Principal Manager sits on the Contest Board and Channel Panel in order to ensure that provision is made for effective case management of young people accused or convicted of extremism related offences.

In November 2016, the Enhanced Case Management test will finish. The test is currently being evaluated independently by Cordis Bright Consultancy. It is envisaged that the evaluation report will influence future developments in relation to this method of working both locally and nationally. The Youth Support Service has 8 members of staff trained to deliver Enhanced Case Management interventions to young people who have experienced significant trauma during their upbringing. Feedback from staff involved in the test has been positive and planning will be required to ensure that the benefits are not lost should it be the case that further funding is not secured at a national level.

The Youth Support Service will continue to engage at strategic and operational levels as part of the county's approaches to tackling anti-social behaviour. This includes membership of the Community Safety Partnership; attendance at the Substance Misuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and Violent Crime Group as well as attendance ASB Problem Solving Groups. The Youth Support Service offers bespoke interventions based on assessment of need to young people and their families who are identified by the Police as engaging in acts of repeated Anti-Social Behaviour.

In 2016/17, the Youth Support Service will contribute to the organisation and delivery a range of targeted and universal programmes and activities and initiatives to children, young people, young adults, young parents across Carmarthenshire, for example 'Motivating Our Youth'.

From 1/4/15 to 17/3/16 young people in Carmarthenshire gained 631 Duke of Edinburgh's Awards ( Bronze: 495; Silver: 96; Gold: 40). 1097 young people enrolled on the award. Two very successful celebration events were organised to recognise the achievements of the young people receiving their awards in 2015/16. Carmarthenshire continues to be the highest performing county in Wales in relation to award attainment and enrolment.



The Youth Support Service will continue to contribute to the delivery of WG Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. A key part of the implementation of the YEPF in Carmarthenshire is the provision of a Co-ordinator and 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 Support 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. This work is closely linked to the use of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) in all secondary schools. This tool identifies young people in need of additional support, which is then provided by a combination of mainstream services and Families First interventions overseen by the Team Around the Family approach. The VAP will also be used to target interventions funded by the regional Cynnydd ESF bid from June 2016 and will be overseen by a joint management group incorporating staff from the local authority and Coleg Sir Gâr.

## Youth Support Service Operational Plan:

### Delivery of Youth Support Service Priorities by Each Team

<b>Youth Justice Team</b>			
<b>Aim/Priority</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who/When</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
<b>To encourage children and young people to access universal youth work provision</b>	'Stepping down' children and young people into universal youth work provision	Youth Justice staff - via appropriate exit strategies at end of intervention ; to supplement intervention plans	Number of children and young people 'stepped down' into universal provision
<b>To support young people to access appropriate health and wellbeing services</b>	Referral to appropriate substance misuse services; Primary Mental Health Worker; lechyd Da; Specialist CAMHS; Therapeutic Intervention for those at Risk of Serious Sexually Harmful Behaviour. Transition to Choices/appropriate adult health provision	Youth Justice staff – continuous	Youth Justice Board (YJB) Key performance Indicators (KPIs)
<b>To support educational attendance and attainment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the number of school leavers without qualifications.</li> <li>• Reducing the number of children and young people at risk of becoming NEET.</li> <li>• Supporting children, young people and young adults who are NEET back into Education, Employment, Training</li> </ul>	Support young people at risk of disengagement from education	Youth Justice Team/ Education Officer	Youth Justice Board (YJB) Key performance Indicators (KPIs)
<b>To safeguard children young people and young adults</b>	Discussion of young people at risk management meetings  Regular supervision of staff, with safeguarding as a standard agenda item.	Case Managers / Key workers  Managers and Senior Practitioners in accordance with CCC	All young people assessed as being 'medium vulnerability' or above have risk plans  Evidenced in supervision notes and or entry on database.

	<p>Checks undertaken on all new cases</p> <p>All staff have received and renewed the Child Protection Level 1&amp;2 training and have received training in adult safeguarding.</p>	<p>policy</p> <p>Youth Justice Team</p> <p>All staff</p>	<p>% of new cases where checks are made</p> <p>% of staff up to date in this area of training</p>
<b>To divert children and young people away from criminal justice system</b>	Bureau	Youth Justice Team-on-going	Number of young people diverted from court
<b>To prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people</b>	Exit strategies formulated for young people subject to stat supervision	Youth Justice Team-on-going	Number of exit strategies formulated

<b>Targeted Youth Support Team (8 – 18 years)</b>			
<b>Aim/Priority</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who/When</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
<b>To encourage children and young people to access universal youth work provision</b>	Encouraging young people to access universal provision	School Based Youth Worker (SBYW) – on-going	Numbers worked with attending Universal provisions
	School Based Youth Workers (SMYW) actively involved in the provision of holiday programmes	SBYW staffing activities	Numbers working on holiday activities
<b>To support young people to access appropriate health and wellbeing services</b>	Access to school & school based nursing & TAFs involving Health and Wellbeing	SBYW – on-going	Results Based Accountability (RBA) Measures
	Provision of group activity that promotes health and wellbeing	SBYW - ongoing	RBA measures/ QES
<b>To support educational attendance and attainment:</b>	SBYW level of engagement with vulnerable learners, identified through VAP & other measures	SBYW- 2016/17	Number of VAP cases engaged with SBYW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing the number of school leavers without qualifications.</li> <li>Reducing the number of children and young</li> </ul> Restorative Approaches (RA) training for SBYW	Restorative Approaches(RA) Co-	SBYW survey of use of Restorative Approaches following training

<p>people at risk of becoming NEET.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting children, young people and young adults who are NEET back into Education, Employment, Training</li> </ul>	<p>No of ASDAN and John Muir qualifications, OCNs &amp; other accreditation</p> <p>TAF meetings</p>	<p>ordinator – 2016/17</p> <p>SBYW 2016/17</p> <p>SBYW</p>	<p>Numbers of qualifications achieved Young people achieving a recognised qualification- RBA</p> <p>Number of TAF Plans contributed to / Key working</p>
<p><b>To safeguard children young people and young adults</b></p>	<p>Attendance at TAF meetings &amp; contribution to plan</p> <p>Regular supervision of staff, with safeguarding as a standard agenda item.</p> <p>Checks undertaken on all new cases</p> <p>All staff have received and renewed the Child Protection Level1&amp;2 and have received training in adult safeguarding.</p>	<p>School Based Youth Worker</p> <p>Managers and Senior Practitioners in accordance with CCC policy</p> <p>SBYW – 2016/17</p> <p>All staff</p>	<p>RBA</p> <p>Evidenced in supervision notes and or entry on database.</p> <p>% of new cases where checks are made</p> <p>% of staff up to date in this area of training</p>
<p><b>To divert children and young people away from criminal justice system</b></p>	<p>-----</p>	<p>-----</p>	<p>-----</p>
<p><b>To prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people</b></p>	<p>Accepting referrals for targeted Prevention/ASB</p>	<p>Targeted prevention – on-going</p>	<p>Fall in number of First time Entrants; Number of referrals</p>



and young people	(offending/ ASB) staff within YSS	Team	
<b>Universal Youth Support Team</b>			
<b>Aim/Priority</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who/When</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>
<b>To encourage children and young people to access universal youth work provision</b>	Level 2/3 Awards in Youth Work Training	Training, Accreditation & Outdoor Officer - throughout the year	Number of individuals trained Number of organisations accessing training
	Independent Verification/accreditation support provided to voluntary organisations	Training, Accreditation & Outdoor Officer - throughout the year	Number of accreditations achieved as a result
	Duke of Edinburgh Award Training to support & enable young people to access the award safely	DoE Development Officer - Supervisors course	Number who attended
		Introduction to the award	Numbers who attended
		Assessors Award	Number of registrations & completions
	Support for Duke of Edinburgh Award	DoE Development Officer – ongoing	Number of awards supported through Welsh language
Stepping down into universal provision	YJ staff – as appropriate exit strategies	Number of young people ‘stepped down’ to universal provision	
<b>To support young people to access appropriate health and wellbeing services</b>	Health & Wellbeing advice & support	Health Lead Youth Worker – drop ins/youth club/ health and awareness sessions	Number Supported (QES)
	Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) young people	Health Lead Youth Worker - organised group	Number attending support groups
		Youth Justice Team	Number receiving a service/Key Performance

	Referral to Substance misuse services / Primary Mental Health Worker/ Iechyd Da / TISSHB / CAMHS Transition to Choices	staff - continuous	Indicators
<b>To support educational attendance and attainment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the number of school leavers without qualifications.</li> <li>• Reducing the number of children and young people at risk of becoming NEET.</li> <li>• Supporting children, young people and young adults who are NEET back into Education, Employment, Training</li> </ul>	Provision of extra curricular activities for school groups  Provision of holiday activities to promote engagement	Engagement workers – Universal team  Engagement workers – Universal team	Number attending from schools  Number engaged
<b>To safeguard children young people and young adults</b>	Evolve & EVC training – trips, visits & activities  All staff and volunteers are DBS checked	Training, Accreditation & Outdoor Officer – ongoing  Universal Youth Support Team Manager / YSS co-ordinator	Numbers who attended training Numbers of visits/trips supported  Register of volunteers with DBS checks
<b>To divert children and young people away from criminal justice system</b>	Young people receiving Out of Court Disposals are referred to universal provision	Youth Justice/ Universal Youth Support Team	Number of young people referred
<b>To prevent of offending and re-offending by children and young people</b>	Activities arranged for young people e.g. youth clubs, holiday activities	Delivered by Universal Youth Support Team	Number attending provision

## **6. Workforce planning**

Youth Support Service staff will receive regular, formal supervision and annual appraisals which identify their professional development needs. Corporate training is accessed through the Local Authority and there is a particular arrangement with Children's Services enabling access to specific training related to children and young people. The Youth Support Service encourages staff to complete appropriate e-learning modules promoted by the Local Authority's Learning and Development arrangements. Staff will also be able to access youth justice specific e-learning through the Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space (YJILS). The development Welsh language (spoken and written) skills will also be a focus in the forthcoming year for staff.

As part of the Youth Support Service business planning process, a task and finish group met in recent months to develop a Training Plan (Appendix 2) which reflects service priorities. The service is committed to developing a central record of the training staff receive linked to individual training needs identified in staff appraisals. This will give managers an overview of the professional development needs of staff, for example updating of substance misuse knowledge and skills; maintenance of Youth Work skills etc; ensuring that social workers maintain their professional registration with the Care Council for Wales.

The Youth Support Service also allows for the training, induction and development of volunteers who play a significant role in the delivery of Referral Order Panels, Bureau and the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

## **7. Risks to future delivery**

The Youth Support Service has emerged out of the need for radical structural change in response to facing a number of challenges and opportunities. The next year will be of critical importance in consolidating the delivery of services against identified priorities. Whilst each team will be tasked with fulfilling their roles and functions in accordance with a range of performance measures, it is critical that the teams also work together so that children, young people and young adults are able to access a high level of service suitable to their individual need.

The Youth Support Service has a wide range of funding streams all of which are public funding. Whilst this could be identified as one of its strengths, for example the Police and Crime Commissioner funding of £25,000 for the forthcoming year, there has nevertheless been a reduction in a number of key youth justice specific funding sources for 2016/17 equating to a total reduction of 7.45% compared with 2015/16.

Across the Youth Support Service as a whole, funding is set to reduce by £25,510 in 2016/17 equating to a 1.1% reduction. Core funding shows a reduction of £18,406 from £812,134 to £793,728. This includes an additional contribution of £50,000 from the County Council for 2016/17. This additional support has been most welcome and future support of this nature would be beneficial in reducing the risks of future delivery.

Currently Youth Work provision is greatly supported by Families First however this funding ends at the end of March 2017. Welsh Government Minister is seeking better alignment between:



- Supporting People Programme Grant
- Communities First
- Flying Start
- Families First

It is anticipated that the 22 Local Authorities will need to evidence closer working across the four funding streams listed above.

Needless to say, the Youth Support Service will need to monitor and respond to developments relating to youth work provision in Wales. The findings and recommendations of the Youth Justice Review currently being undertaken will influence the direction of delivery of youth justice services in forthcoming years. It is essential to ensure that the success of last 15 years of youth justice service delivery is recognised and that real opportunities to deliver meaningful reform are fully considered.

In the meantime the Youth Support Service maintains a determination to continue to deliver high quality services in the face of a number of challenges, opportunities and future developments.

## 8. Approval

This business plan was approved by the Youth Justice Team Local Management Board at its meeting on .....

Signed .....

Jake Morgan

Chair of Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Team Management Board

**Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service**

**Staff Profile as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

Strategic Manager (f/t)	1
Operational Manager (f/t)	3
Operational Manager (p/t)	1
Practitioners (f/t)	48
Practitioners (p/t)	5
Administration (f/t)	2
Administration (p/t)	2
Casual Sessional Workers	17
<b>Funded Staff</b>	<b>79</b>
Student Placements	6
Secondees	3
Volunteers	33
<b>Unfunded Staff</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>
Permanent Posts	23
Fixed Term Posts	35
Temporary / Casual Posts	56
Vacant Posts	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>
Male	44
Female	70
Vacancies	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>
White British	110
White Other	4
Vacancies	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>
Welsh Speakers	46
Restorative Justice trained staff and volunteers 2015/16	15 staff ; 7 volunteers

**Appendix 2**

**Cynllun Hyfforddi Gwasanaeth Cymorth Ieuenctid - Youth Support Service Training Plan 2016 – 2017**

<b>Training Title</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Personal Safety/Lone Working	Safeguarding/H&S/sharing of good practice/staff support	All staff	Eddie Cummings (internal)	No – internal delivery	April – September 2016	Day
Child Sexual Exploitation (inc. Online)	Safeguarding /update knowledge & inform practice developments	All staff	TBC	Yes TBC	2016/2017	Day
Equality & Diversity	Safeguarding/update knowledge & inform practice developments/ inclusion/mandatory CCC training/policy & strategy compliance	All staff	e-learning	No – e-learning	April – September 2016	1hr
Outlook Training – Basic & Advanced	CPD/update knowledge/effective use of resources	Admin staff	Paul Morgan/Suzanne Jordan	No - internal	April – September 2016	1 day
QES Update	CPD/update knowledge/effective use of resources	Admin staff	Paul Morgan	No - internal	April – September 2016	½ day
ASDAN training	CPD/update/increase staff knowledge to inform & widen practice development	Nominated staff	ASDAN	Yes – TBC	September – December 2016	1 day
Families First refresher	Update knowledge/ensure compliance with funders/address any practice issues/support staff	All Families First funded staff	Hefin Lloyd & Iwan Davies	No – internal	April 2016	½ day
Restorative Approaches	Update knowledge/ inform practice development/Sharing of good practice	Nominated staff	James Perdue & Davinia Harries-Davies	No – internal	April – July 2016	2-3 days
Speech & Language Screening Tool	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion	Youth Justice staff	Elinor Williams Advisory Teacher	No – internal	2016 - 2017	½ day
Domestic Abuse STAR training (14 – 25yrs) and (11-13 yrs)	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion	Nominated staff	Gemma Jones Welsh Women's Aid	Yes – purchase resources (£450)	April – December 2016 (2 separate courses)	2 days 14-25 yrs & 1 additional day for 11-13 yrs
Adult Safeguarding Process & Systems	Safeguarding/update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion/sharing of good practice	Nominated staff (Mainly 'post 16 staff')	Internal – Adult Social Services	No – internal	July - December 2016	½ day
Housing & Benefits	Safeguarding/update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion/sharing of good practice	'Post 16 staff'	Internal – Erica Barrett	No – internal	2016 - 2017	½ day
Substance Misuse	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice	Nominated staff	Lisa Couser &	No – internal	2016 - 2017	1 day

Level 1	development/inclusion/sharing of good practice		Jeff Jenkins			
			Choices			
First Aid Training (16hr)	Safeguarding/H&S/update knowledge/ policy & licence compliance	Nominated staff (12)	Rob Clapham (RT Training Wales)	Yes – (£1300 - £1500)	February 2017	2 days
White Water Swift Rescue	Safeguarding/H&S/update knowledge/ policy & licence compliance	Nominated staff	Bill Beynon	Yes – TBC	April – July 2016	2 days
Regional Training	Safeguarding/H&S/update knowledge/ policy & compliance /inform & widen practice development/inclusion	Identified staff	Regional	Yes - £1000 contribution to regional pot	April 2016 – March 2017	1 day
Data Protection	Safeguarding/update knowledge & inform practice developments/ inclusion/mandatory CCC training/policy & strategy compliance	Identified staff	e-learning	No – internal e-learning	2016-2017	1 hr
Welsh Language Skills	Increase staff skills in the delivery of services through the medium of Welsh	Identified staff	Course access to be identified via CCC	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	tbc

**2017 – 2018**

<b>Training Title</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Confidentiality	Safeguarding/update knowledge & inform practice developments/ inclusion/mandatory CCC training/policy & strategy compliance	All staff	E-learning	No – e-learning	April – September 2017	1 hr
Effective Skills for supervisors	CPD/update knowledge & inform practice developments/support staff	Managers & Senior Practitioners	L&D	No – internal	2017/2018	2 days
Internal Verification Qualification/s	Ensure Centre Status/Accreditation/Quality Assurance/Agored Cymru Requirement/Compliance with Youth Work Strategy/YEPF	Nominated staff	Agored Cymru	No-internal	2017/2018	3-6 months
Motivational Interviewing	Safeguarding/update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion	Nominated staff	L&D contact	Yes - TBC	2017/2018	2 days
Evolve & Risk Assessment	Safeguarding/H&S/update knowledge/ policy & licence compliance /inform & widen practice development/inclusion	School Based Youth Workers	Sian Morgan	No – internal	2017/2018	1 day
Regional Training	Safeguarding/H&S/Update knowledge/ policy & compliance/inform & widen practice development/inclusion	Identified staff	Regional	Yes - £1000 contribution to 'regional pot'	April 2017 – March 2018	1 day

**Additional Training accessible within 2016 – 2018**

<b>Training Title</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Duration</b>
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PM 5-7	CPD/update knowledge & inform practice developments/support staff	Managers & Senior Pracs	L&D	TBC	2016 - 2018	1 Year
Self Harm Awareness	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice developments/inclusion	Nominated staff	L&D contact	Yes – bespoke	2016 -2018	1 day
Mental Health First Aid	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice developments/inclusion	Nominated staff	L&D contact	Yes – bespoke	2016 - 2018	1 day
Attachment	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice developments/policy compliance/inclusion	Nominated staff	LAC Team	No - internal	2016 - 2018	1 day
Appropriate Adult	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion/Sharing of good practice	Nominated staff (Mainly 'post 16 staff')	Louisa Jones	No - internal	2016 - 2018	1 day
Engaging with Families	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion/Sharing of good practice/Families First Compliance/YEPF & Youth Work Strategy compliance	Families First funded staff	TBC	TBC	2016 - 2018	1 day
Social Services & Wellbeing Act	Safeguarding/Update knowledge/inform & widen practice development/inclusion/sharing of good practice	Nominated staff	L&D	No – internal	2016 - 2018	½ day
Youth Work Award Level 2	Safeguarding/H&S/Update knowledge/ policy & compliance /inform & widen practice development/inclusion	Volunteers	Sian Morgan & Regional Partners	Yes – dependant on numbers	2016 – 2018	9 days or 3 weekends
Safeguarding	Safeguarding/update knowledge & inform practice developments/inclusion/mandatory CCC training/policy & strategy compliance	Identified staff	e-learning	No – internal e-learning	2016 - 2018	1 hr

### Appendix 3: Glossary

<b>Acronym / Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
APB	Area Planning Board
ASB	Anti Social Behaviour
ASBO	Anti Social Behaviour Order
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CYSUR	Child and Youth Safeguarding- Unifying the Region
Careers Wales	Welsh Government body offering careers advice and guidance to young people
Communities First	WG programme to reduce poverty in the most deprived communities in Wales
CPN	Community Psychiatric Nurse
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYC	County Youth Council – representative group for young people
CYPP	Children and Young People’s Partnership – body overseeing delivery of education and youth support services for young people aged 11-25
CPD	Continuous professional development – keeping staff skills and knowledge up to date
DfES	Welsh Government department for Education & Skills (responsible for education policy)
DTO	Detention and Training Order
DofE	Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
EOTAS	Educated other than at school – children and young people of statutory age who are not attending mainstream state schools but are accessing education delivered by the local authority (e.g. pupil referral units, home tuition, alternative education provision)
EHE	Elective Home Education – children and young people being educated at home by their parents following parental decisions not to educate their children in state schools
EPC	Engagement & Progression Co-ordinator – key LA contact for delivering the YEPF (see below)
ERW	Regional school improvement partnership for the 6 south west and mid Wales Local Authorities (Ceredigion, Powys, NPT, Swansea, Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire)
ESF	European Social Fund – EU funding scheme to address social inequalities
Estyn	Inspection body overseeing compliance to WG learning policy and delivery requirements
ETE	Education Training and Employment
Extending Entitlement	WG policy for support services for young people aged 11-25
FACTS	Forensic Adolescent Consultant Service
Families First	Welsh Government policy and grant to lift families out of poverty
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board

MAPPA	MAPPA – Multi agency public protection arrangements
MARAC	Multi agency risk assessment conference
NEET	Not in employment, education or training – a classification for young people aged 16-25 not deemed by government to be engaged in productive activity
PBB	Priority Based Budgeting – the on-going programme of corporate budget cuts within CCC
PSR	Pre-sentence Report
RJ	Restorative Justice
SEN	Special Educational Needs
VAP	Vulnerability Assessment Profile – a spreadsheet used to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET based on young people’s attendance, achievement and behaviour
WAO	Wales Audit Office
WDI	Welsh Devolved Indicators
WG	Welsh Government
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association
YEPF	Youth Engagement & Progression Framework – WG NEET reduction strategy
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YJMIS	YJMIS – Youth Justice Management Information Service
YOPS	Youth Offending and Prevention Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team
YMC	YOT Managers Cymru
YRO	Youth Rehabilitation Order
YSS	Youth Support Service



# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

### Provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and provisional School Attendance Data

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.

The report will include unverified 2016 data, some narrative on performance comparisons with national and regional performance, emerging challenges and potential areas to develop.

Officers will present a finalised and verified performance data report to members and other stakeholders as part of the Annual Performance Report which will be available at the start of 2017.

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
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE

### 3. Finance

It is imperative that we maintain and improve attainment outcomes to ensure that Carmarthenshire's learners have the best start in life

The Council needs to consider the impact of the planned reduction in 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.

At a time of reduced funding the County Council needs to protect 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.

### 6. Staffing Implications

The current Education EVR budget is under considerable pressure with a substantial forecasted overspend for 2016/17. If 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

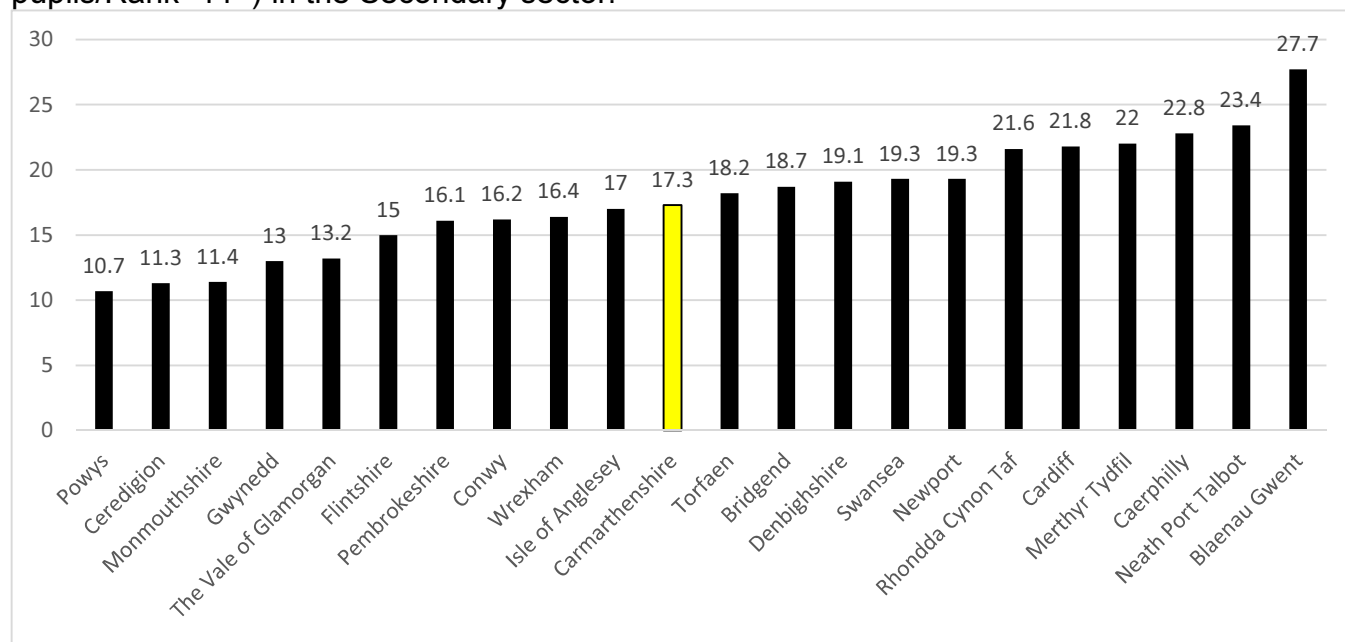
## Provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and provisional school attendance data

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 via a presentation and outline priorities and actions to respond to identified challenges. Officers will present a finalised and verified performance data report to members and other stakeholders as part of the Annual Performance Report which will be available at the start of 2017.

### Context- Free School Meals Benchmarking

Over the last three years we have seen an increase in pupils eligible for free school meals. **17.3% (3720)** of Carmarthenshire's pupils aged 5-15 are currently entitled to free school meals. FSM levels in the Primary sector are 17.9% (2119 pupil/Rank- 11<sup>th</sup>) and 16.3% (1563 pupils/Rank- 11<sup>th</sup>) in the Secondary sector.

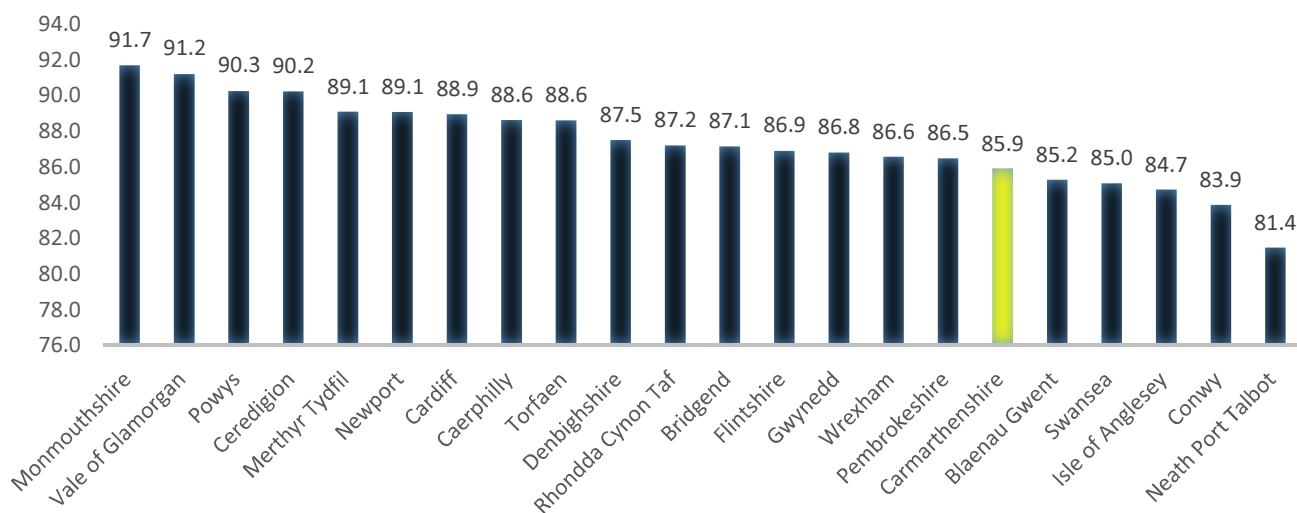


When considering benchmarks we should be performing around the 11<sup>th</sup> position.

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>FPOI</b>	<b>81.6 (16)</b>	<b>84.1 ↑ (16)</b>	<b>86.8 (=10) ↑</b>	<b>85.9% (17) ↓</b>
<b>WALES FPOI</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>ERW FPOI</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>87.1%</b>	<b>85.9%</b>
Welsh	86.2 (14)	89.2 (15)	91.4 (13) ↑	90.2 (15) ↓
English	81.0 (20)	81.1 (21)	83.4(20) ↑	83 (20) ↓
Mathematics	85.9 (16)	88.1 (15)	89.8(12) ↑	89.6(15) ↓
Personal and Social Development	93.0 (16)	94.0 (160)	95.2(12) ↑	94.8(10) ↓

## FOUNDATION PHASE CSI



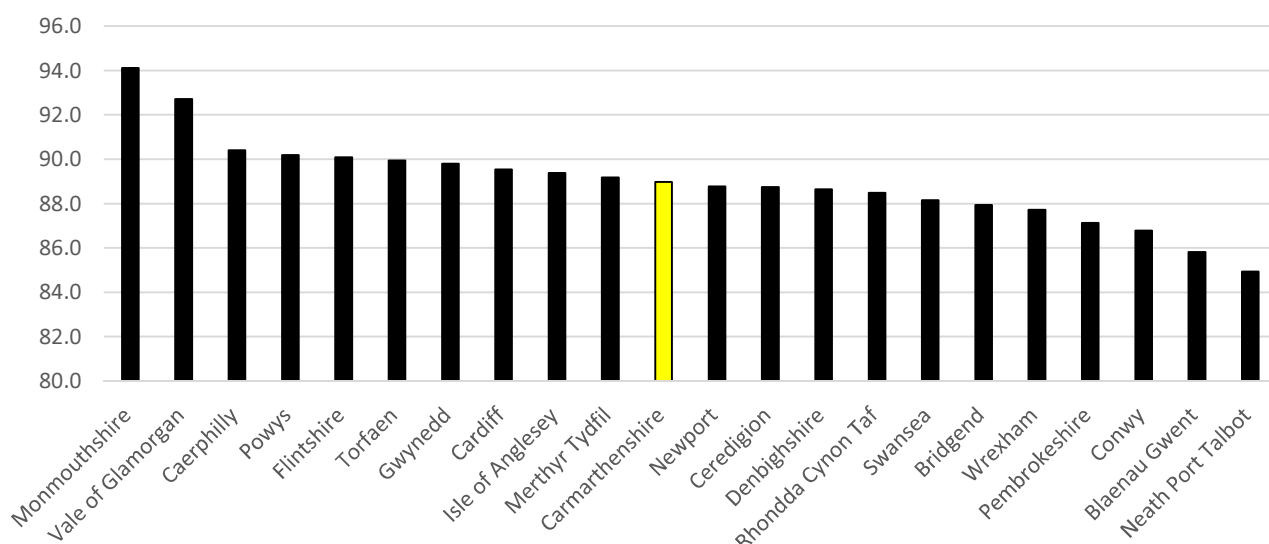
### Commentary

- 0.9% decrease in Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator from last year
- Below Welsh average of 87% but equal to ERW average of 85.9%
- Efsm ranking- well below expected position
- Prepare detailed analysis of the data at school and subject level.
- Identify as a priority for ERW's work in Carmarthenshire.

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Core Subject Indicator</b>	<b>85.4 (10)</b>	<b>87.4 ↑ (6)</b>	<b>88.2↑ (10)</b>	<b>89 ↑ (11)</b>
<b>WALES CSI</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>87.7%</b>	<b>88.6%</b>
<b>ERW CSI</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>88.3%</b>	<b>88%</b>
Welsh	84.5 (16)	84.4 (20)	88.6(16)↑	88.5 ↓(17)
English	87.22 (14)	90 (7)	90 (11)↔	91.1 ↑ (7)
Mathematics	88.1 (11)	89.7 (8)	90.4↑ (11)	91.7 ↑ (7)
Science	90.7 (11)	91.1 (9)	91.9 (11)↑	92.8 ↑ (8)

### Key Stage 2 CSI

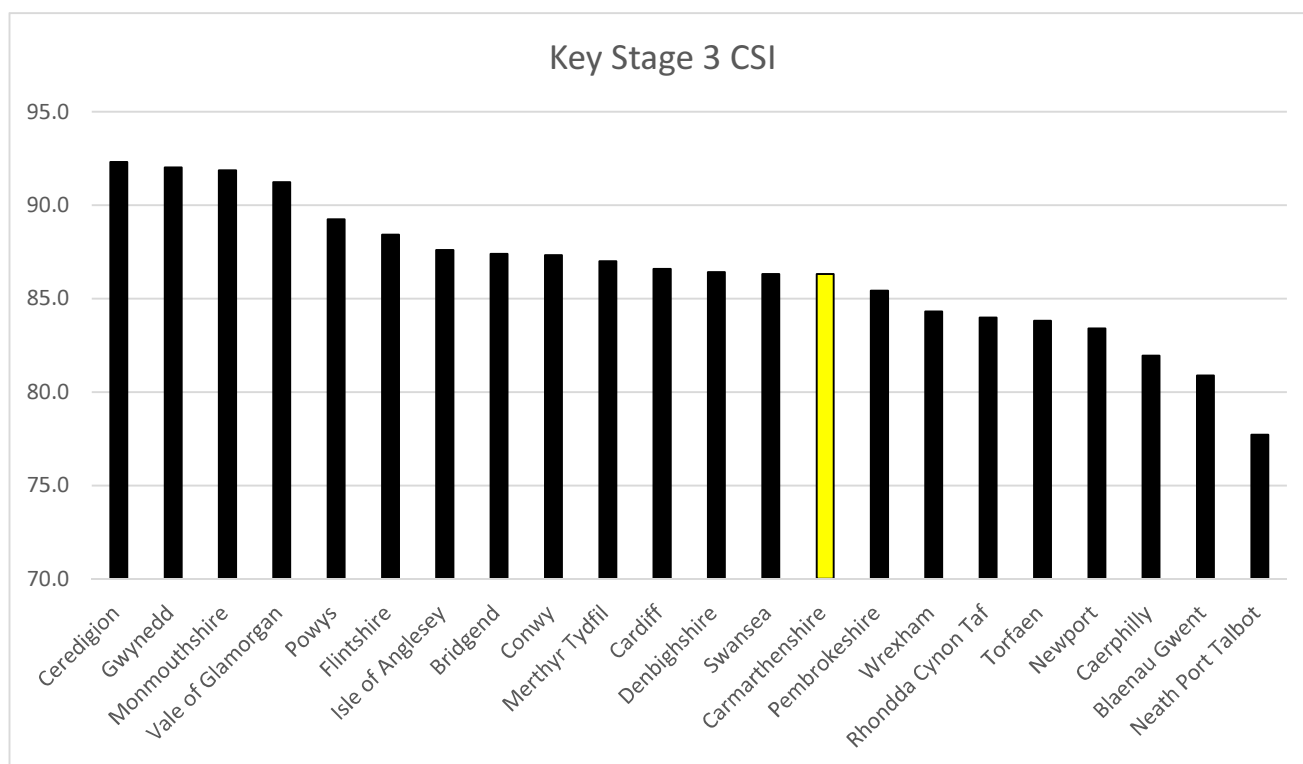


## Commentary

- 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 88.6% and ERW average of 88%
- efsm ranking at expected position
- ACTION- continue to secure further improvements in core areas.
- Undertake a detailed analysis of Welsh results across all Key Stages.

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Core Subject Indicator</b>	<b>77.1 (13)</b>	<b>84.5 ↑ (4)</b>	<b>85.1 ↑ (8)</b>	<b>86.3 (=13)</b>
<b>WALES- CSI</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>85.9%</b>
<b>ERW- CSI</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>85.6%</b>
Welsh	83.6 (16)	88.7 (14) ↑	86.5 (16) ↓	88.6 (16) ↑
English	83.1 (12)	88.5 (9) ↑	88.4 (10) ↓	89.3 (14) ↑
Mathematics	83.8 (13)	88.4 (8) ↑	90.4 (8) ↑	90.3 (14) ↓
Science	86.2 (13)	91.1 (12) ↑	91.9 (10) ↑	92.7 (13) ↑
Welsh 2 <sup>nd</sup> Language	70.64	77.65 ↑	79.5 ↑	74.8 ↓



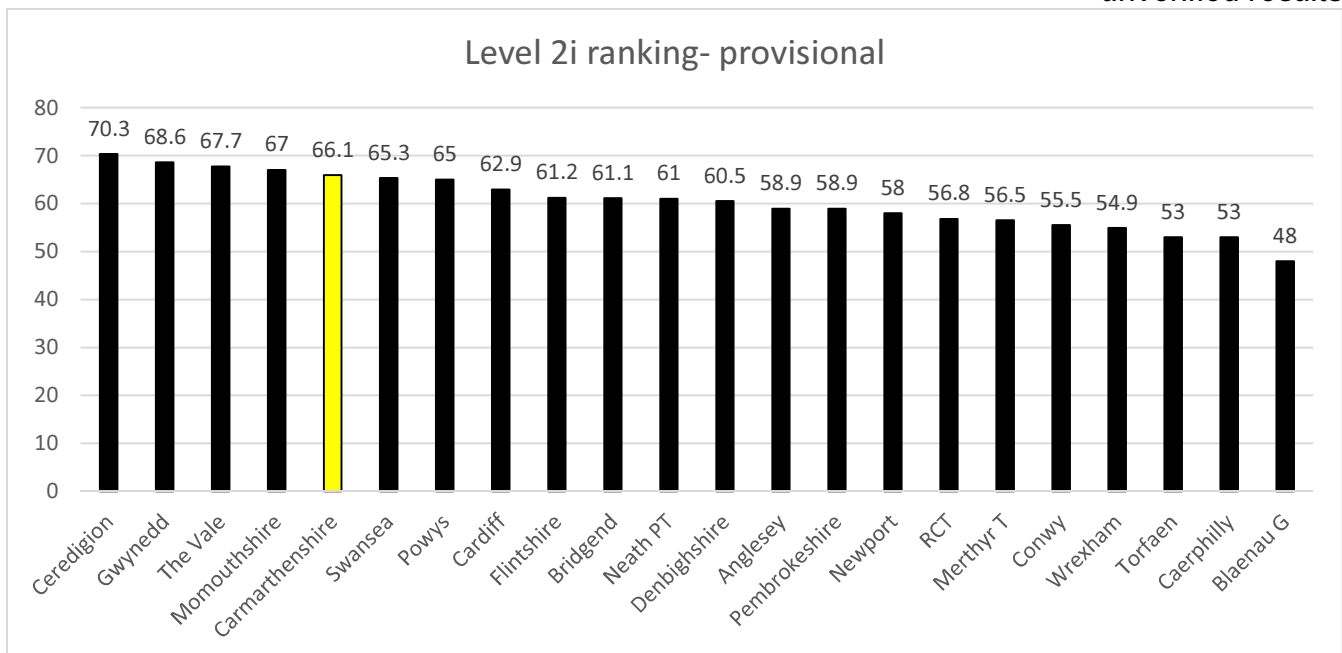
## Commentary

- Continued improvement- Carmarthenshire's best Key Stage 3 results with a further 1.2% improvement in the Core Subject Indicator from last year
- Above Welsh average of 85.9% and ERW average of 85.6%
- Efsm ranking- although above Welsh average and improved results we are below 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	2016*
<b>Carmarthen- Level 1</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>96.8</b>
<i>Wales- Level 1</i>	93.2	94	94.4	
<i>ERW- Level 1</i>	94.6	95.9	96.3	
<b>Carmarthen- Level 2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88.9</b>
<i>Wales- Level 2</i>	77.8	82.3	84.1	
<i>ERW- Level 2</i>	80.9	86	88.2	
<b>Carmarthen- Level 2 inclusive</b>	<b>53.9 (11)</b>	<b>58.7 (8)</b>	<b>61.1 (7)</b>	<b>65.9</b>
<i>Wales- Level 2 inclusive</i>	52.7	55.4	57.9	
<i>ERW- Level 2 inclusive</i>	55.6	57.9	61	
<b>Carmarthen- CSI</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>58.2</b>	
<i>Wales- CSI</i>	49.2	52.6	54.8	
<i>ERW- CSI</i>	52.4	55.1	57.9	

\*unverified results



### Local Authority Comparison for Level 2i Indicator (2016 results are unverified)

	2015	2016	(+ -)		2015	2016	(+ -)		
1	Ceredigion	62.7	70.3	7.6	12	Denbighshire	56.1	60.5	4.4
2	Gwynedd	63.3	68.6	5.3	13	Anglesey	56.9	58.9	2
3	Vale of Glamorgan	64.9	67.7	2.8	14	Pembrokeshire	54.2	58.9	4.7
4	Monmouthshire	66.9	67	0.1	15	Newport	54.2	58	3.8
5	Carmarthenshire	61.1	66.1	5	16	RCT	54.6	56.8	2.2
6	Swansea	64	65.3	1.3	17	Merthyr Tydfil	51.9	56.5	4.6
7	Powys	63.9	65	1.1	18	Conwy	54.2	55.5	1.3
8	Cardiff	59.3	62.9	3.6	19	Wrexham	52.1	54.9	2.8
9	Flintshire	60.6	61.2	0.6	20	Torfaen	56.7	53	-3.7
10	Bridgend	59.7	61.1	1.4	21	Caerphilly	52.6	53	0.4
11	Neath PT	58.4	61	2.6	22	Blaenau Gwent	47.7	48	0.3

### Commentary

- Continued improvement- Carmarthenshire's best Level 2i results
- 4 of the ERW Local Authorities are in the TOP 10.
- Carmarthenshire's improvement is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest at 5%

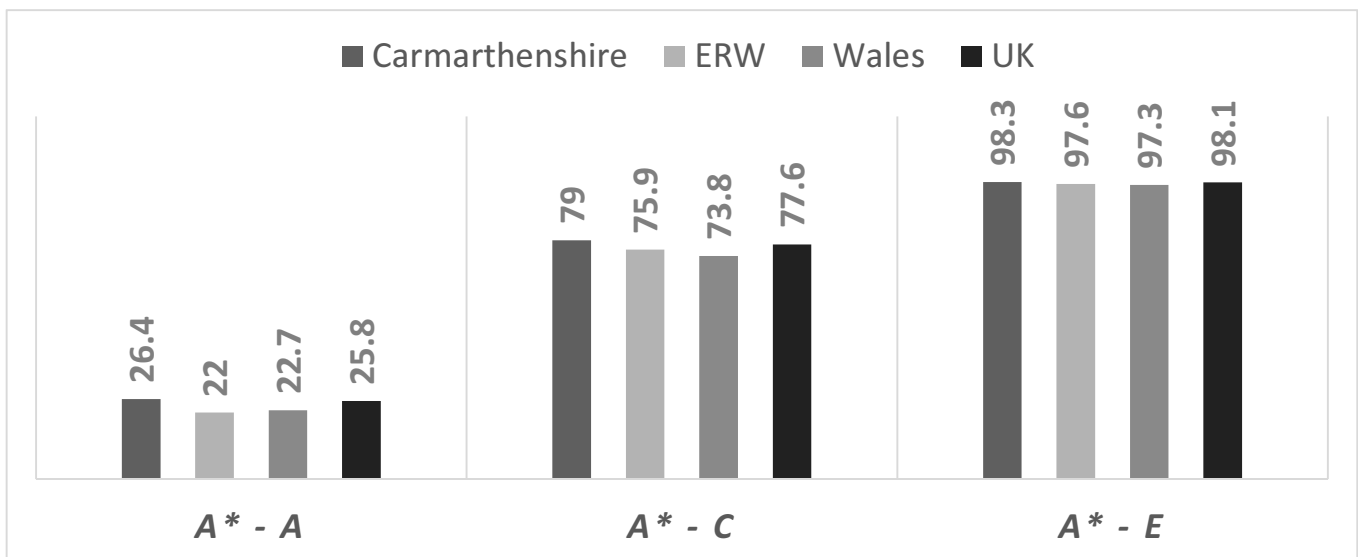


- Improved efsm ranking- well above expected position
- ACTION- through Challenge Adviser Core Visits provide detailed feedback to all schools on subject areas to develop/improve.
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

### A Level Results

	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Level 3</b> (2 A Levels at grade A-E)	97.3 (8)	98.6 (5)	98.1	
<b>A*</b>	4	5.6	5	6.5
<b>A*-A</b>	23.5	23.7	21.9	26.4
<b>A*-C</b>	81	81	78.9	79
<b>A*-E</b>	98.6	99.4	98.4	98.3

	A* - A	A* - C	A* - E
<b>Carmarthenshire</b>	26.4	79.0	98.3
<b>ERW</b>	22.0	75.9	97.6
<b>Wales</b>	22.7	73.8	97.3
<b>UK</b>	25.8	77.6	98.1



### Commentary

- Continued high performance at A levels- above ERW, Wales and UK levels
- ACTION- maintain the level of A\*/A grades achieved.
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

**Level 1** – a volume of qualifications equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A\*-G;

**Level 2** – a volume of qualifications equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A\*-C;

**Level 2 Inclusive** (5 GCSE passes at grade A\*-C including A\*-C in Welsh First language or English and Mathematics)

**Level 3** – a volume of qualifications equivalent to the volume of 2 A levels at grade A\*-E.

### Literacy and Numeracy 2016 Test Results

NATIONAL READING TEST ENGLISH							
	Disapplied	Absent	Below Average	Within Average	Above average	Within/above average	Rank
<b>2016 WALES</b>	1.8	1.2	13.3	67.1	16.7	83.8	
<b>2016 Carmarthen</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>6th</b>
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	1.6	0.9	12.7	67.8	17	84.8	8th
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.9	1.8	16.3	62.1	17.9	80	9th
<b>2013 Carmarthen</b>	1.5	1.6	17.1	64	15.8	79.8	8th

### NATIONAL READING TEST WELSH

	Disapplied	Absent	Below Average	Within Average	Above average	Within/above average	Rank
<b>2016 WALES</b>	0.6	0.9	13.7	68.3	16.6	84.8	
<b>2016 Carmarthen</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>9th</b>
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	1.1	0.7	14.1	66.6	17.5	84.1	10th
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.3	1.3	17.8	64.8	14.8	79.6	12th
<b>2013 Carmarthen</b>	1.2	1.6	18.9	65.8	12.5	78.3	12th

### NATIONAL NUMERACY TEST- PROCEDURAL COMPONENT

	Disapplied	Absent	Below Average	Within Average	Above average	Within/above average	Rank
<b>2016 WALES</b>	1.6	1.2	12.9	68.1	16.1	84.3	
<b>2016 Carmarthen</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	1.4	0.9	10.1	68.1	19.5	87.6	3rd
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.5	1.4	13.3	63.6	20.2	83.8	5th
<b>2013 Carmarthen</b>	1.6	1.5	15	62.6	19.3	81.9	7th

### NATIONAL NUMERACY TEST- REASONING COMPONENT

	Disapplied	Absent	Below Average	Within Average	Above average	Within/above average	Rank
<b>2016 WALES</b>	1.6	1.6	12.0	67.9	16.9	84.8	
<b>2016 Carmarthen</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>2015 Carmarthen</b>	1.4	1.2	8.9	68	20.6	88.6	5th
<b>2014 Carmarthen</b>	1.6	2.1	13.3	63.8	19.3	83.1	7th

#### Commentary

- Overall very positive outcomes for Carmarthenshire's learners
- Need to focus on increasing the number of pupils securing above average scores.
- Need detailed analysis of 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.

#### **Primary and Secondary Schools Attendance rates- 4 year comparison (2012-2016)**

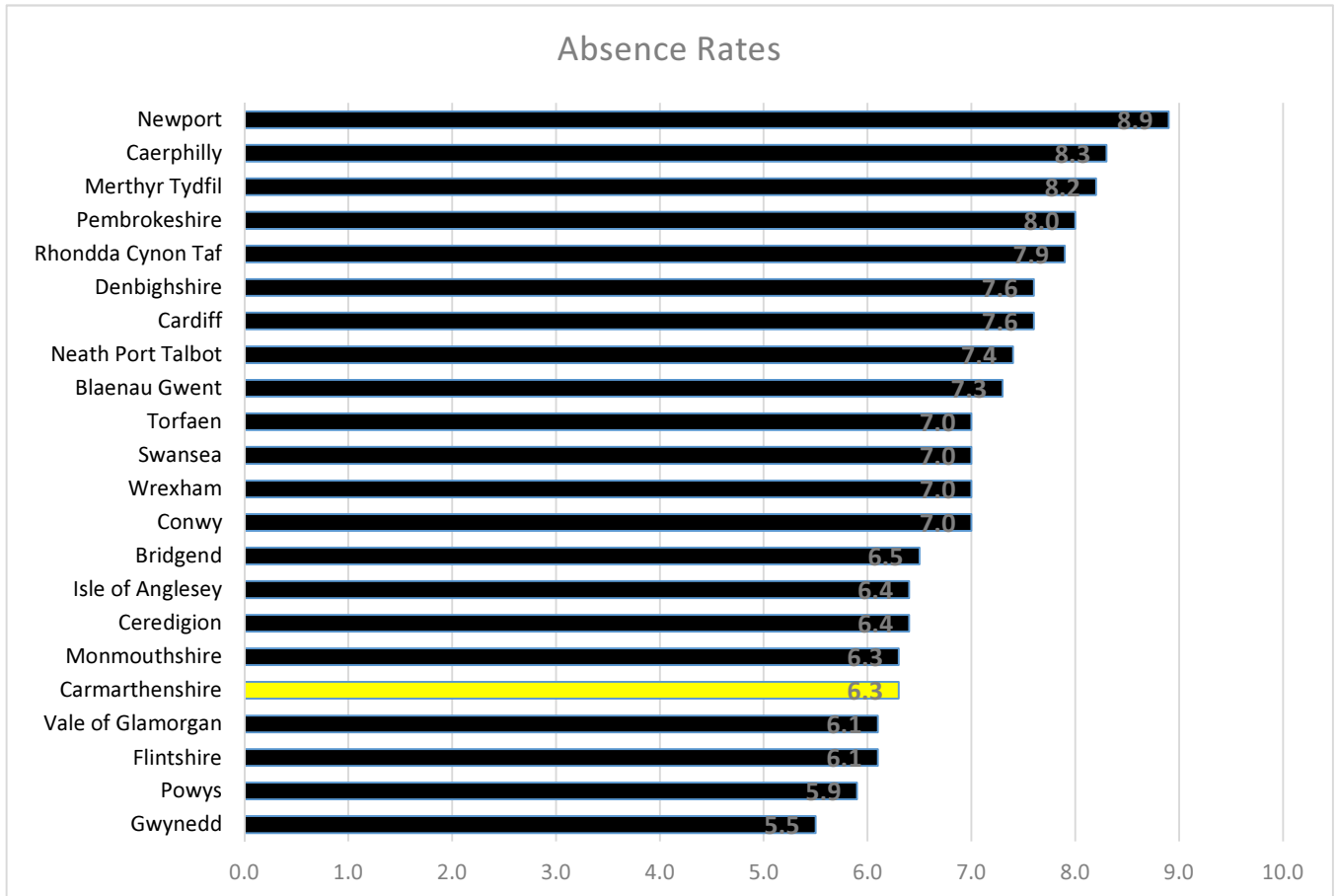
Our schools, in partnership with parents the Education Welfare Service and Local Authority, have achieved the best ever school attendance rates in both primary and secondary schools.

Primary	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <i>(Provisional results)</i>
<b>Present</b>	93.5	95.0	95.2	<b>94.8%</b>
<b>Authorised</b>	6.1	4.3	4.0	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Unauthorised</b>	0.4	0.7	0.8	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Welsh Average</b>	93.7	94.8	94.9	<i>Comparable data published Dec 2016</i>
<b>Rank</b>	15th	6th	5th	<i>Comparable data published Dec 2016</i>

#### Commentary

- Primary school attendance continues to be high.
- Need to continue to focus on learners with attendance is below 85%.
- Re-establish position and message in relation on school holidays.
- Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.

Secondary	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Present</b>	92.0	93.9	94.2	<b>93.7%</b>
<b>Authorised</b>	8	6.2	5.9	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Unauthorised</b>	0.4	0.5	0.8	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Welsh Average</b>	92.6	93.6	93.8	<b>92.9%</b>
<b>Rank</b>	20th	8th	9th	<b>5th</b>



**Commentary**

- *Secondary authorised absences are at 4.9%, 7<sup>th</sup> lowest in Wales.*
- *Secondary unauthorised absences are 0.7% 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in Wales.*
- *Need to continue to focus on learners with attendance is below 85%.*
- *Re-establish position and message in relation on school holidays.*
- *Schools/LA to share good practice identified in high performing schools.*

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Revenue & Capital Budget  
Monitoring Report 2016/17**

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

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

**Reasons:**

- To provide the Committee with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 30th June 2016, in respect of the 2016/17 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> Corporate Services</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Owen Bowen</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Owen Bowen</p>	<p><b>Designation:</b></p> <p>Interim Head of Financial Services</p>	<p><b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b></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**

**22nd SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Revenue & Capital Budget  
Monitoring Report 2016/17**

The Financial Monitoring Report is presented as follows :

**Revenue Budgets**

**Appendix A**

Summary position for the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee.

**Appendix B**

Report on Main Variances on agreed budgets.

**Appendix C**

Detail variances for information purposes only.

**Capital Budgets**

**Appendix D**

Details the main variances, which shows a forecasted net spend of £14,333k compared with a working net budget of £19,607 giving a **£-5,274** variance. The variance will be slipped into future years, as the funding will be required to ensure that the schemes are completed.

**Appendix E**

Detail variances on all schemes for information purposes only.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

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

## 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: Owen Bowen Interim 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 Service is projecting that it will be over its approved budget by £1,017k.

Capital – The capital programme shows a net variance of -£5,274k against the 2016/17 approved budget.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

**Signed: Owen Bowen Interim 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
2016/17 Budget	Resources Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

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**Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Report**  
**Budget Monitoring as at 30th June 2016 - Summary**

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Jun 2016 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	
Director & Strategic Management	681	0	-149	532	695	-14	-149	532	-0
Education Services Division	117,933	-1,725	19,650	135,858	119,138	-2,120	19,650	136,668	810
Strategic Development	9,155	-7,155	1,118	3,118	9,179	-7,243	1,118	3,055	-63
School Improvement	2,683	-194	518	3,006	3,001	-508	518	3,010	4
Learner Programmes	10,215	-9,389	617	1,444	10,235	-9,409	617	1,444	0
Children's Services	22,308	-6,367	2,433	18,373	22,856	-6,648	2,433	18,641	267
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>162,975</b>	<b>-24,831</b>	<b>24,187</b>	<b>162,332</b>	<b>165,103</b>	<b>-25,942</b>	<b>24,187</b>	<b>163,349</b>	<b>1,017</b>

## Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Report

### Budget Monitoring as at 30th June 2016 - Main Variances

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Jun 2016 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000		
<b>Education Services Division</b>						
School Redundancy & EVR	1,612	0	2,291	0	679	School redundancies and EVR
School Modernisation	68	-5	385	-10	312	Short term transport for pupils from closed schools £90k, property decommissioning and cost of sales £222k (which includes £200k NNDR)
Early Years Non-Maintained Provision	473	0	425	0	-47	Less demand for 10 hours free education for 3 year olds in non maintained settings
Special Educational Needs	3,029	-1,449	2,990	-1,501	-90	Termination of high cost out of county placement -£274k. Additional statementing yr 6 transition £225k, transport £64k. Education Improvement Grant (EIG) contribution to advisory teachers -£105k
Educational Psychology	876	0	975	-140	-41	Vacant post, Efficiency saving 2017/18
<b>Strategic Development</b>						
Information & Improvement	466	-35	500	-117	-48	Salary savings relating to part-year vacant post, two employees not being at the top of grade and maternity leave
<b>Children's Services</b>						
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	729	0	1,042	-246	67	Increasing age profile of Looked After Children (LAC) resulting in more costly support for longer - impact of When I'm ready & Social Care Well Being Act on 15 to 25 year olds
Fostering Services & Support	3,593	0	3,552	-15	-56	The taxi's budget faces ongoing pressure due to the high number of placement moves, some away from school areas £17k. The Fostering team is supporting a reduced number of Looked After Children and have also revised procedures -£52k, along with part year salary savings -£20k. Managerial efficiency 2017/18
Adoption Services	497	-55	598	-115	40	Additional staff resource to reduce the number of placements needing to be purchased at greater cost which reduces budget pressure in other areas
Residential and Respite Units	919	-151	884	0	116	Planned additional contribution from the LHB is unlikely to be achieved in 2016-17 £150k, reduced by part year salary savings -£36k
Direct Payments	155	0	217	0	63	Increased demand for payments made to families of disabled children to purchase their own care, which reduces the pressure on Out of County placements.
Preventative incl Section 17 payments	222	0	193	0	-30	Discussions on-going with Adult Services regarding costs of those over 18 Reduction in demand for preventative payments made to individual families based on current level
Out of Hours Service	262	-64	365	-64	104	Increased number of referrals being handled, to be analysed between Adult & Children with potential for level of recharge to reflect findings

**Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Report**  
**Budget Monitoring as at 30th June 2016 - Main Variances**

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Jun 2016 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000		
Children's Services Mgt & Support (incl Care First)	1,029	-76	1,026	-140	-67	Salary underspend currently being reviewed in line with re-evaluation of posts in other areas
Education Welfare	470	-41	487	-41	17	Increased staffing costs following re-evaluation of posts
<b>Other Variances</b>					-3	
<b>Grand Total</b>					1,017	

## Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Report

### Budget Monitoring as at 30th June 2016 - Detail Variances

Page 68	Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Mar 2016	Notes
		Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
	<b>Director &amp; Strategic Management</b>										
	Director & Management Team	681	0	-149	532	695	-14	-149	532	-0	
	<b>Director &amp; Strategic Management Total</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-149</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-149</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>-0</b>	
	<b>Education Services Division</b>										
	Schools Delegated Budget	109,247	0	0	109,247	109,247	0	0	109,247	0	
	School Expenditure not currently delegated	430	0	19,952	20,382	424	0	19,952	20,376	-6	
	School Redundancy & EVR	1,612	0	-714	898	2,291	0	-714	1,577	679	School redundancies and EVR
	School Modernisation	68	-5	75	138	385	-10	75	450	312	Short term transport for pupils from closed schools £90k, property decommissioning and cost of sales £222k (which includes £200k NNDR)
	Early Years Non-Maintained Provision	473	0	21	493	425	0	21	446	-47	Less demand for 10 hours free education for 3 year olds in non maintained settings
	Special Educational Needs	3,029	-1,449	173	1,753	2,990	-1,501	173	1,663	-90	Termination of high cost out of county placement -£274k. Additional statementing yr 6 transition £225k, transport £64k. Education Improvement Grant (EIG) contribution to advisory teachers -£105k
	Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)	1,869	-259	71	1,680	2,061	-454	71	1,679	-2	
	Sensory Impairment	330	-12	11	330	339	-16	11	334	4	
	Educational Psychology	876	0	62	938	975	-140	62	897	-41	Vacant post, Efficiency saving 2017/18
	<b>Education Services Division Total</b>	<b>117,933</b>	<b>-1,725</b>	<b>19,650</b>	<b>135,858</b>	<b>119,138</b>	<b>-2,120</b>	<b>19,650</b>	<b>136,668</b>	<b>810</b>	
	<b>Strategic Development</b>										
	School Milk & Uniform Grants	245	-244	12	13	245	-244	12	13	-0	
	Information & Improvement	466	-35	129	559	500	-117	129	512	-48	Salary savings relating to part-year vacant post, two employees not being at the top of grade and maternity leave
	Business Support	518	0	205	723	511	0	205	716	-7	
	Participation	87	0	0	87	79	0	0	79	-9	
	School Meals & Primary Free Breakfast Services	7,839	-6,876	772	1,736	7,845	-6,882	772	1,736	0	
	<b>Strategic Development Total</b>	<b>9,155</b>	<b>-7,155</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>9,179</b>	<b>-7,243</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>3,055</b>	<b>-63</b>	

**Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Report**  
**Budget Monitoring as at 30th June 2016 - Detail Variances**

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Mar 2016 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
<b>School Improvement</b>										
School Effectiveness Support Services	522	-57	307	772	535	-69	307	772	0	
National Model for School Improvement	1,062	0	78	1,140	1,265	-203	78	1,140	-0	
Welsh Language Support	302	-15	0	287	363	-72	0	291	4	
Education Improvement Grant	670	0	0	670	670	0	0	670	0	
Other School Grants incl PDG	127	-122	133	137	168	-163	133	137	0	
<b>School Improvement Total</b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>-194</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>-508</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Learner Programmes</b>										
Post 16 Funding	6,184	-6,184	0	0	6,184	-6,184	0	0	0	
Music Services for Schools	1,329	-1,316	9	22	1,355	-1,342	9	22	0	
Youth Service	0	0	0	0	-0	0	0	-0	-0	
Youth Service short term grants	0	0	11	11	0	0	11	11	0	
Families First Grant (Youth)	790	-772	59	77	791	-773	59	77	0	
Youth Offending & Prevention Service	1,449	-659	262	1,052	1,461	-672	262	1,052	0	
Adult & Community Learning	463	-458	275	281	444	-439	275	281	0	
<b>Learner Programmes Total</b>	<b>10,215</b>	<b>-9,389</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>10,235</b>	<b>-9,409</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Children's Services</b>										
Commissioning and Social Work	6,014	-19	565	6,559	6,017	-19	565	6,563	4	
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	729	0	103	832	1,042	-246	103	899	67	Increasing age profile of Looked After Children (LAC) resulting in more costly support for longer - impact of When I'm ready & Social Care Well Being Act on 15 to 25 year olds
Fostering Services & Support	3,593	0	95	3,688	3,552	-15	95	3,632	-56	The taxi's budget faces ongoing pressure due to the high number of placement moves, some away from school areas £17k. The Fostering team is supporting a reduced number of Looked After Children and have also revised procedures - £52k, along with part year salary savings -£20k. Managerial efficiency 2017/18
Adoption Services	497	-55	33	475	598	-115	33	516	40	Additional staff resource to reduce the number of placements needing to be purchased at greater cost which reduces budget pressure in other areas
Out of County Placements (CS)	722	-53	3	673	742	-73	3	673	0	

**Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Report**  
**Budget Monitoring as at 30th June 2016 - Detail Variances**

Page 70 Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Mar 2016	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	
Residential and Respite Units	919	-151	114	882	884	0	113	998	116	Planned additional contribution from the LHB is unlikely to be achieved in 2016-17 £150k, reduced by part year salary savings -£36k
Garreglwyd Residential Accomodation	530	-156	0	374	568	-189	0	379	5	
Childcare	393	-118	36	311	393	-118	36	311	0	
Direct Payments	155	0	1	156	217	0	1	218	63	Increased demand for payments made to families of disabled children to purchase their own care, which reduces the pressure on Out of County placements. Discussions on-going with Adult Services regarding costs of those over 18
Children's/Family Centres and Playgroups	207	-51	45	200	209	-47	45	206	6	
Flying Start Grant	3,848	-3,847	54	54	3,848	-3,847	54	54	-0	
Families First Grant	2,222	-1,647	109	684	2,216	-1,646	109	679	-4	
Preventative incl Section 17 payments	222	0	37	260	193	0	37	230	-30	Reduction in demand for preventative payments made to individual families based on current level
Aids & Adaptions	12	0	1	13	12	0	1	13	0	
Family Aide Services	205	0	34	240	200	0	34	234	-5	
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	279	-89	7	197	286	-89	7	205	7	
Out of Hours Service	262	-64	7	204	365	-64	7	308	104	Increased number of referrals being handled, to be analysed between Adult & Children with potential for level of recharge to reflect findings
Children's Services Mgt & Support (incl Care First)	1,029	-76	1,135	2,088	1,026	-140	1,135	2,022	-67	Salary underspend currently being reviewed in line with re-evaluation of posts in other areas
Education Welfare	470	-41	54	483	487	-41	54	500	17	Increased staffing costs following re-evaluation of posts
<b>Children's Services Total</b>	<b>22,308</b>	<b>-6,367</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>18,373</b>	<b>22,856</b>	<b>-6,648</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>18,641</b>	<b>267</b>	
<b>TOTAL FOR EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	<b>162,975</b>	<b>-24,831</b>	<b>24,187</b>	<b>162,332</b>	<b>165,103</b>	<b>-25,942</b>	<b>24,187</b>	<b>163,349</b>	<b>1,017</b>	

Capital Programme 2016/17

APPENDIX D

Capital Budget Monitoring - Main Variances report for June 2016

	Working Budget			Forecasted		
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
<b>DEPARTMENT/SCHEMES</b>						
<b>EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN</b>	<b>25,143</b>	<b>-5,536</b>	<b>19,607</b>	<b>20,667</b>	<b>-6,334</b>	<b>14,333</b>
MEP External Funding Income	0	-5,300	-5,300	0	-6,097	-6,097
Ffwrnnes - New Two Form Entry School	943	0	943	592	0	592
Ysgol Pen Rhos CP School - New Two Form Entry (Formerly Seaside)	3,333	0	3,333	3,583	0	3,583
Llangadog - Major Redevelopment	2,041	0	2,041	150	0	150
Ysgol Trimsaran - New School Building	3,924	0	3,924	2,500	0	2,500
Parc Y Tywyn Band A	3,526	0	3,526	2,600	0	2,600
Laugharne CP - Transfer Double Mobile Classroom	137	0	137	0	0	0
Other Projects with Minor Variances	11,239	-236	11,003	11,242	-237	11,005

Variance for Year £'000	Comment
-5,274	
-797	Re-Profile of MEP funding required due to profile of Band A Schemes Works
-351	Savings on project based on budget
250	Scheme ahead of schedule
-1,891	Due to scheme being redesigned
-1,424	Works on site delayed due to tender process with contractor
-926	Due to original projection of spend being optimistic - reprofile required
-137	Mobile not now required - funding to be incorporated to alternative works at School
2	

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# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

## 2016/17 Improvement Plan Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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

That the Committee scrutinises the 2016/17 Improvement Plan Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 1. The report includes:

- Actions and measures in the 2016/17 Improvement Plan relevant to the Committee's remit.

**Reasons:**

- To ensure that any areas of concern are identified and relevant action taken.
- To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.

**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 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 246470 <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 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

## 2016/17 Improvement Plan Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The attached report sets out the progress against the actions and measures in the 2016/17 Improvement Plan relevant to the Committee's remit, as at 30th June 2016.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES



## 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 Councils – N/A**

**3. Relevant Partners – N/A**

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations –** All departments have been consulted and have had the opportunity to provide comments on their performance and progress.

### 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
CCC Annual Report 2015/16 & Improvement Plan 2016/17	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/consultation-performance/performance-reports/#.V765x0_2b2A">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/consultation-performance/performance-reports/#.V765x0_2b2A</a>
Performance Measurement Records	Performance Management Unit, Regeneration & Policy Division
Departmental Business Plans 2016/17	Performance Management Unit, Regeneration & Policy Division
Carmarthenshire Integrated Community Strategy 2011-16	<a href="http://www.thecarmarthenshirepartnership.org.uk">www.thecarmarthenshirepartnership.org.uk</a>
CCC Corporate Strategy 2015-20	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/998105/corporate-strategy.pdf">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/998105/corporate-strategy.pdf</a>
Budget Monitoring Reports	Corporate Services Department



# Report A

## Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report

### Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



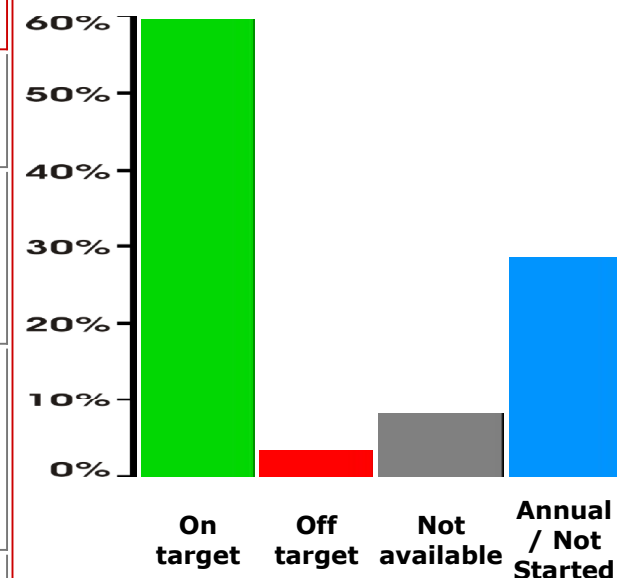
Filtered by:

Organisation - Carmarthenshire County Council  
Source document - Improvement Plan 2016/17

**The table below provides a summary progress against target for the Actions and Measures contained within the selected document**

		Total	On target	Off target	Not reported	Not available	Annual / Not started	% on target	Overall % on target
C. People in Carmarthenshire are healthier	Actions	4	4	0	0	N/A	0	100%	<b>33%</b>
	Measures	8	0	0	0	7	1	0%	
D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential	Actions	29	27	2	0	N/A	0	93%	<b>54%</b>
	Measures	25	2	1	0	0	22	8%	
E. People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer	Actions	11	11	0	0	N/A	0	100%	<b>100%</b>
	Measures	2	2	0	0	0	0	100%	
G. Carmarthenshire has a stronger and more prosperous	Actions	4	4	0	0	N/A	0	100%	<b>80%</b>
	Measures								

**Performance against Target**



economy	Measures	1	0	0	0	0	1	0%	
<b>Overall Performance</b>	<b>Actions and Measures</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>60%</b>	




**OFF TARGET**



## Report A

# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: D3 Supporting parents &amp; families to develop their children's learning</b>			
<b>Action</b>	12091	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We shall pilot the 'Holiday Hunger' programme, supporting families and children during school vacations to cook healthy meals, particularly aimed at eFSM.		
<b>Comment</b>	We were unable to secure funding from Welsh Government in order to run a pilot for this year but hope to secure funding for next summer. Within two weeks of receiving notification of the availability of up to £7000, the funding was fully allocated, whilst we were still working with individual schools to put our bid together.		
<b>Remedial Action</b>	In order to secure funding for next summer, we will have a bid ready before the anticipated notification of funding being available.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> Off target	



# Report A

## Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report

### Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17


Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential							
Sub-theme: D4 Developing an Inclusive Society							
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks: b) excluding exceptions  EDU/015b	100.0	100.0	Q1: <b>100.0</b>  End Of Year: <b>80.0</b>	Target: <b>90.0</b>  Result: <b>75.0</b>  Calculation: <b>(6 ÷ 8) × 100</b>	Target: <b>90.0</b>	Target: <b>90.0</b>	Target: <b>90.0</b>
<b>Comment</b>	This PI has declined compared to the same period the previous year. Two delays were reported due to non attendance at Education Psychology appointments.						
<b>Remedial Action</b>	Chief Education Officer to send a reminder to all Inclusion staff of the need to comply to statutory timescales.						
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans	<b>Performance status:</b> Off target						



## Report A

# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: D4 Developing an Inclusive Society</b>			
<b>Action</b>	12095	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will complete a review of behaviour management services and present proposals to reform provision		
<b>Comment</b>	Capacity issues within the Inclusion team has affected progress in relation to this review. A high level `vision statement` has been drafted and an initial piece of work on our PRUs completed.		
<b>Remedial Action</b>	This will need to be a priority for the Autumn Term with dedicated officer time allocated to completing the review.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> Off target	
			

**ON TARGET ETC.**



## Report A

# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



Theme: C. People in Carmarthenshire are healthier							
Sub-theme: C1 Ensuring each child has the best start in life							
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The % of attendance at the free Flying Start Child Care placement 9.1.8.1	Not applicable		Result: <b>Not available</b> End Of Year: <b>79</b>	Target: <b>77</b>  Result: <b>Not available</b>	Target: <b>77</b>	Target: <b>77</b>	Target: <b>77</b>
<b>Comment</b>	Quarter 1 not collected as we report termly, April to August 2016 will be reported in quarter 2.						
<b>Remedial Action</b>	As above.						
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith			<b>Performance status:</b> Result not available				
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The number of children living outside of the Flying Start area who are able to access the Flying Start service through referral for outreach 9.1.8.2	Not applicable		Result: <b>Not available</b> End Of Year: <b>17</b>	Target: <b>23</b>  Result: <b>Not available</b>	Target: <b>23</b>	Target: <b>23</b>	Target: <b>23</b>
<b>Comment</b>	Quarter 1 not collected as we report termly, April to August 2016 will be reported in quarter 2.						
<b>Remedial Action</b>	As above.						
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith			<b>Performance status:</b> Result not available				

Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The % of high need families living in a Flying Start area receiving at least a monthly contact from the Flying Start Health Visiting Service 9.1.8.3	Not applicable		Result: <b>Not available</b> End Of Year: <b>96</b>	Target: <b>93</b>  Result: <b>Not available</b>	Target: <b>93</b>	Target: <b>93</b>	Target: <b>93</b>
<b>Comment</b>	Quarter 1 not collected as we report termly, April to August 2016 will be reported in quarter 2.						
<b>Remedial Action</b>	As above.						
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith			<b>Performance status:</b> Result not available				
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The % of families with additional social welfare needs linked to poverty, living in a Flying Start area receiving time specified interventions from the wider Flying Start Team 9.1.8.6	Not applicable		Result: <b>Not available</b> End Of Year: <b>96</b>	Target: <b>95</b>  Result: <b>Not available</b>	Target: <b>95</b>	Target: <b>95</b>	Target: <b>95</b>
<b>Comment</b>	Quarter 1 not collected as we report termly, April to August 2016 will be reported in quarter 2.						
<b>Remedial Action</b>	As above.						
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith			<b>Performance status:</b> Result not available				
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The % of unauthorised attendance at the	Not applicable		New measure	Target:	Target:	Target:	Target:

free Flying Start Child Care settings 9.1.8.8				<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>
<b>Comment</b>				Quarter 1 not collected as we report termly, April to August 2016 will be reported in quarter 2.			
<b>Remedial Action</b>				As above.			
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith				<b>Performance status:</b> Result not available			
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of children in Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their development milestone at age 2 years, (assessed within 23-25 month) 9.1.8.9	Not applicable		New measure	Target: <b>85.00</b>  Result: <b>Not available</b>	Target: <b>85.00</b>	Target: <b>85.00</b>	Target: <b>85.00</b>
<b>Comment</b>				Quarter 1 not collected as we report termly, April to August 2016 will be reported in quarter 2.			
<b>Remedial Action</b>				As above			
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith				<b>Performance status:</b> Result not available			
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of children in Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their development milestone at age 3 years, (assessed within 35-37 month) 9.1.9.0	Not applicable		New measure	Target: <b>90.00</b>  Result: <b>Not available</b>	Target: <b>90.00</b>	Target: <b>90.00</b>	Target: <b>90.00</b>
<b>Comment</b>				Quarter 1 not collected as we report termly, April to August 2016 will be reported in quarter 2.			



<b>Remedial Action</b>	As above.
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b> Result not available



## Report A



# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17

<b>ACTIONS - Theme: C. People in Carmarthenshire are healthier</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: C1 Ensuring each child has the best start in life</b>			
<b>Action</b>	12044	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will implement the Child and Family Unit (CFU) systemic model of working across children's services teams		
<b>Comment</b>	Dinefwr Childcare Team (DCCT) and West Childcare Team (WCCT) are now operating the systemic model of delivering social work services. This means that the team works in 3 pods, each with a leader (Assistant Team Manager /Senior Practitioner), 2-3 social workers, a Family Support Worker and a Unit Coordinator. A member of the Education Psychology Service (EPS) acts as clinician to the teams in their weekly pod meetings. There was some delay in the process to recruit a Family Support Worker for each systemic pod in these teams. There has been a review of admin. staff that resulted in revised job profiles that clarify the role of the Unit Coordinators. Unit Coordinators are being recruited to fill the vacant posts in the childcare teams. In the next 2 months Carmarthen Childcare Team (CCCT) will implement the approach and then East Childcare Team (ECCT). Pod leaders attend developmental sessions facilitated by tutors from the Family Institute every 2 months to ensure pod leaders develop the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence in the approach. The psychologist from EPS is exploring ways of ensuring there is sufficient psychology capacity to meet the needs of the 4 childcare teams.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	



## Report A



# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17

<b>ACTIONS - Theme: C. People in Carmarthenshire are healthier</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: C3 Improving the Emotional, Mental Health and Well-being of all people in the County</b>			
<b>Action</b>	12046	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will develop and implement changes to how we provide information, advice, assistance to our services in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014)		
<b>Comment</b>	As part of the Mid & West Wales Collaborative Children`s Services Programme Board we have been reviewing how we provide Information, Advice & Assistance and access to our services for children and families. Following a review by Institute of Public Care (IPC) we have a regional action plan for implementation. Family Information Service enables families, professionals and other agencies access to a broad range of information about what services and support is available within the county. Our Central Referral Team will signpost families (when appropriate) to Preventative services to ensure they get the level of intervention they need thus avoiding unnecessary statutory involvement. We have met with the new Information, Advice & Assistance Manager to `map out` all our `front door` access		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	



## Report A

# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: C. People in Carmarthenshire are healthier</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: C6 Improve access to health and social care for all people including vulnerable groups</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Target date</b>	
	12064		31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will undertake a review of our services for disabled children and their families to ensure that we are making best use of our resources and meeting our duties under the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>We have commissioned the Institute of Public Care (IPC), part of Oxford Brookes University, to undertake a review of our services for disabled children.</p> <p>They have audited a sample of our case files focussing on how families access our service and how we allocate resources. They have also met with groups of parents and will meet with key stakeholders from the health board and education.</p> <p>They will produce a report by the end of July. We will review and implement any recommendations following this.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>		<b>Target date</b>	
	12065		31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will develop a business case for the extension of specialist provision on the Garreglwyd site for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>We submitted a proposal to the Regional Collaborative Board for this purpose. The proposal will now be considered as part of the ASD (autistic spectrum disorder) specific funding next year.</p> <p>We are however, extending the provision at Garreglwyd this year with the additional space we have available since the Education provision moved to Ysgol Bro Dinefwr. We have sessions for parents planned over the Summer with Tim Camau Bach and have staff training sessions planned at the venue.</p> <p>We have also developed additional space on the ground floor at Garreglwyd which will allow us to bring one child home from an out of county placement next academic year to receive their education, care and support in Carmarthenshire.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	



## Report A



# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17

Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential							
Sub-theme: D1 Providing the best opportunities for lifelong learning and development for all							
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Surplus places removed as a result of Modernising Education Programme 4.3.1.7	Not applicable		Q1: <b>101</b>  End Of Year: <b>394</b>	Target: <b>0</b>  Result: <b>0</b>	Target: <b>0</b>	Target: <b>0</b>	Target: <b>141</b>
<b>Comment</b>	Targets are established as follows: Q1 = 0, no school closures, Q2 = 0, no school closures, Q3 = 0, no school closures, Q4 = 141, 2 school closures and 1 new build with slightly reduced capacity.						
<b>Remedial Action</b>	None required at this time.						
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans			<b>Performance status:</b> On target				



## Report A

# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: D1 Providing the best opportunities for lifelong learning and development for all</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Target date</b>	
	12069		31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will conclude the Dinefwr Secondary Schools Transformation Strategy by completing school modernisation investment at Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth, bringing to a conclusion the major reorganisation of secondary school provision in the region and an investment totalling £69 million in value.		
<b>Comment</b>	Construction Scheme at Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth nearing completion for full occupation Sept 2016. Total grant of £57.3 million claimed in full in 2015/16.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>		<b>Target date</b>	
	12070		31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will invest around £19 million in major school construction and modernisation projects at Coedcae, Seaside, Trimsaran, Llangadog and Parc y Tywyn.		
<b>Comment</b>	Quarter 1 grant claim submitted on time. Coedcae - construction progressing according to plan Seaside (Pen Rhos) - Construction progressing well Trimsaran - construction commenced Llangadog - Development progressing for BJC submission Parc y Tywyn - development progressing for final business case submission.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>		<b>Target date</b>	
	12071		31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will take forward the recommendations of the Foundation Phase report		
<b>Comment</b>	We have continued to provide schools with focused support for the Foundation Phase. Our work has included - 1. Support from the FPTSO and Team 2. Foundation Phase Seminar (for HTs/senior leaders to ensure awareness and understanding of the FPh pedagogy) 3. Continued collaborative working across ERW and the Western Hub (training provision etc) We continue to monitor school progress and implementation of the recommendations during ERW Core Visits and associated support,		

	challenge and intervention activity.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Andi Morgan		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12072	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will enhance outcomes for more able and talented pupils.		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>Our ERW Challenge Advisers and team of Associate Officers have undertaken detailed analyses of teaching and learning provision through the implementation of ERW Core Visit 2 (Summer Term 2016). This activity has provided a clear focus on provision in general across our schools (FPh, KS2 and KS3 in particular), including MAT learners. This work has been undertaken in readiness for the implementation of ERW Core Visit during the Autumn Term. Findings from across all schools have provided us with evidence of `best practice` and effective impact on MAT learners. This will be collated and shared through a range of actions (seminar workshops, e-contact etc) during the next quarter. The ERW Core Visit 1 will enable the review and evaluation of MAT learner outcomes (as reported by WG) and measure them against the quality of provision provided.</p> <p>We are embarking on a joint analysis of best practice with Pembrokeshire LA during the Autumn Term, 2016 which will further support the progress of this action.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Andi Morgan		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12073	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will work to improve the quality of leadership and it's impact on improving outcomes across the consortium		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>We have continued to employ a range of effective and developmental strategies to enhance leadership practice and skills across our schools including -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of ERW Core Visit 2 which has focused on evaluation and discussion of leadership capacity and expertise within our schools. This work has provided all school leaders with the opportunity to reflect upon their practice, its impact upon standards and agree areas for improvement pertinent to their needs.</li> <li>2. We have commissioned an increased number of Headteachers to support our work as ERW Challenge Advisers. These colleagues have received professional development training and the opportunity to hone and enhance their skills whilst undertaking the ERW CV2 agenda. Schools and leaders have commented positively upon this practice and noted the benefits to their leadership knowledge and skills.</li> <li>3. We have continued to provide Leadership Seminars and Briefings for Senior Leaders and Governors. These have focused on specific areas of strategic leadership and improvement.</li> </ol>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12074	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will improve the proportion of schools with a Green or Yellow categorisation in the National School Categorisation System		
	This action has progressed through close monitoring and evaluation of school provision and standards. In the main, this work has been implemented through the ERW Core Visit 2 vehicle which has provided all schools with a bespoke mechanism to analyse their performance. A		

<b>Comment</b>	strong focus on quality and impact of leadership has supported this work effectively and provided schools with the opportunity to strengthen and develop their performance accordingly. Networks and elements of peer support have reinforced this work well. The School Improvement Team has undertaken analyses of ERW CV2 findings and is currently drafting a 'predicted Categorisation report.' The Autumn Term ERW Core Visit 1 will provide more detailed forecasts. A range of ongoing factors such as leadership / staff reorganisation will continue to impact upon this action up until the point of final National Categorisation (Autumn 2016).		
<b>Service Head:</b> Andi Morgan	<b>Performance status:</b> On target		
<b>Action</b>	12075	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will increase the % of Good or Better Outcomes in Estyn Judgments		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>Support and challenge to achieve this action is ongoing through a range of activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ERW Core Visits</li> <li>2. Agreed support, challenge and intervention work through the department's Support, Challenge and Intervention Team (previously known as the Area Team).</li> </ol> <p>The most recent Estyn inspection profile of our school's (Summer Term, 2016) reports the following findings based on Summary Judgements:</p> <p>Standards:  Unsatisfactory Judgements - 0%  Adequate Judgements - 57%  Good Judgements - 43%  Excellent Judgements - 0%</p> <p>Capacity to Improve:  Unsatisfactory Judgements - 14%  Adequate Judgements - 29%  Good Judgements - 43%  Excellent Judgements - 14%</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Andi Morgan	<b>Performance status:</b> On target		
<b>Action</b>	12076	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will deliver literacy, numeracy and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses for Carmarthenshire residents and in-comers to the County		
<b>Comment</b>	Delivery of these courses for the 2015-2016 year has now been completed. A full and continuing programme of courses is planned for the 2016-2017 year.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees	<b>Performance status:</b> On target		
<b>Action</b>	12077	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017



<b>Action promised</b>	We will continue to hold all schools and ERW to account for further improving standards and outcomes for learners, intervening in schools where performance is not satisfactory.		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>The key area of our activity for this first quarter has been the ongoing implementation of ERW Core Visit 2 (evaluation of Teaching, Learning and Leadership). Schools have been `held to account` through rigorous discussion with their Link Challenge Adviser and additional Associate / Peer members as appropriate to the needs of the school. This challenge has analysed the school`s ability to self-improve and plan for further improvement. The school`s progress in teaching and learning (often witnessed via lesson observations and work scrutiny activity) is measured and agreed with senior leaders/governors.</p> <p>In addition, the LA Scrutiny Panel has continued its valuable work through inviting a range of schools across all phases to present an overview of their progress, success and areas of concern to the Panel.</p> <p>A minority of schools requiring specific areas of intervention have been supported via by -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the implementation of School Improvement Panels. This work is continuing to demonstrate immediate progress in the required areas.</li> <li>2. Specific elements of training / focused support (leadership/curriculum provision).</li> </ol>		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Gareth Morgans	<b>Performance status:</b>	On target
<b>Action</b>	12078	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will support schools, in tandem with ERW, to further improve outcomes for all pupils but with a particular emphasis on raising the achievements of pupils entitled to free school meals and looked after children.		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>We have ensured progress within this action through -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continued implementation of the LA eFSM Scrutiny Panel. The Panel`s work has analysed and evaluated a range of practice undertaken across our schools in support of eFSM learners. This has ensured an enhanced level of challenge and support for school leaders within this area.</li> <li>2. ERW Challenge Advisers have continued to challenge performance of eFSM learners and the effective use of PDG Funding within schools during the ERW CV2.</li> <li>3. Senior officers have supported ERW in the evaluation and development of ERW CV1 procedures (including evaluation of the PDG). This work will be implemented in the new academic year and provide the LA with a clear and analytical overview of the progress our schools are making.</li> </ol>		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Gareth Morgans	<b>Performance status:</b>	On target
<b>Action</b>	12079	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will continue with the design of the Carmarthenshire Curriculum in partnership; to incorporate national policy developments; achieve key milestones in line with Palmantu`r Ffordd/Paving the Way and publish a Carmarthenshire Curriculum Declaration as an interim developmental step.		
<b>Comment</b>	Work is on-going, in partnership with schools, to implement the Plamantu`r Ffordd report and the recommendations of the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Review.		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Aeron Rees	<b>Performance status:</b>	On target
<b>Action</b>	12080	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017

<b>Action promised</b>	We will implement the actions detailed in the Modernising Education Programme for 2016/17 in relation to: a. Construction Projects; b. School Organisation Proposals; c. Business Cases; d. Data returns; e. School Capacity; f. Catchment areas; g. Estate management and h. Grant funding
<b>Comment</b>	<p>Construction Projects - Projects on site (Maes Y Gwendraeth and Llanelli Vocational Village are on target to complete on time. Seaside (Ysgol Pen Rhos) and Trimsaran construction projects have commenced.</p> <p>School Organisation Proposals - Proposals have been developed and taken to ECS Scrutiny in relation to Pendine area, Bancffosfelen and Llanedi however, approval was not given to consult pending further information as the request of the committees.</p> <p>Business Cases - St John Lloyd Business Justification Case &amp; Dewi Sant Strategic Outline Case submitted to WG</p> <p>Data returns - All data returns (POSP pupil and building data) complete.</p> <p>School Capacity - Ad hoc amendments to capacity calculations are agreed with Headteachers and implemented at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Catchment areas - work on-going to realign anomalies in catchment area boundaries</p> <p>Estate management - requests for school development proposals and support for risk management bids considered and approved as required.</p> <p>Grant funding - Q1 Grant claim submitted to WG</p>
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans	<b>Performance status:</b> On target



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# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: D2 Improving skills and training to increase employment opportunities for all</b>			
<b>Action</b>	12081	<b>Target date</b>	30/09/2016
<b>Action promised</b>	We will fully implement the Vulnerability Assessment Profile in all Secondary Schools for Years 7-11 to ensure early identification of all young people who may become NEET		
<b>Comment</b>	The Vulnerability Assessment Profile is in place in most Secondary Schools for Years 7-11 to ensure early identification of all young people who may become NEET. Full implementation will be completed by Sept 2016 to link with Cynnydd Project delivery		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12082	<b>Target date</b>	31/10/2016
<b>Action promised</b>	We will update and expand the Carmarthenshire Provision map and hosting of a web-based resource highlighting this information via the Un Sir Gar hub		
<b>Comment</b>	Work is on-going to develop and publish this resource		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12083	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will implement the Carmarthenshire Cynnydd European Social Fund (ESF) Project elements to reduce the number of young people who become NEET		
<b>Comment</b>	The Cynnydd project was finally approved in May 2016. Work is now on-going to implement the actions linked to this ESF programme. The initial officer appointments for this project have been undertaken and work is on going to fill other posts within the project structure.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12084	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will support the development of the regional Cam Nesa European Social Fund (ESF) project to deliver employability skills for 16-25's who are currently NEET		
<b>Comment</b>	Following approval of the Cynnydd Project, work to develop the Cam Nesa bid to be submitted to WEFO will commence in July 2016.		

<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12085	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will ensure a new Vulnerable Young Peoples panel be put in place to co-ordinate support for vulnerable young people in Key Stage 4.		
<b>Comment</b>	This panel has now been established and is meeting bi-monthly.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12086	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will implement the actions identified in the Carmarthenshire Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Plan for the period 2016-2017, including full take up of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile.		
<b>Comment</b>	Work in on-going to deliver the local aspects of the YEPF, including promoting the use of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) in all secondary schools		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12087	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will support partnership working with the other providers of adult community learning through the continuing management of the Carmarthenshire Adult Community Learning Group		
<b>Comment</b>	Partnership meetings for this group are held on a quarterly basis.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12088	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We shall complete a review of the 11-19 Curriculum in Carmarthenshire		
<b>Comment</b>	This report is now completed and will proceed to the County Council's Executive Board in September 2016.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12089	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will deliver a programme of activities for the Carmarthenshire Seren Hub		
<b>Comment</b>	An on-going programme of activities to support able and talented young people wishing to progress to Sutton Trust Universities is in place. This includes visits to Sutton Group universities and visits from guest speakers from the said institutions.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Aeron Rees		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	



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# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: D3 Supporting parents &amp; families to develop their children's learning</b>			
<b>Action</b>	12090	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We shall continuing to promote regular school attendance to maximise educational opportunities and child welfare, robustly challenging poor attendance and persistent absenteeism.		
<b>Comment</b>	Provisional data indicates that Secondary School Attendance has improved again this academic year, exceeding our target with a provisional calculation of 94.45% attendance (target94.4). Primary School Attendance continues to be good but provisionally we are below target with 94.8% against a target of 95.4%. The Education Welfare Service supported 560 children to engage in education over the last academic year.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12092	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We shal further develop the family engagement programme to support families to engage in education.		
<b>Comment</b>	Family Engagement workers within the Education Welfare Service engage with families, family centres and schools: delivering support and guidance, workshops and information sessions for families. A range of resources have been developed as well as utilising Welsh Government literature.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	



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# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential							
Sub-theme: D4 Developing an Inclusive Society							
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
Percentage of final statements of special educational need issued within 26 weeks: a) including exceptions  EDU/015a	96.2	78.3	Q1: <b>23.1</b>  End Of Year: <b>34.8</b>	Target: <b>40.0</b>  Result: <b>66.7</b>  Calculation: <b>(6÷9) × 100</b>	Target: <b>40.0</b>	Target: <b>40.0</b>	Target: <b>40.0</b>
<b>Comment</b>	This PI has improved above our intended target of 40%. Despite the expected reduction in the number of Statements, results again reflect the difficulties experienced by Health. The Hywel Dda Health Board have had continuing problems with retaining paediatricians and administrative staff, leading to delays in receiving medical assessments and further delays in typing of reports after medicals are completed. Health have other priorities on their resources.						
<b>Remedial Action</b>	Following a restructuring within the Local Health Board it is our intention to meet with the new managers in order to address our concerns. Internally we will continue to; 1) Review assessments/tracking system by senior manager to avoid any delays; 2) Earlier intervention, requesting info on why reports are late from external agencies; 3) Sending reminders out to remind external agencies of the Authority's statutory obligation; 4) Special Educational Needs to be alerted as soon as possible when a child does not attend a medical in order to rectify the situation and prevent any further delay; 6) Additional Needs Family Social Worker to take the child to appointments when the family have difficulties to avoid a 'Did Not Arrive'.						
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans				<b>Performance status:</b> On target			



## Report A



# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17

### **ACTIONS** - Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential

#### Sub-theme: D4 Developing an Inclusive Society

Action	12094	Target date	31/03/2017
Action promised	We shall enhance programmes for safeguarding in schools and other settings to fully embed safe recruitment practices and strategies to meet the Prevent duty to protect children and young people from the risks of radicalisation		
Comment	The school health check programme has been reviewed and schools that require the health check have been identified. Dates are being set for the new term with trained officers allocated		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	



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# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: D. People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: D5 Increasing the provision of childcare, education and training through the medium of Welsh</b>			
<b>Action</b>	12096	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will publish the drafted Welsh Medium Secondary school and Welsh 2nd Language Charters		
<b>Comment</b>	Continue support and training for Welsh second language Charter. Research work already undertaken over last three years. Implement Pilot scheme within secondary schools. We will collate research and track schools through language charter questionnaire details.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12097	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will complete statutory procedures to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from bilingual (2A) to Welsh medium (WM)		
<b>Comment</b>	Proposal recommended to County Council for approval Executive board on 20th June. County Council to consider and determine on 13th July 2016.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12098	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will continue to advance the objectives of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan		
<b>Comment</b>	Officers and schools are working on the targets/objectives included in the WESP. This includes raising standards in Welsh (verified data available in Oct 2016), the language charters, school reorganisation and promoting bilingual education. Regular updates are provided to the Welsh Language Working Group and the Welsh in Education Forum.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Gareth Morgans		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	





## Report A



# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17

<b>Theme: E. People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer</b>							
<b>Sub-theme: E5 Safeguarding all people from abuse, victimisation, neglect and exploitation</b>							
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of children looked after at 31 March who have experienced one or more change of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the 12 months to 31 March  SCC/32	9.2	13.1	Q1: <b>0.6</b>  End Of Year: <b>3.9</b>	Target: <b>5.0</b>  Result: <b>0.7</b>  Calculation: <b>(1÷152) × 100</b>	Target: <b>5.0</b>	Target: <b>5.0</b>	Target: <b>5.0</b>
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith				<b>Performance status:</b> On target			
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of children looked after on 31 March who have had three or more placements during the year.  SCC/33	8.6	9.6	Q1: <b>3.0</b>  End Of Year: <b>14.9</b>	Target: <b>13.5</b>  Result: <b>1.9</b>  Calculation: <b>(4÷212) × 100</b>	Target: <b>13.5</b>	Target: <b>13.5</b>	Target: <b>13.5</b>
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith				<b>Performance status:</b> On target			



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# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



<b>ACTIONS - Theme: E. People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer</b>			
<b>Sub-theme: E5 Safeguarding all people from abuse, victimisation, neglect and exploitation</b>			
<b>Action</b>		<b>Target date</b>	
12105		31/03/2017	
<b>Action promised</b>	We will review our assessments in light of the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014		
<b>Comment</b>	Following the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act (SSWBA) 2014 in April 2016 we have developed a new assessment form structured around the 5 elements of assessment within the SSWBA which incorporates a plan for Care & Support which is person-centred, promotes wellbeing and is outcome-based. The assessments also captures the core data required.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
12106		31/03/2017	
<b>Action promised</b>	We will ensure Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessments (SERAF's) and Missing Persons Risk Assessments are completed as required		
<b>Comment</b>	Protocols are in place to ensure the relevant assessments are completed. This is reviewed through CYSUR Audit & Evaluation Sub Group and Local Operational Group. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator undertakes regular audits and reported end of year data to Welsh Government.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
12107		31/03/2017	
<b>Action promised</b>	We will continue to improve the quality of Care Plans ensuring a multi-agency assessment, with a focus on outcomes, and engagement of children and families		
<b>Comment</b>	There is a rolling programme of developmental sessions with the social work teams and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service. Children`s Services will participate in training about outcome focused care plans provided through Welsh Government.		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
12108		31/03/2017	
<b>Action promised</b>	We shall ensure that all councillors are equipped to act as corporate parents to looked after children		
	Training has been developed. Membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel has been widened and informal meetings/ training sessions		

<b>Comment</b>	booked. Currently securing a date for annual training to all Councillors.		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b>	On target
<b>Action</b>	12109	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will undertake Reviews of foster carers on an annual basis in accordance with regulations to achieve 100% target		
<b>Comment</b>	We will continue to make steady progress on annual reviews for foster carers being undertaken in a timely manner and will continue to work towards our target and goals through supervision of staff and monitoring through monthly updates from systems implemented through care first. The current completion of reviews this quarter is 86% across the whole service.		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b>	On target
<b>Action</b>	12110	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will implement the plan for improving placement stability		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>We will continue to implement the plan for improving placement stability through monitoring care plans and placement needs through permanency panel which is multi agency based. There will be more robust monitoring of placement support meetings by the manager and assistant managers in the fostering service to identify early on support needs to ensure placement stability is maintained. The appointment of a senior practitioner to support teenage and complex placements of challenging children is an added opportunity to focus on assessment of needs and packages of support required to achieve better stability, and resources from resource panel and Integrated Family Support Team (IFST) and Family Support Services. There will be a continuing focus on careful matching for placements and a drive on recruiting more foster carers to provide more choice and better outcomes for placement stability in meeting the needs of young people</p> <p>The new accommodation panel also has a role to monitor and gate keep placements and review placement requirements and consider unmet need to ensure placement stability improves and every effort is made to avoid disruption of placements. Any concerns will be raised and passed up to the Head of Service who evaluates all panel minutes.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b>	On target
<b>Action</b>	12111	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will implement the 'Signs of Safety' model within Carmarthenshire and incorporate into practice		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>The Signs Of Safety Model is being implemented across the service through Case Conferences and it is envisaged this model will be embedded in the preventative and direct work undertaken by staff with children and families.</p> <p>The first conferences have taken place in June and there is more training on the practice model for staff taking place in July and August which is also accessed by partner agencies.</p> <p>There is a steering group set up to monitor and support staff on the implementation of the model which is progressing, and lead practitioners</p>		

	from each child care team in Carmarthenshire is being implemented into practice. There will also be further involvement from the partner agencies to lead and support staff through full implementation.		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12112	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will ensure the Independent Reviewing Service (IRO) becomes more outcome focused in line with recommendations and reflect on the outcomes of Welsh Government Review		
<b>Comment</b>	The review paperwork has been redrafted to be more outcome focused and has been piloted. Feedback is being collated as part of the review process. How the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO`s) report on the monitoring process has been remodelled to focus on outcomes. The terms of reference of the MALAC (multi-agency looked after children care management group) has been reviewed to focus on outcomes.		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12113	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will consolidate the regional Adoption service and develop Adoption Support in line with national and regional priorities		
<b>Comment</b>	Both National Adoption Service (NAS) and Mid and West Wales Adoption Service (MWAS) business plans for 2016-17 identify developing adoption support services as a priority. MWAS is looking at the role of the adoption support coordinator, which now focuses on working with partner agencies to develop adoption support services. 23 staff from outside the adoption service from the 4 local authorities that make up MWAS recently received training in Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP)Level 1 to increase their knowledge and ability to provide attachment focused parenting support to children and families in the region. The training officer has worked with University of Wales Trinity St. Davids to make short training films about topics such as attachment. The aim is to provide information and support in a variety of formats to those affected by adoption.		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12114	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will continue to work with partners to improve appropriate accommodation options, and housing support for all vulnerable young people (aged 16-25) to ensure no children/young people end up in Bed and Breakfast		
<b>Comment</b>	As part of the Supporting People programme we are planning to re-commission services to more appropriately meet the needs of 16-25 year olds and reduce the need for B&B.		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12115	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will implement new arrangements in respect of our leaving care services in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and 'When I am Ready' guidance		

<b>Comment</b>	Guidance for foster carers and children has been drafted. Some young people have already accessed arrangements and we have reflected on processes in order to run this smoothly. Care Leavers are now being offered `when I am ready` placements and we are reviewing them accordingly.
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b> On target



## Report A

# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17



### **ACTIONS** - Theme: G. Carmarthenshire has a stronger and more prosperous economy

#### Sub-theme: G5 Tackling poverty and its impact on the local economy

Action	12140	Target date	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will further develop the Team Around the Family approach across the county for 0-25 year olds as a means of accessing preventative services. We will actively engage in planning for future change and sustainability in view of the changes to the Families First grant and focus on reducing the need for statutory care and support		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>Progress been made in roll-out and implementation of the TAF Model across Carmarthenshire and will continue until March 2017, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote the TAF model across Carmarthenshire as a whole;</li> <li>• train and support staff in implementing the TAF model. Its systems and processes;</li> <li>• train external staff in awareness and access to TAF.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the above, in line with the Welsh Government recommendations in aligning the 4 strands of the Tackling Poverty Agenda (Families First, Communities First, Flying Start &amp; Supporting People), the TAF approach will provide the underpinning infrastructure that facilitates this alignment. In view of this, the task of rolling out the TAF model will expand significantly. In order to achieve this, greater focus will be required on training staff within these programmes in implementation of the TAF model, its systems and processes.</p> <p>Development of the 16 to 25 years sector continues with greater links being forged with Adult Services.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b>	Stefan Smith	<b>Performance status:</b>	On target
Action	12141	Target date	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	We will continue to implement the final year of the expanded Flying Start (FS) programme, promoting early intervention for disadvantaged families with children (0-3) living in specific deprived communities. We will actively engage in planning for future change and sustainability in accordance with Welsh Government future guidance for the grant.		
	<p>The Flying Start Childcare service is currently being re-commissioned with a live tender which started at the end of Jun and will be open until 12th August on Sell2Wales. This will mean we are open to bids from any childcare nursery that meets the criteria set in a Service specification, with a view to having new contracts in place to run seamlessly from the end of existing contracts, which end of 30th September 16.</p> <p>The new Dafen Flying Start Childcare facility (in Dafen Primary School) received its final registration by CSSIW Inspectors on 7th June and will be open to a cohort of eligible 2-3 year olds from September 2016 school term. Settling in and familiarisation sessions will take place for children and parents from 12th August prior to opening formally under the name of 'Dechrau'n Disglair/High Flyers'.</p>		

<b>Comment</b>	<p>The Burry Port new Flying Start childcare facility is waiting final confirmation and inspection from CSSIW during July, also with a view to being open to eligible children in the Burry Port area from September.</p> <p>The Health Visitor post vacancies continue, however, 4-5 posts have been appointed to and it is hoped that when all recruitment checks are completed, they will be starting in post from September 16. Due to a national shortage of qualified Health Visitors across Wales we have appointed a number of students who are newly qualified, to create a mix of experience levels within the team, building on our future workforce needs. When all post-holders are fully inducted and settled into their new area it is hoped that the remainder of the expansion across the county will continue to reach the target of 1832 children, as set by Welsh Government.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12142	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	<p>We will continue to implement the final year of the re-commissioned Families First (FF)(0-25) programme, promoting early intervention for disadvantaged families across the County. We will actively engage in planning for future change and sustainability in accordance with Welsh Government future guidance for the grant.</p>		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>The programme received a 12% (£262k) cut for 2016-17. The decision was made to continue to fund the 14 commissioned projects rather than find the savings by de-commissioning whole projects due to recent re-commissioning of the programme. Savings were found within the infrastructure and variable cuts were applied to the commissioned projects. A delivery plan of 2016-17 has been submitted to the Welsh Government and approved. Projects have been issued with revised Service Level Agreements and Contracts, taking into account the cut in funding and the subsequent impact on staff hours and activity.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	
<b>Action</b>	12143	<b>Target date</b>	31/03/2017
<b>Action promised</b>	<p>We will further develop childcare and play opportunities in line with gaps and priorities detailed in the respective Child Care and Play Sufficiency Action Plans 2016/17.</p>		
<b>Comment</b>	<p>The second Play Sufficiency Assessment was submitted to Welsh Government in July (final document). A number of Childcare and Play priorities have been identified for 2016/17 and these are currently being progressed. This includes working in partnership with the Modernising Education and Early Years departments to ensure the design of playgrounds are suitable and accessible for community use and encouraging existing schools to allow access to the playgrounds outside of teaching hours. Both respective Action plans will be reviewed at mid-year point (September) and end of year point (March and updated accordingly). Work is currently underway on the fourth statutory Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which will outline the demand for and supply of childcare within Carmarthenshire.</p>		
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith		<b>Performance status:</b> On target	

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**NO TARGET SET**





## Report A



# Scrutiny measures & actions full monitoring report Education and Children scrutiny - Quarter 1 2016/17

<b>Theme: E. People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer</b>							
<b>Sub-theme: E5 Safeguarding all people from abuse, victimisation, neglect and exploitation</b>							
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales  SCC/24	Not applicable		New measure	--	--	--	Target: <b>NO TARGET</b>
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith			<b>Performance status:</b> N/A				
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The percentage of re-registrations of children on local authority Child Protection Registers (CPR)  SCC/27	Not applicable		New measure	--	--	--	Target: <b>NO TARGET</b>
<b>Service Head:</b> Stefan Smith			<b>Performance status:</b> N/A				
Measure Description	2015/16 Comparative Data			2016/17 Target and Results			
	Best Quartile	Welsh Median	Our Actual	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	End of Year
The average length of time for all children who were on the Child Protection Register during the year  SCC/28	Not applicable		New measure	--	--	--	Target: <b>NO TARGET</b>

**Service Head:** Stefan Smith

**Performance status:** N/A

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

## Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Annual Report 2015/16

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

- That members consider and approve the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee's annual report for the 2015/16 municipal year.

### Reasons:

- The Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to report annually on their work.

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

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: NOT APPLICABLE**

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive's</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Matthew Hughes</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Head of Administration &amp; Law</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b></p> <p>01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01267 224029 <a href="mailto:mahughes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">mahughes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

## Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Annual Report 2015/16

The attached report has been prepared in order to comply with Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution which states that a scrutiny committee must:

*“Prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committee's activities over the previous year.”*

The report provides an overview of the workings of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2015/16 municipal year and includes information on the following topics:

- Overview of the forward work programme
- Key issues considered
- Issues referred to or from Executive Board / Other Scrutiny Committees
- Task & Finish Review
- Development Sessions
- Member attendance at meetings

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: Linda Rees-Jones                      Head of Administration & Law**

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

- 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – In line with requirements of the County Council’s Constitution.
- 2. Legal** – In line with requirements of the County Council’s Constitution.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

**Signed: Linda Rees-Jones                      Head of Administration & Law**

- 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
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	<p><b>Meetings held up to July 2015:</b>  <a href="http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC.asp">http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC.asp</a></p> <p><b>Meetings from September 2015 onwards:</b>  <a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=153">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=153</a></p>

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# Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2015/16

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# Committee Membership 2015/16



Cllr. Eirwyn Williams  
(Chair)  
Cynwyl Gaeo  
(Plaid Cymru)



Cllr. Ryan Bartlett  
(Vice-Chair)  
Betws  
(Labour)



Cllr. Cefin Campbell  
Llanfihangel  
Aberbythych  
(Plaid Cymru)



Cllr. Mansel Charles  
Llanegwad  
(Plaid Cymru)



Cllr. Ieuan Wyn Davies  
Llanybydder  
(Independent)



Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins  
Llangennech  
(Plaid Cymru)



Cllr. Peter Hughes-  
Griffiths  
Carmarthen North  
(Plaid Cymru)



Cllr. John James  
Burry Port  
(Labour)



Cllr. Pat Jones  
Burry Port  
(Labour)



Cllr. Jean Lewis  
Trelech  
(Plaid Cymru)



Cllr. Hugh Richards  
Felinfoel  
(Independent)



Cllr. Tom Theophilus  
Cil-y-Cwm  
(Independent)



Cllr. Jan Williams  
Lliedi  
(Labour)



Mrs. Emma Heyes  
Elected Voting  
Parent Governor  
Member (Llanelli)



Mrs. Kate Hill  
Elected Voting  
Parent Governor  
Member (Dinefwr)



Mrs. Vera Kenny  
Roman Catholic  
Church Representative  
(Non-Elected Voting  
Member)



Mrs. Alex Pickles  
Elected Voting  
Parent Governor  
Member  
(Carmarthen)



Revd. Canon Bryan Witt  
Church in Wales Representative (Non-Elected Voting Member)

# Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year. The report provides a comprehensive summary of the work undertaken by the Committee during the period May 2015 to April 2016.

It has been a challenging period for the Council, particularly the unprecedented budget situation faced by the Education & Children Department. However, I feel that this Committee has continued to play its part in terms of scrutinising performance and contributing to key council policies and decisions. It was also pleasing to see public participation at one of our meetings as parents and community representatives from Llanedi addressed the Committee with a series of questions during the meeting in March 2016.

In September 2015, the Committee established a task and finish group to research and review the attainment gap for e-FSM learners. It has been an interesting and valuable experience with the Group receiving presentations and considering evidence from a range of stakeholders, including head teachers and the Wales Centre for Equity in Education. It is envisaged that the Group will publish its final report in the autumn.

We have continued to visit different schools across the county and following our visit to Cwrt Henri CP School in October 2015, the Committee has now visited all the county's schools, since the programme first started in 2009. I am sure that you will agree that this continues to be an invaluable experience for us as members and has allowed us to see a cross-section of the county's schools for ourselves and

to speak with head teachers, staff, school governors and pupils. These visits continue to inform our discussions at our main committee meetings.

As we reflect on the past year, we remember Cllr. Keith Davies who sadly passed away in August 2015. Keith was a valued member of the Committee and had also served as the Executive Board Member for Education & Children following the last election. It is also with great sadness that I must note the recent death of Cllr. Tom Theophilus, another valued member of this Committee, in July 2016. Their commitment to the work of this Committee and regular attendance on site visits and contributions to task and finish reviews, is and will be greatly missed.

In April 2015, we welcomed three new co-opted parent governor representatives as members of the Committee, namely, Emma Heyes, Kate Hill and Alex Pickles. I look forward to working with you all during the forthcoming year. I would also like to thank Simon Pearson, the former parent governor member for his valued contribution during his time as a member of the Committee.

In March 2015, Bernadette Dolan who served the Committee as our support officer for several years, moved on to another post. On behalf of everyone, I wish to thank Bernadette for all the excellent work she did and for all the valued guidance she offered during her period with us. It goes without saying that we wish her every joy and success in her new post.

Matthew Hughes is now our support officer and we are all very grateful to him for his diligence and unstinting support and his unfailing enthusiasm. On behalf of all of us, I wish to thank him for his good work and his readiness at all times to go that extra mile.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other members of the Committee for their support and constructive input during the course of the year. I must also express my thanks and appreciation to the Vice-Chair, Cllr. Ryan Bartlett for his on-going support and to all the officers who have provided support, advice and guidance throughout the year.

*Cllr. Eirwyn Williams*  
*Chair of Education & Children Scrutiny*  
*Committee*

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# Introduction

## Purpose of Annual Report

The following report has been prepared in order to comply with Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution which states that a scrutiny committee must:

“Prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committee's activities over the previous year.”

The report:

- Provides an overview of the work of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2015/16 municipal year.
- Identifies key areas to be included in the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee's 'Forward Work Programme' for 2016/17.

## Number of Meetings

In all, the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee met on 11 occasions between May 2015 and April 2016. Of these, three were joint meetings, two with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee in May and November 2015 and one with the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee in September 2015.

## The Work Programme for 2015/16

In the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined by the Forward Work Programme for 2015/16, which was confirmed by the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 18th May 2015.

The Forward Work Programme (FWP) was

mainly based on key areas identified as objectives within the Integrated Community Strategy and Improvement Plan together with standard items such as performance and budget monitoring reports, action plan monitoring reports, and specific requests from the scrutiny committee itself. Additional reports were also requested by the scrutiny committee during the year and the Forward Work Programme was amended accordingly.

The development of the concept of the Forward Work Programme and the process for its agreement, has allowed each scrutiny committee to determine their own work agendas. The benefits of such an approach has led to an improved level of debate and input during scrutiny committee meetings.

## The Committee's Remit

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee's key responsibilities are for:

- Educational Standards & School Performance
- Inclusion & Additional Learning Needs
- Welsh Medium Education
- School Modernisation
- Adult Community Learning
- Youth Services
- Youth Offending
- School meals
- Safeguarding
- Children's Services including Social Services & Family Support Services

# Key issues considered during 2015/16

## Standard Scrutiny Monitoring Reports / Items

### Half-Yearly Performance Management Reports

- One of the principal roles of scrutiny committees is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. They undertake this work mainly through the consideration of half-yearly performance monitoring reports and various action plan monitoring reports. The performance monitoring report provides a balanced picture of performance across the relevant service areas. The Committee considered the half-yearly performance reports for its remit at its meetings in July and November 2015.

### Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Reports

- The Committee received quarterly reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets. These reports enabled members to monitor the level of spend in each area and the progress made in any capital works.

**Actions & Referrals Updates** - During the course of the municipal year several requests for additional items were made by committee members to assist them in discharging their scrutiny role. In total, 36 recommendations / requests from the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee were recorded. These quarterly reports were produced to give an update on progress and information was also circulated to members outside the formal committee meetings.

## Strategic Issues / Progress Monitoring

**Carmarthenshire Adult & Community Learning Service: Progress Report on ACL Service Provision 2015-16** - In July 2015, the Committee considered a progress report which

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 Committee discussed the future of the Community Education Centres having been informed that the Education & Children Department would not have sufficient funding to continue to run these facilities from the 2016/17 financial year onwards, unless additional funding from outside the Department could be found.

### RECOMMENDATION

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

*OUTCOME - This matter was considered by the Executive Board at its meeting on the 2nd November 2015. The Board was advised that as a review was currently being undertaken on the usage of the community education centres, it was felt that consideration of the referral should be deferred pending completion of that review. The Board therefore unanimously resolved that consideration of the referral be deferred pending completion of the current review on the usage of the community education centres.*

**Young People Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET): A Carmarthenshire Perspective** - In September 2015, the Committee considered an update regarding the current actions to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education and training (NEETs), as requested at its meeting on the 18th May 2015.

**Youth Services Update Report** - In April 2016, the Committee considered a report providing an update on the progress made by the Youth Support Service and related partners in the following areas:

- the implementation of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement & Progression Framework initiative during the 2015/16 academic year;
- a review of the Youth Clubs 2014 Scrutiny Task & Finish Review Action Plan;
- the impact of efficiency savings on the service and progress made with restructuring.

The Committee discussed the work carried out by the Young Farmers' Clubs (YFC) in relation to youth services and what more could be done to ensure that the Authority worked more closely with the YFC network.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Resolved that officers make concerted efforts to strengthen the links between the Authority and the YFC network in the county.

*OUTCOME - The Committee's suggestion have been noted by officers and will be considered further.*

## **Schools**

**ERW Business Plan 2015/16 and Review of 2014/15** - In July 2015, the Committee received a presentation in relation to the work of the Education through Regional Working (ERW) Consortium during 2014/15 and its business plan for the year 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 Managing Director ERW attended the meeting.  
me for 2015/16.



**Results of the 2015 Teacher Assessment and External Examinations** - At its meeting in September 2015, the Committee received a report detailing the results of the 2015 teacher assessment and external examinations. Whilst the report contained unverified data, it provided the Committee with an early overview of the results of Carmarthenshire's children and young people at the end of the 2014/15 academic year.

**Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Site Visit Activity Report 2014/15** - In January 2015, the Committee received an activity report on its visits to schools and children's centres undertaken during the 2014/15 academic year. A total of 15 facilities were visited between October 2014 and May 2015

**School Performance and Achievement 2014/15** - In January 2016, the Committee considered the report on school performance and achievement which summarised the key issues arising from an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in relation to the performance of schools during the academic year 2014/15.

The report included:

- Annual Report on Standards & Outcomes (Teacher Assessments and Examinations, Attendance and Pupil Exclusions)
- Outcomes of School Inspections
- Developing values and skills for lifelong learning.

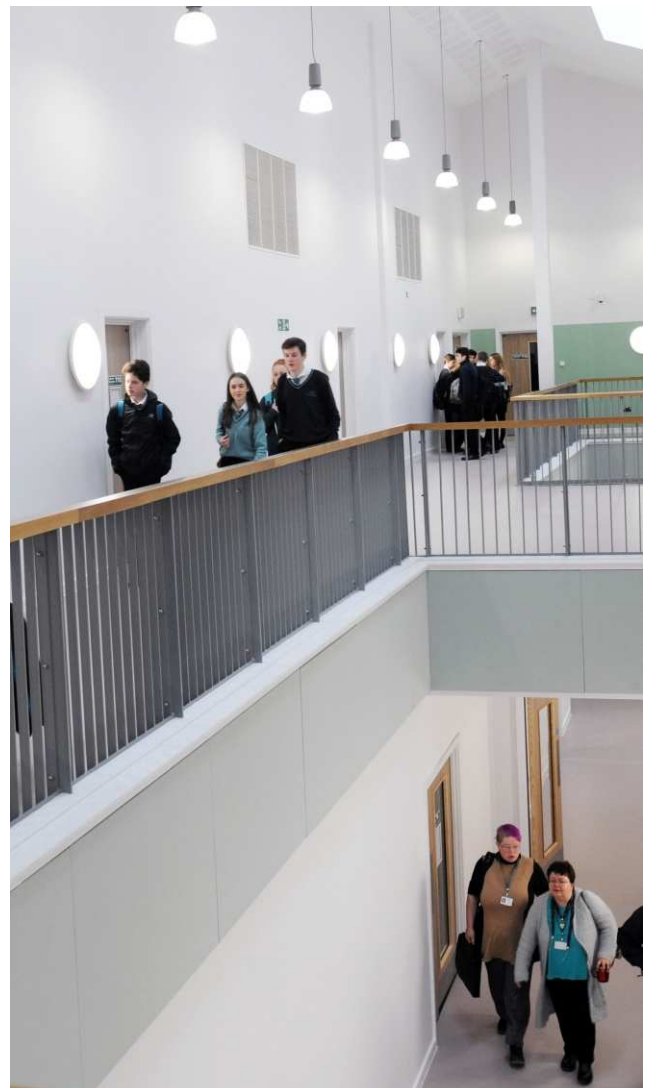
The Committee was informed how performance and standards in the county's schools compared with best performing schools across the ERW region. The Committee requested that comparative data from ERW be included in future reports.

**Carmarthenshire's School Categorisation Outcomes 2016** - In The Committee considered a National Categorisation Summary Report for Carmarthenshire Schools in 2016. The information outlined within the report highlighted the current position of the County's schools as well as areas for improvement. Overall, the Committee noted that the proportion of schools placed in a Green or Yellow category across Carmarthenshire, was 8% higher as compared to 2014/15, with well over three quarters (77%) of schools now in a Green or Yellow category. The proportion of Green schools in Carmarthenshire had increased by 2% as compared to 2014/15 with 26 (23%) of schools categorised as Amber but no schools categorised as Red. The Committee was informed that the greatest improvement in 2015/16 had been the number of schools moving from the Amber to the Yellow category.

**Welsh in Education Strategic Plan update** - In November 2015, the Committee considered the report which provided an update on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), performance data in relation to the Welsh language in schools, shared progress in respect to 'Codi Caerau Sir Gâr' and marketing materials

as well as other developments relating to Welsh in education.

**School Attendance** - At its meeting in April 2016, the Committee received an update report on progress made in respect of improving school attendance. Following the ESTYN inspection of the Authority's education services in March 2012, Carmarthenshire was rated as 'Good' with 'Good' prospects for improvement, however, attendance in schools was judged to require improvement. This report provided progress of the Authority and schools' response to the ESTYN recommendations.





## Children's Services / Safeguarding

**Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire 2014/15** - In June 2015, the Committee received the Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire for 2014/15, giving specific attention to the Children's Services element of the report. Members noted that there was a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to their Council on the delivery, performance and risks as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of Social Services. This was the sixth such annual report and was considered during a joint meeting with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Committees unanimously resolved to endorse the report to the Executive Board.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 8th July 2015, County Council resolved to endorse the Executive Board's recommendation that the Annual Report be approved.*

**CYSUR (Regional Safeguarding Children Board) Annual Report 2014/15** - At its meeting in September 2015, the Committee considered a report which highlighted what CYSUR had achieved in the past year and what the priorities were going forward for the regional board, including a review of the current arrangements. The report also considered trends and themes within Carmarthenshire. The Committee discussed elected member engagement in the process as well as expressing concern at the lack of elected member representation on the CYSUR Executive Board. The CYSUR Regional

Board Manager attended the meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

Resolved to request that the CYSUR Executive Board gives consideration to Elected Member representation on the Board.

*OUTCOME - This issue was raised at the meeting of CYSUR Executive Board held on 5th October 2015 and agreed at that meeting for the Head of Children's Services to feedback the outcome of the discussions to the Scrutiny Committee.*

**Introduction of a Corporate Safeguarding Policy to cover all Council service areas** - In September 2015, the Committee considered a draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy which had been developed in response to a 2014 Wales Audit Office review of the assurance and accountability arrangements of the Council for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures were in place and being adhered to. The review was specifically in relation to children and overall the findings were that the authority had adequate systems in place. One of the recommendations was to develop and introduce a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that covered all service areas.

### RECOMMENDATION

Unanimously resolved to endorse the proposed policy.

*OUTCOME - The draft strategy was considered by the Executive Board at its meeting on the 28th September 2015 and unanimously resolved to recommend to Council that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy be endorsed. County Council resolved to adopt the Policy at its meeting in October 2015.*

**Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18, Action Plan and Children's Rights Promise** - In September 2015, the Committee welcomed a report including The Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18, the Action Plan to deliver on the 10 priorities and a Children's Rights Promise, developed by children and young people across the county to give a clearer understanding of children's rights.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

To endorse the Children & Young People's Participation Strategy 2015-18, Action Plan and Children's Rights Promise to the Executive Board.

*OUTCOME - The report was considered by the Executive Board at its meeting on the 2nd November 2015 where it unanimously resolved to recommend to County Council that (1) the Children & Young People's Strategy, Action Plan & Promise be adopted and that (2), the Lead Member for Children and Young People (Cllr. Gareth Jones) take on the role of Lead person (member) for Children's Rights, as set out in the promise.*

**Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales' (CSSIW) Inspection, Evaluation and Review of Local Authority Social Services 2014/15** - In November 2015, the Committee considered the Annual Inspection and Evaluation Review 2014/15 of the Local Authority's Social Services undertaken by Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales. This report was also considered during a joint meeting with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee.

**Mid & West Wales Adoption Service** - In April 2016, the Committee received a report and presentation providing an update on the Mid &

West Wales Adoption Service, since its establishment in April 2014. The Committee noted that Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys came together in April 2014 to form the Mid & West Wales Adoption Service (MWAS) with Carmarthenshire as the Lead Authority. MWAS was part of the National Adoption Service, which was launched formally in November 2014. The Director of the National Adoption Service Wales and the Senior Practitioner from the Mid & West Wales Adoption Service attended the meeting.



**Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding Panel Annual Report** - In April 2016, the Committee received Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Panel Annual Report, which detailed how the Council is meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities as outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The report detailed the number of children looked after by Carmarthenshire County Council and how well they were doing in relation to the Council's aspirations for them as outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

## Pre-Decision Scrutiny

### **Modernising Education Programme: Proposed discontinuation of Copperworks Infants & Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School and the establishment of a new primary school**

- In May 2015, the Committee considered the consultation document and observations received following the consultation process held in relation to the proposed discontinuation of Copperworks and Lakefield Schools and the establishment of a new primary school in that area of Llanelli.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee unanimously resolved to:

- Endorse to the Executive Board the proposed discontinuation of Copperworks Infant & Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School and the establishment of a new primary school following the statutory consultation process.
- Ask the Executive Board to convey to Welsh Government the Committee's concerns about the lack of Welsh Government funding to support improvements to the road infrastructure at new school sites thereby ensuring safe access.

*OUTCOME: The Executive Board considered the proposal at its meeting on the 15th June 2015 and unanimously resolved to recommend to Council that the proposal to discontinue Copperworks and Lakefield Schools be proceeded with and a Statutory Notice be published to implement the proposal. It also unanimously resolved that concerns about the lack of Welsh Government funding to support improvements to the road infrastructure at the new school sites, be conveyed to Welsh Government.*

In January 2016, a further report was considered on the proposed implementation of the proposal to discontinue Copperworks Infant & Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School in Llanelli.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend that the Executive Board and County Council endorse the proposal to discontinue Copperworks Infant & Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School (and establish a new primary school) and to implement the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice of 3rd November 2015.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 10th February 2016, County Council unanimously resolved that the Executive Board's recommendation to 'discontinue Copperworks Infant and Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School and to implement the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice dated 3rd November, 2015', be adopted.*

**Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2016/17 to 2018/19** - In December 2015, the Committee considered the annual consultation report for the Revenue Budget Strategies for 2016/17 to 2018/19. The Committee expressed concerns about the new policy proposal to reduce the scale of specialist provision for out of school hours respite for disabled children and young people. It was felt that there was insufficient detail about the potential impact.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee resolved to:

- Request that the Executive Board reconsiders the new policy proposal to reduce the scale of specialist provision for out of school hours Short Breaks/ Respite for Disabled Children & Young People.
- Endorse the Charging Digest for the Education & Children Department.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 1st February 2016, the Executive Board proposed that for the Education & Children Department, the saving for short breaks/respite for Disabled Children and young people be removed altogether, taking away a cut of £50,000. In addition it proposed that there be additional investment into the Youth Service (worth £50,000) to bolster professional capacity to strengthen expertise in safeguarding vulnerable young people, especially with respect to sexual exploitation and the risk of radicalisation, thereby supporting prevention and early intervention strategies to avoid disengagement, supporting pathway to employment or training opportunities and minimising the number of young people at risk of becoming NEET.*

**Modernising Education Programme: Proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh-medium (WM)** - In July 2015, 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.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Committee welcomed the report and the proposal and 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.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 14th October 2015, County Council resolved to adopt the Executive Board's proposals that (1) officers be authorised to initiate formal consultation on the proposal during the Autumn 2015 term; and that (2) a report be submitted to the Executive Board at the end of the consultation period.*

In January 2016, the Committee received a further report relating to Bro Myrddin, outlining the observations received following the consultation period and the proposal to publish a statutory notice to implement the changes in April 2016.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee unanimously resolved that the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh-medium (WM) be endorsed and that the Executive Board and County Council be urged to proceed with the publication of the statutory notice.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 22nd February 2016, the Executive Board unanimously resolved to recommend to County Council that the proposal change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh Medium (WM), be proceeded with and a Statutory Notice be published to implement the proposal. At its meeting on the 10th March 2016, County Council unanimously resolved to adopt the Executive Board's recommendation.*

**Modernising Education Programme: Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School** - In November 2015, the Committee considered a report proposing that the Council proceed to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish a new Llangennech Community Primary School. It was proposed that new School would be a 3-11 Welsh Medium language category with a nursery provision.

**Modernising Education Programme: Proposals to change the age ranges of Betws, Pembrey, Pwll and Bynea Primary Schools from 4-11 to 3-11** - In March 2016, the Committee considered the observations received following the consultation undertaken in relation to changing the age range of Betws, Pembrey, Pwll and Bynea CP Schools, from 4-11 to 3-11. It was informed that following the end of the Statutory Notice period, no objections were received by stakeholders.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee unanimously resolved that it be recommended to the Executive Board that it approve the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal to change the age range of Betws, Pembrey, Pwll and Bynea Primary Schools from 4-11 to 3-11.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 21st March 2016, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that the observations received following the statutory consultation period be received and that a Statutory Notice to implement the proposals be published.*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee unanimously resolved to endorse the proposal.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 4th January 2016, the proposal was considered and approved by the Executive Board and following this, a period of consultation commenced which ended on the 18th March 2016.*

**Modernising Education Programme: Proposal to discontinue Llanedi Primary School** - In March 2016, the Committee considered a proposal to discontinue Llanedi CP School and initiate formal consultation on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016. The Committee received a number of questions from representatives of the Friends of Llanedi School prior to the consideration of this item.

During consideration of the item, members suggested that issues contained within the report, as well as those raised by the Friends of the School, would make it difficult for the Committee to make any recommendations to the Executive Board, without further information being presented. Reference was also made to the Committee's school visit programme and it was suggested that schools under threat of closure should be visited in the future. It was also pointed out that the Committee had last visited Llanedi and Hendy schools 4-5 years previously and it was proposed that members visit these two schools prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee unanimously resolved that:

- Prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee considers a further report clarifying the data presented by officers and the claims made by Friends of Llanedi School during their public questions.
- Prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee undertakes visits to both Llanedi and Hendy CP Schools.

*OUTCOMES - At its meeting on the 21st March 2016, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that (i) consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal to discontinue Llanedi Primary School be deferred to allow further time for officers to clarify information given to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee by means of public questions and for officers to review and evaluate such information and (ii), that a period of three months, until the end of June 2016, be allowed for this process to take place and that officers subsequently report further to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter.*

*The Committee visited Llanedi (pictured left) and Hendy CP Schools on the 24th May 2016.*

### **Modernising Education Programme: Proposal to discontinue Bancffosfelen Primary School -**

In March 2016, the Committee considered a proposal to discontinue Bancffosfelen CP School and initiate formal consultation on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016. The Committee also noted that the item included a response to the proposal from the Governing Body of Bancffosfelen in the form of a bilingual report which had been included for members' consideration.

During consideration of the item, it was proposed that as with Llanedi, the Committee undertake visits to Bancffosfelen and Pontyberem Schools prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board. The Committee also decided that the neighbouring schools of Ysgol Y Fro in Llangyndeyrn as well as Llanddarog, also be visited. The Committee welcomed the proposals put forward by the School Governing Body and suggested that the governors and other stakeholders connected with the school be afforded the opportunity to build upon their initial proposals by developing a detailed business plan to describe how they would achieve their vision for the school, especially the funding aspects.



### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee unanimously resolved that:

- Prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee receives a presentation from Bancffosfelen School's Governing Body on its proposal to establish a community charitable trust and re-categorise Bancffosfelen as a voluntary aided school.
- Prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee undertakes visits to Bancffosfelen, Pontyberem, Y Fro and Llanddarog schools.

*OUTCOMES - At its meeting on the 21st March 2016, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that (i) consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal to discontinue Ysgol Bancffosfelen be deferred to allow further time for the Governing Body of the school to present a full business case to the County Council for the continuation of the school, as proposed in its submission and (ii), a period of three months, until the end of June 2016, be allowed for the business case to be submitted to the Council, following which officers would be required to evaluate the feasibility of the business case and subsequently report further to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter.*

*The Committee visited Bancffosfelen (pictured left), Pontyberem, Y Fro and Llanddarog schools on the 14th June 2016.*

**Modernising Education Programme: Proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe Primary, Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled and Laugharne Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools and create a new area school** - In March 2016, the Committee also considered a proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe Primary, Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled and Laugharne Voluntary Controlled Primary (VCP) Schools and create a new area school. If approved by the Executive Board, formal consultation on the proposal would be initiated during the Summer Term 2016.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee unanimously resolved that:

- It be recommended to the Executive Board that officers initiate a formal consultation process on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016.
- A report be submitted to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board at the end of the statutory consultation period.

*OUTCOMES - At its meeting on the 21st March 2016, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that consideration of initiating formal consultation on the proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe CP, Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled and Laugharne Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools and to create a new area school be deferred for a period of three months, until the end of June 2016, to allow further information to be gathered and evaluated, and for officers to bring a subsequent report to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board as soon as practicable thereafter. The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee is also scheduled to visit Tremoilet, Llanmiloe and Laugharne schools on the 24th June 2016.*

## **Policy Development and Review**

### **Future provision of Adult Community Learning by the Education & Children Department**

- In December 2015, the Committee considered the report which provided an update on the current financial position facing the Adult Community Learning (ACL) Service. It was advised that the service was not core funded by the County Council and therefore dependent on Welsh Government (WG) grants to function which had significantly reduced. The Committee was asked to consider and comment on the recommendations in the report within the context of the approximately. £435,000 funding that should be available in the 2016-2017 financial year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

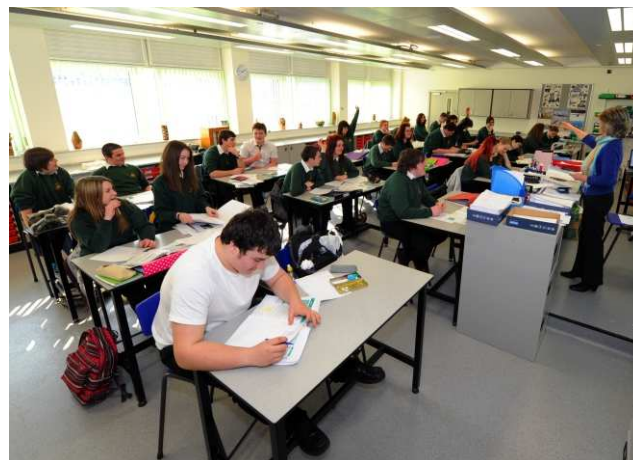
The Committee resolved to endorse the recommendations relating to the Adult Community Learning Service, to the Executive Board.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 4th January 2016, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that (i) the report detailing the need to restructure and refocus the work of the Department for Education and Children's Adult Community Learning Service following significant Welsh Government funding costs be received; (ii) the recommendations for the future delivery of the Adult Community Learning Service within the identified budget for the 2016/17 year, as detailed above, be endorsed; (iii) information about courses offered by organisations and individuals in Carmarthenshire be listed on i-Local.*



**Proposals for 3-19 curriculum and assessment reform in Carmarthenshire Schools** - In January 2016, the Committee considered a report relating to 'Paving the Way: A Strategic Review of 3 – 19 Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Carmarthenshire'. The proposals had been developed in order to implement the Donaldson (Successful Futures) recommendations, the Furlong Review and the New Deal in all the County's schools and special settings. The purpose of the review was to:

- Outline the main themes and challenges in the present-day curriculum and assessment planning, in response to imminent and far reaching reforms at a national scale.
- Propose original responses to complicated problems posed by impending curriculum and assessment reform.
- Offer firm strategies for implementing meaningful curriculum reform and transformation, in order to benefit the education of all learners in Carmarthenshire.



## Consultation

**Carmarthenshire County Council's Annual Report 2014/15 and Improvement Plan 2015/16** - In May 2015, the Committee considered the relevant extracts for its service remit from the Council's draft Annual Report 2014/15 & Improvement Plan 2015/16. The Committee noted that annual reporting was one of the prime opportunities for review, monitoring and reflection and an opportunity for the authority to capture its on-going activity around meeting the general and specific duties. It also noted that the Council was held by law to publish an Improvement Plan as soon as it is reasonably practicable after the start of the financial year (i.e. April 1st) and also publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of October each year.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Committee unanimously resolved to endorse the report for consideration by the Executive Board.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 1st February 2016, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that the internal interim report be received.*

### RECOMMENDATION

Unanimously resolved that the extracts be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 8th July 2015, County Council resolved to endorse the Executive Board's recommendation that the Annual Report be approved.*

**Sustaining Post-Sixteen College/School Transport** - In September 2015, the Committee held a joint-meeting with the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee in order to consider a proposal to charge for post-sixteen college/school transport. The report was presented to members of both committees in order that they might offer comments, as part of the formal consultation process.

The Committees declined to endorse the proposal outlined in the report and it was proposed that prior to proceeding further, the Executive Board request further details from the other Welsh local authorities who had already implemented charges for post-sixteen transport, to clarify how these had been implemented and their effect on post-sixteen education in the long term.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It was unanimously resolved that the Executive Board be requested to ask the other Welsh local authorities for full details of how they implemented charges for post-sixteen transport and seek clarification as to whether these had affected post-sixteen education in the long term.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 30th November 2015, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that the referral from the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting be acted upon, and that the other Welsh local authorities be asked for statistics for a period of more than one year together with information on the level of charges, and how they were implemented i.e. on a term by term basis or one off annual payment. At its meeting on the 1st February 2016, the Executive Board proposed that the introduction of a charge for home to school transport be deferred for 2 years.*

## **Investigative Scrutiny**

**Modernising Education Programme: School Organisation Decision Making and Determination Process** - In May 2015, the Committee considered a report outlining Carmarthenshire County Council's current school organisation decision making and determination process. The process applies to proposals to make significant changes to schools and regulated alterations. The report also included alternative options for Carmarthenshire's statutory procedures as requested by Committee members in an informal school visit feedback meeting on 17th April 2015. The report included 4 options within the legislation and new School Organisation Code introduced in 2013 as follows:

- Option 1 – The current process agreed by County Council in April 2014 (circa 24 months to complete)
- Option 2 – Executive Board approve stages 1 and 2 with final determination by County Council (circa 18 months to complete)
- Option 3 – A Local Determination Panel approves all 3 stages relating to School Organisation proposals (circa 12 months to complete)
- Option 4 – A Local Determination Panel approves stages 1 and 2 with final determination by County Council (circa 15 months to complete)

## RECOMMENDATION

The Committee resolved to recommend to the Executive Board that it considers Option 4 (The implementation of a Local Determination Panel to determine stages 1 and 2 with final determination by County Council) in relation to the School Organisation decision making process, in order to reduce the timescales of the process.

*OUTCOME - At its meeting on the 27th July 2015, the Executive Board unanimously resolved to recommend to Council that, in order to reduce the length of time taken to complete statutory procedures for making significant alterations to schools in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code, Stages 1 and 2 be considered by the Executive Board with final determination being made by Council. This recommendation was endorsed by County Council at its meeting on the 9th September 2015.*

## Sickness absence management within schools

- In January 2016, a report outlining support provided by the Local Authority to schools in relation to sickness absence management was presented to the Committee. Members noted that the use of supply cover in schools to cover sickness absence had been discussed during a previous school visit and that members had subsequently requested this report as part of its forward work programme.

The Committee was informed that following the introduction of the Authority's new Sickness Absence Policy in April 2014, a model policy was sent to all schools for adoption during 2015. Members were also informed of the different initiatives provided by the People Management & Performance Division (within the Chief Executive's Department) to support schools in better absence management, including the Occupational Health Centre and Human Resources advice.



# Task & Finish Review 2015/16

At its meeting on 24th September 2015, the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee considered provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results.

During discussions, it was noted that one of the Authority's priorities for the year was to improve the performance of those learners who were eligible for free school meals (e-FSM). The Committee was informed that this was a national as well as a local priority and whilst there were positive examples locally of how the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) had been used, there were also examples where there had been no improvements, despite the PDG. The Committee was informed that the Welsh Government now wanted the outcomes from the PDG and, going forward, schools where less than 30% of e-FSM learners achieved Level 2 (5 GCSE A\*C passes), would automatically be classed in the amber category 3.

Following discussions, the Committee suggested forming a task and finish group to research and review the attainment gap for e-FSM learners.

A total of 6 meetings were held between December 2015 and June during which the Group received presentations and considered evidence from a range of stakeholders including head teachers and the Wales Centre for Equity in Education. The sessions were designed to provide the Group with the relevant information, context and background to the topic.

Following its first meeting, the Group agreed that the scope for the review would be:

- Learners eligible for free school meals, including Looked After Children, and the attainment gap in Carmarthenshire.

The Group agreed that the main aims of the

review would be:

- To research the attainment gap for learners eligible for free school meals in Carmarthenshire.
- To identify trends at all key stages and key indicators.
- To review how the Pupil Deprivation Grant is being used in our schools.
- To identify best practice interventions in the County's schools, across ERW, the rest of Wales and the UK.
- To raise the profile of the challenge of overcoming the attainment gap in the midst of shrinking budgets, other priorities and curriculum changes.
- To formulate recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board.

The Task and Finish Group's membership was as follows:

- Cllr. Ryan Bartlett
- Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths
- Cllr. John James
- Cllr. Hugh Richards
- Cllr. Tom Theophilus
- Cllr. Eirwyn Williams (Chair)
- Mr. Simon Pearson – Parent Governor Representative (until 31st March 2016)
- Mrs. Vera Kenny – Roman Catholic Church Representative

The Democratic Services Unit based in the Chief Executive's Department, provided research and general support to the Group.

The Group is expected to report back on its findings and recommendations in the autumn of 2016.

## Site Visits

During the last municipal year, the Committee continued with its regular programme of school visits. In all, it visited 14 schools / Children's Services facilities between May 2015 and April 2016:

- Llandeilo CP School
- Ysgol Teilo Sant, Llandeilo
- Ysgol Cwrt Henri
- Ysgol Nantgaredig
- Llangynnwr CP School
- Children's Services, Morfa, Llanelli
- Tŷ Mair Family Centre, Burry Port
- Ysgol Peniel
- Ysgol Cae'r Felin, Pencader
- Ysgol Brynsaron, Saron (nr. Llandysul)
- Ysgol y Bedol, Garnant
- Ysgol Dyffryn Aman, Ammanford
- Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn, Newcastle Emlyn
- Ysgol Penboyr, Drefach-Felindre

Following its visit to Cwrt Henri in October 2015, the Committee has now visited all the County's primary, secondary and special schools, along with the 3 integrated family centres, since the programme commenced in 2009/10. It has now begun to re-visit schools, linking in with the School Improvement Panel's work programme and the Authority's Modernising Education Programme proposals.

Children's Services also organised a series of visits for members of the Committee to frontline teams between May and July 2015:

- Tŷ Elwyn, May 2015 – Central Referral Team, Llanelli Assessment Team, Llanelli East and West Childcare Teams, Fostering Service, Reviewing and Conference Team, Education Welfare Service and the Young Carers Service
- Carmarthen, June 2015 – One session with the Carmarthen based teams such as the

Carmarthen Childcare Team, Mid and West Wales Adoption Service, Children's Disability Team and Transition Team. Another session was for the Carmarthen/Dinefwr Assessment Team and Dinefwr Childcare Team

- Blaenau and Llys Caradog Respite Centres and the Garreglwyd Unit, July 2015
- Tŷ Elwyn, Llanelli, November 2015 – Llanelli Assessment Team, Llanelli East Childcare Team and the Fostering Team

The aim of these visits was to provide members with a better understanding of the work being undertaken to safeguard vulnerable children and to meet the staff working with these children on a daily basis.



## Other activities during 2015/16



### Development Sessions

A scrutiny-specific development session was held in November 2014/5 for members of the Committee, as part of the site visits programme.

The development session was held in the Flying Start Offices, New Street, Llanelli (pictured above) where the Committee received presentations on the following:

- Overview of the Flying Start Service
- Overview of the Families First Programme & Team Around the Family (TAF) model
- Llanelli Women's Aid – Case Study

The morning session was followed in the afternoon by a visit to the Tŷ Mair Family Centre in Burry Port where the Committee received an overview of the services provided at the centre as well as speaking with the Centre Manager and a representative from Plant Dewi.

The following all-member development sessions were also held during 2015/16, to which Committee members were invited:

- Social Media and Members (June 2015)
- Customer Services (October 2015)
- Responsibilities under Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Equality Act 2010 in relation to Gypsies and Travellers (December 2015)
- Safeguarding Children (January 2016)
- Trading Standards (February 2016)

### ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee have attended 1 meeting of this regional group during the past year. This Forum, established in September 2015, consists of the chairs and vice-chairs of other education / children's services scrutiny committees from across the ERW region which meets twice a year to discuss matters of common interest within the consortium's remit. The Group's meetings are administered by the City & County of Swansea's Scrutiny Team.

# Support for the Scrutiny Function

In July 2015, support for Carmarthenshire County Council's scrutiny function was transferred from the former Scrutiny & Consultancy Team, based in the People Management & Performance Division, to the Democratic Services Unit, based in the Administration & Law Division of the Chief Executive's Department.

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

- Providing constitutional advice to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and to members of those Committees as well as producing minutes of their meetings and ensuring items arising from those meetings are actioned
- Giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to executive and non-executive members of the Council and its officers
- Managing the strategic development of Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire through engaging in national and regional Scrutiny networks and initiatives, supporting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum, and the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Executive Board Forum
- Advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as guidance is published
- Managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny forward work programmes in conjunction with Scrutiny members
- Managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the operation of scrutiny task and finish groups, authoring reports in

conjunction with the groups, and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews

- Managing the Scrutiny member development programme.
- Despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings a minimum of 4 working days prior to the meeting.

For more information on scrutiny in Carmarthenshire including work programmes, task and finish reports and annual reports, visit the County Council's website at:

[www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny)

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or email:

[scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

# Committee Member Attendance

Attendance by members of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2015/16 year is shown in the table below. A total of 9 committee meetings were held between May 2015 and April 2016.

<b>Scrutiny Committee Member</b>	<b>No. of meetings attended</b>
Cllr. Ryan Bartlett	7
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	8
Cllr. Mansel Charles	8
Cllr. Ieuan Wyn Davies	4
Cllr. Keith Davies ( <i>20th May - 29th August 2015</i> )*	1
Cllr. Terry Davies ( <i>until 20th May 2015</i> )**	1
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	7
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	7
Cllr. John James	7
Cllr. Gareth Jones ( <i>until 20th May 2015</i> )***	1
Cllr. Pat Jones	4
Cllr. Jean Lewis ( <i>as of 20th May 2015</i> )***	6
Cllr. Hugh Richards	8
Cllr. Tom Theophilus	7
Cllr. Eirwyn Williams	7
Cllr. Jan Williams ( <i>as of 9th December 2015</i> )****	1
Mr. Chris Brown ( <i>until 21st December 2015</i> ) ♦	0
Mrs. Emma Heyes ( <i>as of 1st April 2016</i> ) ♦♦♦	1
Mrs. Kate Hill ( <i>as of 1st April 2016</i> ) ♦♦♦	1
Mr. Simon Pearson ( <i>until 31st March 2016</i> ) ♦♦	6
Mrs. Alex Pickles ( <i>as of 1st April 2016</i> ) ♦♦♦	0
Mrs. Vera Kenny	6
Revd. Canon Bryan Witt	2
<b>Substitutes</b>	<b>No. of meetings attended</b>
Cllr. Sue Allen	3
Cllr. Tegwen Devichand	1
Cllr. Jeff Edmunds	1
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	2
Cllr. Ivor Jackson	1
Cllr. Joy Williams	1



## Executive Board Members

## No. of meetings attended

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Cllr. Keith Davies ( <i>until 20th May 2015</i> ) *	1
Cllr. David Jenkins	1
Cllr. Gareth Jones ( <i>as of 20th May 2015</i> ) *	7

### Changes to committee membership during 2015/16

\* Councillor Keith Davies passed away on the 29th August 2015.

\*\* Following Carmarthenshire County Council's Annual General Meeting on 20th May 2015, Councillor Keith Davies replaced Councillor Terry Davies as a member of the Committee.

\*\*\* Following Carmarthenshire County Council's Annual General Meeting on 20th May 2015, Councillor Jean Lewis replaced Councillor Gareth Jones as a member of the Committee.

\*\*\*\* Following Carmarthenshire County Council's meeting on 9th December 2015, Councillor Jan Williams replaced Councillor Keith Davies as a member of the Committee.

◆ Chris Brown was disqualified as a Parent Governor Representative as he had failed to attend a Committee meeting for over 6 months (effective from 18th May) and had not tendered apologies during this period.

◆◆ Simon Pearson's term as Parent Governor Representative came to an end on the 31st March 2016.

◆◆◆ Emma Heyes, Kate Hill and Alex Pickles were elected as Parent Governor Representatives onto the Committee, with effect from the 1st April 2016.

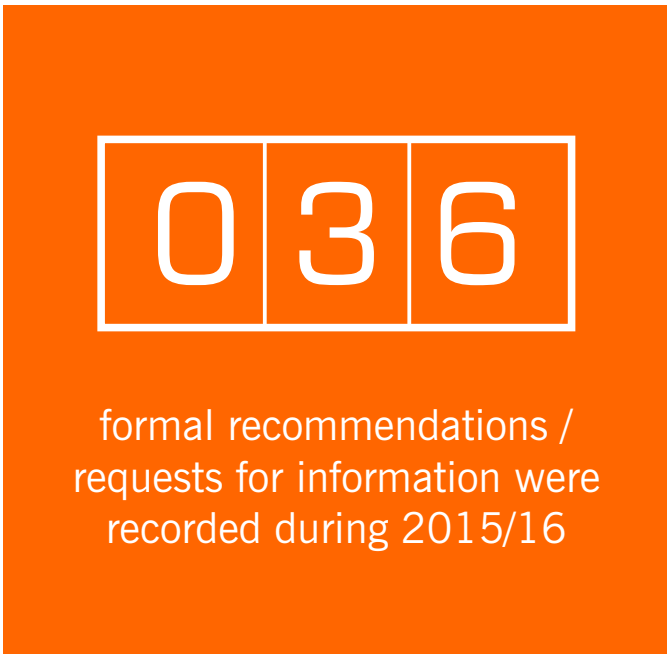
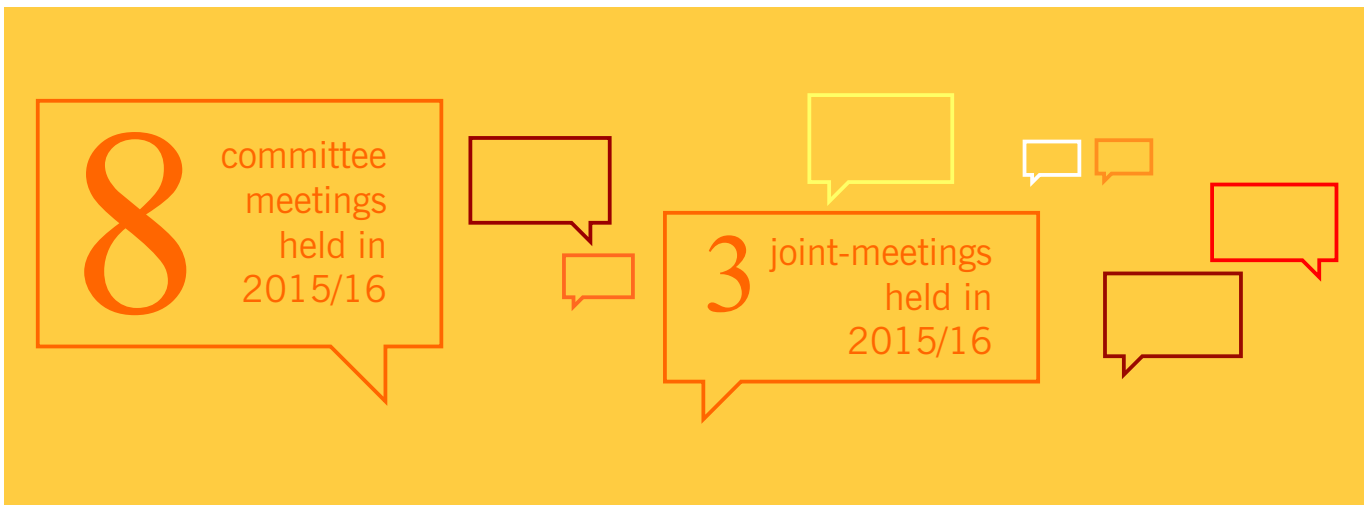
\* Following Carmarthenshire County Council's Annual General Meeting on 20th May 2015, Councillor Gareth Jones replaced Councillor Keith Davies as the Executive Board Member for Education & Children.

Attendance by members of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at joint meetings during the 2015/16 year, is shown in the table below. The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee held 3 joint meetings between May 2015 and April 2016.

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Joint SC&amp;H (i)</b>	<b>Joint E&amp;PP</b>	<b>Joint SC&amp;H (ii)</b>
Cllr. Ryan Bartlett	1	1	0
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	1	1	1
Cllr. Mansel Charles	1	1	1
Cllr. Ieuan Wyn Davies	0	0	1
Cllr. Keith Davies	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cllr. Terry Davies	1	N/A	N/A
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	1	1	1
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	1	1	1
Cllr. John James	1	1	1
Cllr. Gareth Jones	1	N/A	N/A
Cllr. Pat Jones	1	1	0
Cllr. Jean Lewis	N/A	1	1
Cllr. Hugh Richards	1	1	1
Cllr. Tom Theophilus	1	1	1
Cllr. Eirwyn Williams	1	0	1
Cllr. Jan Williams	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr. Chris Brown	0	0	0
Mrs. Emma Heyes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mrs. Kate Hill	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr. Simon Pearson	1	1	1
Mrs. Alex Pickles	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mrs. Vera Kenny	0	1	1
Revd. Canon Bryan Witt	0	0	0
<b>Substitutes</b>	<b>Joint SC&amp;H (i)</b>	<b>Joint E&amp;PP</b>	<b>Joint SC&amp;H (ii)</b>

NONE

<b>Executive Board Members</b>	<b>Joint SC&amp;H (i)</b>	<b>Joint E&amp;PP</b>	<b>Joint SC&amp;H (ii)</b>
Cllr. Keith Davies (Education & Children)	0	N/A	N/A
Cllr. Hazel Evans (Technical Services)		1	
Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)	N/A	1	1
Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health)	1		1



# Glossary of Terms

ACL - Adult & Community Learning

Bilingual 2A - At least 80% of subjects apart from English and Welsh are taught through the medium of Welsh to all pupils. One or two subjects are taught to some pupils in English or in both languages.

CP School - Community Primary School

CSSIW - Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

CYSUR - Children and Youth Safeguarding and Unifying the Region

E&C - Education & Children

E&PP - Environmental & Public Protection

e-FSM - (Pupils) Eligible for Free School Meals

ERW - Education through Regional Working Consortium

ESTYN - The Office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

FWP - Forward Work Programme

i-Local - Carmarthenshire County Council's online resource for residents with facilities to pay for services, report problems and search for local services.

MWAS - Mid & West Wales Adoption Service

NEET - Not in Education, Employment or Training

PDG - Pupil Deprivation Grant

SC&H - Social Care & Health

TAF - Team Around the Family

VCP School - Voluntary Controlled Primary School

WESP - Welsh in Education Plan

WG - Welsh Government

WM - Welsh-Medium

YFC - Young Farmers' Club

Ysgol - School

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Explanations for the non-submission  
of scrutiny reports**

**Modernising Education Programme (MEP) proposal to discontinue Llanedi Primary School**

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**Responsible Officer(s):** Simon Davies, School Modernisation Manager

**Explanation:** Due to recent comments made by the Welsh Government's new Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding rural schools and an 'opportunity to look at the policy of reducing surplus places and what that means on the ground in rural areas about the future of education provision', a decision has been taken to defer the reports until more information is published.

**Revised Submission Date:** To be confirmed

**Modernising Education Programme (MEP) proposal to discontinue Bancffosfelen Primary School**

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**Responsible Officer(s):** Simon Davies, School Modernisation Manager

**Explanation:** Due to recent comments made by the Welsh Government's new Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding rural schools and an 'opportunity to look at the policy of reducing surplus places and what that means on the ground in rural areas about the future of education provision', a decision has been taken to defer the reports until more information is published.

**Revised Submission Date:** To be confirmed

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**Agenda Item 12.1**

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**

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

**Councillors:** D.J.R. Bartlett (Vice-Chair), C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, W.G. Hopkins, P. Hughes Griffiths, J.D. James, P.E.M. Jones, D.W.H. Richards, J. Williams

**Councillor W.T. Evans – Substitute for Councillor M.J.A. Lewis**  
**Councillor I.J. Jackson – Substitute for Councillor T. Theophilus**

**Mrs. V. Kenny – Roman Catholic Church Representative**  
**Mr. S. Pearson – Parent Governor Representative**  
**Canon Rev. B. Witt – Church in Wales Representative**

**Also in attendance:**

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

**The following officers were in attendance:**

Mr. R. Sully – Director of Education & Children  
Mr. G. Morgans – Chief Education Officer / Head of Education Services  
Mr. A. Rees – Head of Learner Programmes  
Mr. D. Astins – Strategic Development Manager  
Mr. S. Davies – School Modernisation Manager  
Mr. A. Morgan – Head of School Effectiveness  
Ms. S. Nolan – Group Accountant  
Mr. M. Hughes – Assistant Consultant

**Present as observers:**

Mrs. M. Evans Thomas – Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs. S. James – School Development Project Officer  
Mr. M. Jones – School Development Project Officer

**Venue:** County Hall Chamber, Carmarthen (10:00am – 12:15pm)

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I.W. Davies, M.J.A. Lewis and T. Theophilus.

The Chair welcomed Councillor J. Williams to her first meeting since being nominated as a member of the Committee.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Item(s)	Nature of Interest
Councillor D.J.R. Bartlett	Item 6	He and his family are acquaintances of the Chair of the Llanedi School Governing Body and her family.
Mrs. V. Kenny	Item 6	Her daughter-in-law is Head Teacher of Hendy CP School.
Councillor P. Hughes-Griffiths	Item 7	His daughter is a teacher at Bancffosfelen CP School.
Councillor G.O. Jones (Executive Board Member for Education & Children)	Item 7	His wife is Head Teacher of Llanddarog VCP School which is included in one of the options within the proposals for Bancffosfelen CP School.

## 3. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS

There were no declarations of party whips.

## 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were presented at the meeting.

### 4.1 Question by Charlotte Jones, Friends of Llanedi School

What evidence does the Council have to support its claim that “from an educational perspective, having such a small number of pupils makes it extremely difficult for the school to deliver the breadth and depth of curricular and social experiences which pupils of this age require to fully develop”?

*Response by Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the E&C Scrutiny Committee*

*Thank you for your question which of course refers to the ESTYN report published in December 2013 regarding the size of a school in relation to the effectiveness of teaching and learning. This report for example, notes some weaknesses such as gaps in staff specialism and the lack of time to review targets and monitor progress. What I am going to suggest now is that we as a scrutiny committee respond positively to your question by looking again at the report and having a discussion with the Challenge Advisors to see what ways these frustrations can be overcome or removed.*

#### 4.2 Question by Elinor Williams, Friends of Llanedi School

When referring to capacity at Hendy the council's proposals make no reference to the plans to build 91 new homes in Hendy approved by the County Council's own planning committee on 15 December 2015 and which will be complete before the proposed closure of Llanedi in August 2017. The developers state: "Cwrt Y Bedw has much to offer to families with Hendy County Primary School within walking distance". A further 40 properties are planned in Forest, which is between Llanedi and Hendy and a development of 800 houses has been approved for development in nearby Pontarddulais. On top of all this the Council's own plans for the re-designation of Llangennech to Welsh medium proposes that those parents wanting to choose English medium education for their children should re-locate to Hendy. All roads, it seems, lead to Hendy. Hendy's predicted roll in September 2016 is 173 with a capacity status of 197. Does the Council really think that there will be sufficient capacity to house pupils from Llanedi in September 2017?

*Response by Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the E&C Scrutiny Committee*

*Thank you for bringing the housing development to our attention which will see over 900 houses in the area. This is not a matter that can be ignored and because of this, I'm proposing a short and simple response. This is an important matter and one which we will have to give detailed attention to before any decision can be made.*

#### 4.3 Question by Anthony Matthews, Friends of Llanedi School

The Council's document states that pupil numbers at Llanedi are 19 and that "it is estimated that the pupil figures will remain constant with no apparent prospect of reversing this trend". This is not the case. It is expected that there will be a minimum of 26 pupils at Llanedi in the academic year 2016/17 and 29 in the academic year 2017/18. Given that this is the case, does the Council still believe that the school should close?

*Response by Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the E&C Scrutiny Committee*

*I believe that your question Mr. Matthews is taking us in the same direction as that posed by Mrs. Elinor Williams. I accept that you disagree with that which is stated in the report to be considered in Item 6. As far as I can foresee, the number of young families that could move to live in the new proposed houses is very relevant to the future of the school. Therefore, it is very important that this is evaluated prior to any recommendations being made by ourselves.*

#### 4.4 Question by Dawn Richards, Friends of Llanedi School

If pupils from Llanedi were relocated to Hendy our children would simply have less space and a higher pupil to staff ratio, housed in an older building. How does the Council think that the pupils of Ysgol Llanedi benefit from this move and how will the move provide improved and enhanced pastoral arrangements for our children? Can the Council prove to us that our children would be better off at Hendy?

*Response by Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the E&C Scrutiny Committee*

*Thank you too for your question. I would like to refer you at this point to the report in Item 6 where different options are noted. Even though there are advantages and disadvantages with each of the options listed, I think there's a need for us as a Committee to see the schools for ourselves once again, before we can make any recommendations.*

4.5 Question by Cllr. Gareth Thomas, Friends of Llanedi School

There are twelve pupils at Llanedi School that travel to school from outside the catchment area. Would the council agree that this seems to suggest that Llanedi School offers something unique that the other schools in the area do not offer?

*Response by Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the E&C Scrutiny Committee*

*This question again raises an interesting point. One of the factors which affect the numbers of children in any school is parental choice. We know that the reasons behind these decisions are varied and I think it would be of great help to us to have more information regarding the reasons why the parents of 12 pupils think that Llanedi CP School offers an unique dimension, which doesn't exist in other schools in the area. I would be grateful to you if you could encourage these parents to send us their comments.*

4.5 Question by Dylan Jones, Friends of Llanedi School

Having recently moved to Llanedi village we have been particularly impressed by the progress our daughter has made in the school in a short period of time compared to her previous school where she was in a class of 34 pupils and was 'coasting' with average achievements but not challenged in any way. How does Carmarthenshire County Council propose that the development of our children is monitored – not only against the key stage framework but also to compare progress and attainment before and after the proposed closure to ensure that our children's development has not deteriorated/been impaired?

*Response by Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the E&C Scrutiny Committee*

*Before I answer your question, I would like to say how happy I am to hear that your daughter is making excellent progress and it is clear that she is happy in the school. I can assure you that teaching standards and pupil achievement is of great interest to this Committee and that we monitor the development and performance of schools on a regular basis. Officers collect and summarise learner outcomes on a regular and systematic basis to ensure that standards are monitored and improved continually across all core subjects. This would continue prior to and following any proposed closure of any school in order to ensure that learner outcomes are regularly monitored and not effected by moving school. The findings emanating from the work of the Challenge Advisors are presented to us on a regular basis and are shared with school governing bodies as well. In addition, we undertake school visits which give us an opportunity to discuss performance and standards directly with head teachers. In November 2014, the Council also established a School Improvement Panel which is a means of giving us an overview of individual schools' achievements.*

4.6 Question by Elinor Williams, Friends of Llanedi School

The facilities at Hendy are judged to be in the same condition as those in Llanedi. We would argue that the conditions in Hendy are worse and therefore moving pupils from Llanedi to Hendy will not mean that our children have better facilities. What plans does the Council have to improve the school buildings and facilities at Hendy school in order to enhance opportunities for learning? What is the timescale for any improvement and how much money has been allocated for this purpose in next year's budget?

*Response by Councillor J.E. Williams, Chair of the E&C Scrutiny Committee*

*Your concerns are extremely valid. I recall that members of this Committee did visit Hendy CP School in October 2011 and following this visit, I know that a significant amount of improvement and refurbishment work was carried out. However, your concern suggests strongly to me that organising another visit would be of benefit to us as a Committee.*

The Chair thanked the representatives of the Friends of Llanedi School for their questions and contribution to the meeting.

**5. FORTHCOMING ITEMS**

The Committee was provided with a list of forthcoming items to be considered at its next meeting scheduled for 14th April 2016.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on Thursday 14th April 2016, be noted.

**6. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANEDI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Councillor D.J.R. Bartlett had earlier declared a personal interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration and determination.*

*Mrs. V. Kenny had earlier declared a personal interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration and determination.*

The Committee considered a proposal to discontinue Llanedi CP School and initiate formal consultation on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016. It was informed that should a decision to consult be approved by the Executive Board, this would be followed by the submission of a report to both the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board at the end of the statutory consultation period.

Members were informed that the Authority had a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it had in an area and whether or not it was making the best use of resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserved. In recent years Llanedi Primary School has seen a steady decline in pupil numbers from 33 pupils on roll in January 2010 to 18 pupils on roll in January 2015 resulting in 51% surplus places at the school. Following the departure of the last

permanent head teacher in December 2013, the school had faced challenges and uncertainty with regard to fulfilling the senior leadership position.

Members noted that it was the Education & Children Department's view that the current arrangements did not represent a sound, stable educational model or the best use of resources. With no prospect of there being a significant increase in pupil numbers for the foreseeable future and the on-going challenges the school faced to secure permanent senior leadership, it was not possible to sustain current arrangements. In addition, the Department considered that from an educational perspective, having such a small number of pupils made it extremely difficult for the school to deliver the breadth and depth of curricular and social experiences which pupils of this age required to fully develop.

The following comments were made during consideration of the report:

It was suggested that there were issues contained within the report as well as those raised by the Friends of the School, which would make it difficult for the Committee to make any recommendations to the Executive Board, without further information being presented. Reference was made to the new housing estates in the area as well as the current language category of Hendy School. If parents moving into the new homes wanted a Welsh-Medium education, the Hendy school would not offer this and the situation would be contrary to the Council's own language policy. It was felt that these issues in themselves as well as the use of the school's facilities by the community, needed further consideration.

Reference was made to the Committee's school visit programme and it was suggested that schools under threat of closure should be visited in the future. It was also pointed out that the Committee had last visited Llanedi and Hendy schools 4-5 years previously and it was proposed that members visit these two schools prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

Concerns were expressed at the current number of pupils attending Llanedi School and of those, only a small number actually came from within its catchment area with 12 from outside catchment.

It was suggested that there were inconsistencies between the figures outlined in the report and those presented by the Friends of the School and it was suggested that further work was needed and more information provided to the Committee, so that it could ascertain which were correct, as well as clarifying the impact of the proposed housing developments. However, reference was again made to the small number of pupils and those travelling in from out of catchment and whilst it was felt that small schools could not offer the full range of educational experiences, it was clear that this proposal required further consideration, prior to any recommendations being made to the Executive Board.

Reference was made to the unity and concern shown by the Friends of the School and the village residents in opposing the proposed closure. It was also felt that there were benefits to small rural schools and that it would be beneficial for members to visit both schools to assess the background to the comments made by the Friends of Llanedi School.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

- 6.1 That the report be noted.
- 6.2 That prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee considers a further report clarifying the data presented by officers and the claims made by Friends of Llanedi School during their public questions.
- 6.3 That prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee undertakes visits to both Llanedi and Hendy CP Schools.

## **7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE BANCFFOSFELEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Councillor P. Hughes-Griffiths had earlier declared a personal interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration and determination.*

*Councillor G.O. Jones (Executive Board Member for Education & Children) had earlier declared a personal interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration and determination.*

The Committee considered a proposal to discontinue Bancffosfelen CP School and initiate formal consultation on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016. It was informed that should a decision to consult be approved by the Executive Board, this would be followed by the submission of a report to both the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board at the end of the statutory consultation period.

Members were informed that the Authority had a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it had in an area and whether or not it was making the best use of resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserved. In recent years Bancffosfelen Primary School has seen a steady decline in pupil numbers from 48 pupils on roll in January 2011, to 35 pupils on roll in January 2016, resulting in 64% surplus places at the school. Since the departure of the head teacher at Easter 2014, there had not been a permanent head teacher employed at the school although there was an informal arrangement between the Governing Bodies of Pontyberem and Bancffosfelen for part time cover (0.2) to be provided by the Head Teacher of Pontyberem CP School.

Members noted that it was the Education & Children Department's view that the current arrangements did not represent a sound, stable educational model or the best use of resources. In addition, the Department considered that from an educational perspective, having such a small number of pupils made it extremely difficult for the school to deliver the breadth and depth of curricular and social experiences which pupils of this age required to fully develop.

The Committee also noted that the item included a response to the proposal from the Governing Body of Bancffosfelen in the form of a bilingual report which had been included for members' consideration.

The School Modernisation Manager informed the Committee that to date, 23 letters objecting to the proposed closure of the school had been received. The Director of

Education & Children also confirmed that he had received the petition presented by Friends of the School, prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The following comments were made during consideration of the report:

It was proposed that as with the situation in Llanedi, the Committee undertake visits to Bancffosfelen and Pontyberem Schools prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board. The Committee agreed to the proposals.

It was suggested that should the Council decide to close the school, it should consider allocating the catchment to other neighbouring schools, if closer for pupils. In light of this, it was also suggested that the Committee visit Ysgol Y Fro in Llangyndeyrn as well as Llanddarog School, as both were in the immediate area and might be affected by any closure of Bancffosfelen School. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

The proposals presented (as part of the report) by the School Governing Body were welcomed especially as local parents and governors were proposing alternative options to closing a school. It was suggested that the governors and other stakeholders connected with the school be afforded the opportunity to build upon their initial proposals by developing a detailed business plan to describe how they would achieve their vision for the school, especially the funding aspects. It was felt that there were different issues that needed to be clarified in more detail and that the business case needed to be watertight. It was proposed that this presentation be received by the Committee prior to it making any recommendations to the Executive Board. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

Reference was made to the number of pupils attending the school but living in the Pontyberem catchment area which it felt undermined the figures presented in the report. It was suggested that as with the Llanedi proposal, further information was required by the Committee for it to make informed recommendations.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

7.1 That the report be noted.

7.2 That prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee receives a presentation from Bancffosfelen School's Governing Body on its proposal to establish a community charitable trust and re-categorise Bancffosfelen as a voluntary aided school.

7.3 That prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee undertakes visits to Bancffosfelen, Pontyberem, Y Fro and Llanddarog schools.

**8. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANMILOE PRIMARY, TREMOILET VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED AND LAUGHARNE VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND CREATE A NEW AREA SCHOOL**

The Committee considered a proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe Primary, Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled and Laugharne Voluntary Controlled Primary (VCP) Schools



and create a new area school. If approved by the Executive Board, formal consultation on the proposal would be initiated during the Summer Term 2016. The Committee was informed that should a decision to consult be approved by the Executive Board, this would be followed by the submission of a report to both the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board at the end of the statutory consultation period.

Members were informed that the Authority had a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it had in an area and whether or not it was making the best use of resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserved. In recent years, rural schools such as Tremolet, Llanmiloe and Laugharne primary schools had witnessed a decrease in pupil numbers and based on current data available, no significant change in this trend was anticipated. Declining pupil numbers across the schools would cause further educational and financial challenges, in particular, maintaining appropriate pupil teacher staffing ratios to provide an effective curriculum for all learners. A range of 'soft federation' arrangements had existed between the three schools over a period of time and had enabled and highlighted the benefits of greater levels of collaboration between schools. However, they had also highlighted the challenges and fragility of such models and these findings had reinforced the need for a more formalised approach and sustainable resolution to serve the longer term educational needs of this area. Head teacher recruitment was also a challenge for small schools as Llanmiloe and Tremolet.

Members noted that it was the Education & Children Department's view that the current arrangements did not represent a sound, stable educational model or the best use of resources. In addition, the Department considered that with no prospect of there being a significant increase in pupil numbers in the area for the foreseeable future, coupled with on-going challenges two of the schools faced to secure permanent senior leadership, it was not viable to sustain current arrangements.

The Committee also noted that following a review of Carmarthenshire's Early Years Provision, it had been identified that the Tremolet / Llanmiloe and Laugharne geographical area was currently unable to offer the Foundation Phase Early Years Learning Entitlement. However, if the proposal was approved, this provision would be available to children in this area.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

The Committee's Church in Wales' representative stated that the local diocese was concerned about the serious challenges faced by the schools in question and was of the view that stability in the area was needed and that the proposal was to be welcomed.

It was suggested that it was essential that children were provided with the best start to their education and the proposal to offer the Foundation Phase Early Years Learning entitlement should also be welcomed.

Clarification was sought as to who was paying for the 21 pupils currently residing in the catchment area but travelling to Ysgol Griffith Jones (St. Clears) in order to receive a Welsh-medium education. The School Modernisation Manager informed the Committee that the Local Authority was funding the transport of these pupils to St. Clears as they had won an appeal to be transported to a Welsh-medium school, as this provision was not available to them in their current catchment area. He

reminded the Committee that language category of the new area VC school would be Dual-Stream.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- 8.1 The report be received.
- 8.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that officers initiate a formal consultation process on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016.
- 8.3 A report be submitted to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board at the end of the statutory consultation period.

## **9. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2015/16**

The Committee considered the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Reports relating to the 2015/16 financial year as at 31st December 2015 for the Education & Children Department. It was advised that this latest revenue budget forecast showed a significant overspend of £1,269,000 for the year end.

The following issues were raised during consideration of the report:

Concern was expressed at on-going costs relating to school-based early voluntary retirement (EVR) and redundancies (£1,072,000) and it was asked whether the Department had any reserves to cover this. The Director of Education & Children expressed disappointment at the overspend and informed the Committee that this current situation would wipe out its reserves. He also noted that the Department was now seeing the budgetary pressures coming to bear on services. It was a serious challenge for officers and some proposals were being developed to try and alleviate the pressures.

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

## **10. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S SCHOOL CATEGORISATION OUTCOMES 2016**

The Committee considered a National Categorisation Summary Report for Carmarthenshire Schools in 2016. The information outlined within the report highlighted the current position of the County's schools as well as areas for improvement. Overall, the Committee noted that the proportion of schools placed in a Green or Yellow category across Carmarthenshire, was 8% higher as compared to 2014/15, with well over three quarters (77%) of schools now in a Green or Yellow category. The proportion of Green schools in Carmarthenshire had increased by 2% as compared to 2014/15 with 26 (23%) of schools categorised as Amber but no schools categorised as Red. The Committee was informed that the greatest improvement in 2015/16 had been the number of schools moving from the Amber to the Yellow category.

The following issues were raised during consideration of the report:

In response to a question on schools' own self-evaluation, the Chief Education Officer acknowledged that schools were improving in this regard and following a new directive from the Welsh Assembly, a seminar had been held with head

teachers to share and discuss best-practice. Officers were pleased to see more consistency across schools and head teachers communicating with each other on this issue. The Head of School Effectiveness also informed the Committee that a seminar for school governors was planned for the 15th March 2016 with specific focus on creating and implementing an effective self-assessment.

Concern was expressed that governors in general were not aware of the categorisation process and how it worked. It was asked whether a specific governor should have responsibility for the school's categorisation and that all governors should get to discuss this on a regular basis. The Head of School Effectiveness acknowledged the comments and informed the Committee that a great deal of work was being done as the national agenda required more training for governors. He added that every term, head teachers should be presenting governors with the categorisation information and the different steps undertaken to assign schools to different categories, as well as being made aware of the visits by ERW officers each term. He suggested that categorisation should be a regular item on governor meeting agendas.

Reference was made to the use of experienced head teachers as 'challenge advisors' and it was asked whether this process was sustainable in such difficult financial conditions, especially as this method placed additional burdens on the 'sending school' and on the head teacher's work load. The Head of School Effectiveness reassured the Committee that the Authority and ERW would still require a 'core-team' and that it was about getting a balance. The use of experienced head teachers ensured the sharing of good practice, not only benefiting the school being visited but also for the challenge advisor too. He informed the Committee that the Authority was in the process of revising the school effectiveness service and that it was hoped that it would use less head teachers in the future. He reassured the Committee that the governing body of any 'sending school' was fully informed of their head teacher's activities and that if any problems were brought to officers' attention, these were acted upon immediately. The Chief Education Officer noted that this arrangement also provided deputy head teachers with the opportunity to develop their skills whilst the head teacher was away.

Individual members of the Committee acknowledged the support provided by the School Improvement Service and ERW in their respective schools. It was felt that the support had been excellent, unobtrusive and helpful to all those concerned, both for staff and governors alike.

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

**11. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BETWS PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11**

The Committee considered the observations received following the consultation undertaken in relation to changing the age range of Betws CP School from 4-11 to 3-11. It was informed that following the end of the Statutory Notice period, no objections were received by stakeholders. The Committee was also informed that this, as well as the other proposals for changes to school age ranges, were being considered under the former school organisation decision making and determination process, as the proposals had been commenced prior to the County Council confirming the new process in autumn 2015.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

11.1 The report be received.

11.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it approve the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal to change the age range of Betws Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

**12. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF PEMBREY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11**

The Committee considered the observations received following the consultation undertaken in relation to changing the age range of Pembrey CP School from 4-11 to 3-11. It was informed that following the end of the Statutory Notice period, no objections were received by stakeholders.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

12.1 The report be received.

12.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it approve the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal to change the age range of Pembrey Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

**13. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF PWLL PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11**

The Committee considered the observations received following the consultation undertaken in relation to changing the age range of Pwll CP School from 4-11 to 3-11. It was informed that following the end of the Statutory Notice period, no objections were received by stakeholders.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

13.1 The report be received.

13.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it approve the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal to change the age range of Pwll Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

**14. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BYNEA PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11**

The Committee considered the observations received following the consultation undertaken in relation to changing the age range of Bynea CP School from 4-11 to 3-11. It was informed that following the end of the Statutory Notice period, no objections were received by stakeholders.

In response to a question on the number of the County's schools with a 3-11 age range, the Director of Education & Children informed the Committee that it was approximately 40%. He reminded the Committee that the four schools under

consideration at the meeting were within Flying Start areas and this was to ensure the seamless transition from early years into formal education. The Flying Start areas were geographically targeted and therefore the associated funding could not be re-distributed to other areas.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

14.1 The report be received.

14.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it approve the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal to change the age range of Bynea Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

**15. 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 scrutiny meetings.

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

**16. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2016**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2016, be signed as a correct record.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

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

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## EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THURSDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2016

**PRESENT:** Councillor J.E. Williams [Chair]

**Councillors:**

S.M. Allen (In place of I.W. Davies), D.J.R. Bartlett, C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, W.G. Hopkins, P. Hughes-Griffiths, J.D. James, M.J.A. Lewis, D.W.H. Richards and T. Theophilus

**The following officers were in attendance:**

Mr G. Morgans	Head of Education Services
Mr A. Rees	Head of Learner Programmes
Ms G. Adams	Principal Manager – Youth Support Services
Ms B. James	Service Manager – Corporate Parenting
Ms F. Lewis	Service Manager – Safeguarding
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	Democratic Services Officer

**Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. – 12.50 p.m.**

### 1. APOLOGIES AND OTHER MATTERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I.W. Davies and P.E.M. Jones and from Mrs A. Pickles (Parent Governor Member) and Canon B. Witt (Church in Wales Representative).

The Chair welcomed to their first meeting Mrs E. Heyes and Mrs K. Hill, newly elected Parent Governor Co-opted Members.

The Chair referred to Mr Simon Pearson whose term as a Parent Governor Co-opted Member had come to an end and it was agreed that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr Pearson thanking him for his valued contribution during his time as a member of the Committee.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
M.J.A. Lewis	7 - Youth Services Update Report	She trains with the Young Farmers Club and her daughter is the Chair of Carmarthen-shire Y.F.C.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

#### 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

#### 5. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Committee considered a list of forthcoming items to be considered at its next meeting scheduled to be held on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016. It was noted that the list of agenda items was subject to change as the Committee's Forward Work Programme for the 2016/17 municipal year was still being developed.

**RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 be noted.**

#### 6. MID & WEST WALES ADOPTION SERVICE

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the Mid & West Wales Adoption Service since its establishment in April 2014.

Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys came together in April 2014 to form the Mid & West Wales Adoption Service (MWAS) with Carmarthenshire as the Lead Authority. MWAS was part of the National Adoption Service, which was launched formally in November 2014 was made up of a small central team and the 5 regional collaboratives, namely:-

- Mid & West Wales Adoption Service
- South East Wales Adoption Service
- North Wales
- Western Bay (Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea)
- Vale, Valleys & Cardiff

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Suzanne Griffiths, Director of the National Adoption Service Wales and Eleri Harries, Senior Practitioner with the Mid & West Wales Adoption Service, who had been invited to give the Committee a presentation on the work of the service.

The presentation provided an overview of the service from a national perspective and outlined the progress made on a regional basis.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, following which the Chair thanked Ms Griffiths and Ms Harries for a most informative presentation.

**RESOLVED that the report be received.**

#### 7. YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

[NOTE: Councillor M.J.A. Lewis had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the progress made by the Youth Support Service and related partners in the following areas:-



- the implementation of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement & Progression Framework initiative during the 2015/16 academic year;
- a review of the Youth Clubs 2014 Scrutiny Task & Finish Review Action Plan;
- the impact of efficiency savings on the service and progress made with re-structuring.

The following questions/observations were raised on the report:-

- Reference was made to the excellent work carried out by the Young Farmers' Club (YFC) in relation to youth services and it was felt that the Authority does not work closely enough with the YFC network;
- Concern was expressed for the future of the service if cuts in funding continue year on year. The Head of Learner Programmes stated that any further cuts would affect the service and stressed the need for joined up working, resource sharing etc.;
- Reference was made to the fact that First Time Entrants have fallen from 410 to 49 and the service was praised for this amazing achievement.

## RESOLVED

**7.1 that the report be received;**

**7.2 that officers make concerted efforts to strengthen the links between the Authority and the YFC network in the county.**

## 8. CORPORATE PARENTING & SAFEGUARDING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Panel Annual Report, which detailed how the Council is meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities as outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy dictates that every department across the Council must work together and take corporate parenting responsibility for our looked after children. Schools, Leisure, Housing, Youth and Preventative Services, Education & Children's Services have a duty to act in the best interest of the looked after child, as their corporate parents.

In line with the strategy, the Corporate Parenting Panel provides a level of scrutiny, monitoring, oversight and challenge as to how well the Council is doing in meeting the needs of looked after children and care leavers.

The report detailed the number of children looked after by Carmarthenshire County Council and how well they are doing in relation to our aspiration for them as outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Committee's attention was drawn to a typographical error on page 82 of the report where the second sentence in the third paragraph should read "Most care leavers feel that they are in appropriate accommodation but a small number are not."

The following questions/observations were raised on the report:-

- Officers were asked if there was any way to compare the school attainment levels of looked after children with the Welsh average for KS1 and above. The Chief Education Officer explained that this information would be presented to a future meeting;
- Asked how officers ensure that this issue gets enough attention, the Committee was advised that a training programme has been developed for elected members, schools and foster carers. Officers also intended to re-visit the Corporate Parenting Strategy and remind people of their obligations;
- Reference was made to schools being central in the provision of support, however, concern was expressed that schools already have so much to do and officers were asked what support can be provided. The Committee was advised that training and 1:1 support is provided and additional resources are provided where necessary. A diverse range of services are provided for schools including after school sessions and bespoke training sessions;
- Asked whether officers are satisfied that schools are fully aware of what support is available, the Committee was advised that within the department a Co-ordinator proactively works with schools in this respect. The Co-ordinator identifies looked after children in schools and outlines the assistance available;
- Asked how much information is made available to School Governors regarding looked after children at their school. The Chief Education Officer explained that a directive had recently been published by the Welsh Government on strengthening links with school governors and he would ensure that all school governors are made aware of this information.

**RESOLVED that the report be received.**

## **9. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

The Committee considered a report providing an update on progress made in respect of improving school attendance.

In the ESTYN inspection of the Authority's education services in March 2012 Carmarthenshire was rated as 'Good' with 'Good' prospects for improvement, however, attendance in schools was judged to require improvement. In response to the ESTYN recommendations officers, in partnership with headteachers, agreed certain actions to address the attendance challenge. Headteachers were asked to monitor school attendance, ensuring that the registers were kept fully up to date and that the correct codes were used.

While the parent is primarily responsible for ensuring that their child attends their registered school regularly, where school attendance problems occur, the key to successfully resolving these problems is engaging the child through collaborative working between the parent, the school and the Local Authority. It is important to monitor absences closely and regularly so that any patterns of non-attendance are identified and early action taken to address the underlying causes. Attendance problems were often a symptom of some underlying cause.

Estyn's Annual Report for 2014/15, published in January 2016, stated the following in respect of attendance:-

"Attendance rates in both primary and secondary schools continue to improve well. Over the last five years, attendance has increased in primary and secondary schools by 1.6 and 2.5 percentage points respectively. These increases mean that pupils attended school on average between approximately 3 and 4 days more in 2014/15 than they did in 2010/11.

The Committee was advised of the priorities for 2016/17 which included working more closely with the schools performing below their benchmark in order to secure further improvements and working more closely with Challenge Advisors to support schools in meeting their identified attendance targets.

**RESOLVED that the report be received.**

#### **10. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT**

The Committee considered the explanation provided for the non-submission of the report on the Modernising Education Programme Proposal to Formally Unify Llangennech Schools.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the explanation for the non-submission be noted.**

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**

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**Agenda Item 12.3**

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2016**

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

**Councillors:** C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, I.W. Davies, W.G. Hopkins, P. Hughes-Griffiths, J.D. James, M.J.A. Lewis, D.W.H. Richards, T. Theophilus

**Councillor J.S. Edmunds – Substitute for Councillor D.J.R. Bartlett**  
**Councillor E. Morgan – Substitute for Councillor J. Williams**

**Mrs. V. Kenny – Roman Catholic Church Representative**  
**Mrs. E. Heyes – Parent Governor Member (Llanelli Area)**  
**Mrs. K. Hill – Parent Governor Member (Dinefwr Area)**  
**Mrs. A. Pickles – Parent Governor Member (Carmarthen Area)**

**Also in attendance:**

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

**Also present as an observers:**

**Councillor G. Thomas**  
**Councillor J.S. Williams**

**The following officers were in attendance:**

Mr. R. Sully – Director of Education & Children’s Services  
Mr. G. Morgans – Chief Education Officer / Head of Education Services  
Mr. A. Rees – Head of Learner Programmes  
Mr. S. Smith – Head of Children’s Services  
Mr. S. Davies – School Modernisation Manager  
Mrs. L. Grice – Childcare & Play Sufficiency Manager  
Mrs. C. Alban – Play Sufficiency Officer  
Mr. M. Hughes – Democratic Services Officer

Present as observers:

Mr. R. Bowen – School Development Project Officer  
Miss. S. Griffiths – Graduate Trainee Project Officer (MEP)  
Ms. L.J. Morris – Senior Press Officer

**Venue:** County Hall Chamber, Carmarthen (2:50 – 4:55pm)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.J.R. Bartlett and J. Williams as well as Canon B. Witt.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Item(s)	Nature of Interest
Mrs. E. Heyes	Item 5	She is a parent governor on the Federated Llangennech School Governing Body.
Councillor W.G. Hopkins	Item 5	He is a governor on the Federated Llangennech School Governing Body. He informed the Committee that the Local Authority's Monitoring Officer had confirmed that he was permitted to take part and vote during consideration of this item.

## 3. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS

There were no declarations of party whips.

## 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were received and presented at the meeting.

### 4.1 Question by Darren Seward, Dual Stream Committee

Carmarthenshire County Council has produced a document describing its proposal to CLOSE/DISCONTINUE Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors school and open a new Welsh Medium only Llangennech community primary school. why is ccc pushing the Welsh assembly directives on Welsh language so far when it is not happening in other counties like Swansea neath port talbot and Newport??

### 4.2 Question by Nikki Lloyd, Dual Stream Committee

There are 121 pupils currently in the School who are not living in the village of Llangennech. However, there are 96 children living in the village travelling to other schools, out of area. Only 15 of those children are attending welsh medium so that leaves 81 attending alternative English medium. Why such a differentiation? Some of these could have had places in Llangennech but have been turned away making the English stream look as if it is declining.

### 4.3 Question by Nikki Lloyd, Dual Stream Committee

We have already had one parent that we know of refused a place in Byn due to 54 requests for only 30 places. Hendy is full also, where are you going to

provide provision for parents who want or NEED to educate their children in English medium?

#### 4.4 Question by Robert Willock, Dual Stream Committee

Out of the 121 children currently in the school 91 are attending Welsh medium. Why is this so? when the new furnace school is under capacity by 132 places and Brynserfiel under by 38.5 Pupils according to section 2.3 of the consultation document. There's surplus capacity at Welsh Mediums which is not in alignment with School Organisation Code 2013 which states no more than a 10% surplus. There are 1,710 as per Carmarthenshire Councils website surplus places in all welsh medium primary schools in carmarthenshire figures taken from ccc own website. So doesnt justify any further spaces being created. The School Organisation code 2013 states when developing proposals relevant bodies should have regard to Local plans for economic or housing development. Why has there been no regard given to the 91 houses being built in Hendy and 700 plus houses planned for Pontardulais? Surely, this would have a major impact on the surrounding schools. Hendy is one of the nearest schools for English medium if this proposal goes through. However, Llanedi school is facing closure and advised to relocate to hendy. Hendy school are already nearing full capacity and as a dual stream are earmarked for changing to Welsh Medium Only. The other nearest English medium is the Bryn School but the county have already been issuing reject letters as they have received 54 applications so far and only have 30 spaces. As well as the proposed new school being unfit for purpose as it does not serve the community it's meant to support, English speaking children appear to have no nearby alternatives?

#### 4.5 Question by Jacqueline Seward, Dual Stream Committee

Following the closure of a school and the consequential loss of a language stream, provision should be offered to at least equivalent standards to learners according to the School Organisation code 2013. However, Llangennech is currently Green. Hendy is yellow and the Bryn is Amber. How is this equivalent?

#### 4.6 Question by Darren Seward, Dual Stream Committee

Is there need for additional nursery places in the area when we already have two providers? Specific factors need to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes as outline in the School Organisation Code 2013. Relevant bodies should take into account specific factors: the standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places; whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area; the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character; the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and the extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach. Within the consultation document, there is no evidence that these

have been taken into consideration and the effect of the proposals on other private sector providers?

4.7 Question by Nigel Hughes, Dual Stream Committee

The consultation document is a flawed document that does not recognise those disadvantaged by the proposals from within Llangennech village. To state that there is nobody affected by these proposed changes is naïve and ignorant and shows that the Authority has failed to show 'due regard' under the Public Duty Act to those affected by simply saying they don't exist. In doing so, they have not covered the Health and Safety aspects or capacity issues at alternative schools. If walking to Hendy for example, crossing a dual carriageway, will put lives at risk. There is a CrashMap available online which shows along that particular route, one accident occurring every 2 months on average. Therefore, this consultation simply exposes a rush to a predetermined outcome irrespective of any views that were to be gathered throughout the process. We believe that we can evidence the fact that either the LEA or the governing body or both have failed to comply with The School Organisational Code 2013 and possibly the law. Do you think this is acceptable to put young children at risk daily?

4.8 Question by Steve Hatto, Dual Stream Committee

Figures manipulated – From the information supplied by the LEA as the groups knowledge of the school it is clearly evident that the figures have been manipulated by individuals to bolster a particular scenario. We can evidence that the current English streams at the school make up over 30% of the total number of pupils. The consultation states Llangennech infant school total pupils in 2015 had 186 in Welsh stream. This is not a true figure as it includes all pupils in Derbyn 1 and 2 which totals 94 pupils, irrelevant of it they are registered to continue into the English stream they have been falsely identified for the purpose of the consultation document as Welsh stream pupils. Also if we factor in the 27% coming from outside areas, together with a potential loss of English Stream, current projections will show that Llangennech School will have over 50% of pupils coming from outside the area. Do you believe, that we then have 'the right school, in the right place and can you confirm if these figures are correct ?

4.9 Question by Michaela Beddows, Dual Stream Committee

Special Educational Needs: No consideration has been given for children with special educational needs who are usually advised to only go in an English medium. Stream or the language of their home environment. Children with global delay struggle with one language let alone two, therefore by removing the dual stream it would exclude these children from attending the school. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder really cant cope with change in routine, so if they were to start then struggle in a Welsh Medium school and then have to move to an English Medium school that change would have a massive impact on them. How has this been overlooked and why has it not been addressed?



#### 4.10 Question by Karen Hughes, Dual Stream Committee

There are approximately 11 dual Stream Schools in Carmarthenshire which according to the Welsh Language Strategy, are being earmarked for Welsh Medium only. It must be recognised that not all these schools will be suitable based upon their logistics as they will be dual stream for a reason, so how and who is assessing the demand and suitability? Has an horizon scanning exercise been conducted for Llangennech community i.e to assess how the village/population of Llangennech will look in 5, 10, 15 years time? With an increased number of new builds, an influx in migration, being close to the M4 corridor, can we confidently say that Welsh Medium Only will meet these demands when 80% of the population is already English speaking. After all, 27% of pupils are coming from outside areas and village figures do not show an increase in demand for Welsh. The Welsh Language Strategy Impact has also not been assessed properly if at all. There is no reference to English speakers having less of an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales if they attend English Medium only, more people are likely to try the Welsh stream if they know they can fallback to English within the same school. This will have the adverse effect. The use of Welsh within the community is minimal and does not support the linguistic demographics or the stats from the 2011 consensus. Why aren't these risks being factored in?

#### 4.11 Question by Robert Willock, Dual Stream Committee

The Community Impact Assessment is not actually an Impact Assessment at all. It has not recognised any risks or risk assessed them (given a positive, negative or neutral rating). One would expect consideration to be given to the impact on neighbouring schools, impact on parents and families, impact on pupils, travel implications, impact of community demographics, environmental impacts, impact upon community activities, impact on residents. These are the areas which are likely to be negatively assessed and have totally been overlooked! Why?

The Chair thanked the representatives of the Dual Stream Committee for their questions and contribution at the meeting. He advised those present that as the Committee was not the decision making body in this matter, he would not be answering the questions directly but noted that they would be forwarded, subject to the Committee's agreement, for the attention of the Executive Board when it considered the consultation report. The Chair asked the Director of Education & Children's Services to respond to the issues raised as part of the next item, pending a formal response by the Executive Board in due course.

### **5. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) – PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Mrs. E. Heyes had earlier declared a personal interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration and determination.*

*Councillor W.G. Hopkins had earlier declared that he is a governor on the Federated Llangennech School Governing Body and that the Local Authority's Monitoring Officer had confirmed that he was permitted to take part and vote during consideration and determination of this item.*

The Committee considered a proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant and Junior Schools and establish Llangennech Community Primary School in their place and the submissions received during the formal consultation period, as set out in the consultation report, which was included within the report under consideration.

The Director of Education & Children's Services outlined the background to the proposal and the content and layout of the report being presented to the Committee. He noted that since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it had been the Authority's intention to replace Infant and Junior Schools with Community Primary Schools. He reminded the Committee that in September 2014, following an initial 'soft' federation, the Governing Bodies of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools resolved to pursue a formal federation from April 2015. The Authority now wished to proceed with a proposal to create a Community Primary school to replace Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. As part of the proposal for the new primary school, it was proposed to change the current linguistic categories of the two schools from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium in order to increase the provision of Welsh-medium education in Carmarthenshire, ensure that bilingualism was increased in the Llangennech area and to introduce part-time nursery education into the new school.

The Committee was informed that in accordance with Executive Board's instructions, a formal consultation exercise commenced on the 25th January 2016. The consultation period was initially intended to extend until the 11th March, as the minimum requirement of the School Organisational Code but the Director advised that at the request of some stakeholders, he had agreed to extend the consultation period by one week so that all interested parties would have ample time to respond. The consultation period subsequently ended on the 18th March 2016. The Director noted that extensive correspondence had continued to be exchanged with persons opposed to the Council's proposals following the closure of the consultation period. This correspondence was not included in the consultation report as it was not appropriate to do so, with all parties needing to be afforded the same opportunity to express views to the County Council within the formal school organisation process. He reminded the Committee that should the Executive Board resolve to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process, all interested parties would have another opportunity to formally submit their views to the Council before a final decision was made. The Committee was also informed that during the consultation period, the Director, the Chief Education Officer and the Executive Board Member for Education & Children had met with representatives of people from Llangennech opposed the proposals, including parents and local residents, to receive and discuss their concerns. During these discussions, alternative options were presented to officers and these had been included in the attached report as Options 8 and 9 (Appendix F). These had also been evaluated consistently alongside the other options.

The Director noted that as a result of the small extension to the consultation period, the pre-election period and the high number of responses received during the consultation period, future dates for the proposal had been changed. Should the Executive Board grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention was to publish this Notice during the week beginning 5th September 2016. This would

ensure that sufficient time was allowed for people to express their views and that the school holiday period did not impede the process.

The following comments were made during consideration of the report and its appendices:

Clarification was sought as to the next steps in the process. The Director of Education & Children's Services informed the Committee that following consideration of the proposal by the Committee, the proposal would be considered by the Executive Board and subject to its approval, a Statutory Notice would be published. Another period of consultation would then be held and would provide interested stakeholders with a further opportunity to comment on the proposal. He urged all interested parties to do so and advised that it was particularly important for stakeholders not to assume that observations already submitted would be automatically taken into consideration a second time. In accordance with the School Organisation Code, it would be a separate exercise and previous comments would only be included if specifically requested by stakeholders. The period for people to express their views (formally known as the objection period), would be followed by another report to the Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board. Following this and subject to a Executive Board recommendation, a proposal to implement would be considered and determined by the County Council.

The extension to the consultation period was welcomed, as was the amended timetable for the proposed publication of a statutory notice. However, as this was such an emotive subject, it was asked who would decide on which option would be implemented going forward. The Director of Education & Children's Services informed the Committee that it would be for the Executive Board to decide on which of the options would be implemented as part of the next stage in the process but ultimately, the final decision would rest with County Council.

It was suggested that the democratic process had been followed and that in light of the information provided to the Committee, it was proposed that the next wise and logical step was to endorse the proposal. However, it was also suggested that as the questions asked by representatives of the Dual Stream Committee were so profound, these needed to be answered during this item. The Chair agreed and asked the Director of Education & Children's Services to give a brief response to the representatives of the Dual Stream Committee who were present in the meeting. He also proposed that full and comprehensive answers to the public questions submitted, be included in the Department's report to the Executive Board at its meeting on the 20th June. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

The Director of Education & Children's Services gave a brief response to the issues raised in the public questions presented:

- Policy context – The Director outlined the policy context which was shaping the Authority's own approach to the implementation of Welsh-medium provision across the county including a variety of Welsh Government policies as well as the County Council's own Welsh Language Development Strategy and Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The WESP had been developed in line with the requirements of Section 85(1) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and following adoption by the County Council, had subsequently been approved by the Welsh Government. He stated that the Local Authority was simply implementing policies as required of it by the Welsh Government. The Director added that the Authority expected all schools to

continue along the Welsh-medium continuum and therefore, this was a challenge for the English-medium schools too. This Council's expected progress along the continuum but it was acknowledged that all schools were at different stages in their progression.

- Numbers from within and outside catchment – The Director stated that the movement of pupils across school catchment boundaries was a phenomenon witnessed across the county. The current data showed that of the 446 pupils in the Llangennech schools, 75% were residing within the catchment area and 25% travelling in from outside. He stated that it was the Authority's preference that all pupils attended their local school but that parents were allowed to express a preference on the matter. He confirmed that no children from within the Llangennech catchment area had been refused entry to the school by the Local Authority. He acknowledged that there had indeed been 54 applications for only 30 places in Bryn School but that only 8 of those were for pupils residing in the Bryn catchment and 7 for pupils residing in the Llangennech catchment area. He reiterated that the Local Authority was not proposing that any pupils were moved from Llangennech and that all children currently in the school would continue to receive their education in their current language stream.
- Surplus places in schools – The Director acknowledged that there were surplus spaces within the system but that this tended to affect rural schools more than those within the county's towns. He reminded the Committee that Ysgol Ffwrnes had been built to deliberately cater for the increasing demand for Welsh-medium provision with the view that it would be filled over time. This was now proving to be the case as the school was gradually being filled. There were currently some surplus spaces in Brynsierfel but these did not impact on the Llangennech proposal.
- Housing developments – The Director confirmed that the Authority did take the impact of potential housing developments into account as part of any school reorganisation proposals. The Authority was aware of current large-scale housing proposals in and around Pontarddulais and noted that the City & County of Swansea were planning to address the impact on demand for school places within its existing school buildings in the town. The Director noted that it was not the responsibility of Carmarthenshire County Council to plan for demand for school places arising in other counties.
- Differences in school categorisation – The Director reiterated that the Authority was not proposing that pupils in Llangennech be offered alternative provision at other schools. It was the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remained at the school and that future prospective pupils from the locality attend the school but receive their education through the medium of Welsh.
- Nursery provision – The Director acknowledged that the proposal would have an impact on some local providers but that the Authority had a responsibility to ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector and was able to achieve this by providing nursery provision at the school. However, he added that there would still be a need for childcare provision for all children under the age of 3 years old, in addition for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provided nursery education.

- Figures for each language stream – The Director accepted that this needed to be clarified and stated that not counting the Reception classes, 73% of children were in the Welsh stream and 27% in the English stream.
- Sufficiency of the impact assessments – The Director contended that the Welsh Language, Community and Equality Impact Assessments had all been conducted in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. With regard to safe routes to schools, he informed the Committee that the Council's home to school transport policy took full account of safety considerations. Should parents elect to place their children in an alternative school to the nearest or designated school, it was parents or guardians' responsibility for ensuring that their children reached school safely.
- Special Educational Needs – The Director stated that it was the Local Authority's view that Welsh-medium education was not a significant challenge to the majority of pupils with special educational needs and that Welsh-medium schools had been very successful in offering specialist support. However, he acknowledged that every child was an individual and that following an assessment, a bespoke package of support was put in place. In a small number of instances, language could be an issue for children with certain conditions and if this was found to be an issue, a child would be provided with an appropriate package of support which could require attendance at a particular school. In such circumstances, transport would be provided by the Local Authority, as appropriate to the child's needs.

The Chair thanked the Director for Education & Children's Services for his response.

The Committee **RESOLVED:**

- 5.1 That the report be received.
- 5.2 That the proposal to publish a Statutory Notice be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.
- 5.3 That the public questions submitted by members of the Dual Stream Committee be included in the report to the Executive Board and that detailed answers be provided to these questions as part of this report.

## **6. PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN 2016**

The Committee considered a summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying Action Plan. Members were reminded that Section 11 of the Children & Families (Wales) Measure 2010 placed a duty on local authorities to assess, secure and publish information on sufficient play opportunities for children in their area. The Committee received a brief overview of the assessment and the consultation undertaken, including:

- Background and local context
- Why play is important
- Consultation undertaken

- Findings and key themes highlighted by children and young people, parents, schools and town/community councils
- Assessment Criteria and Priorities
- Positive advances made since 2013
- Challenges
- What can communities do?

The Committee was also informed that a draft copy of the assessment form and action plan was submitted to Welsh Government on the 31st March 2016 and final documents would be submitted upon Executive Board approval.

The following comments were made during consideration of the report and its appendices:

Officers were commended for their work on this issue but concern was expressed that their endeavours might count for nothing as the Welsh Government itself often contradicted its own policies on a local level. Reference was made to a recent planning application in Carmarthen to build housing on a grassed playing area used by local children. The Authority had rejected the application but following an appeal by the applicant, the Welsh Government's own Planning Inspectorate approved the plan and this playing area had now been lost.

Numerous comments were made in relation to supporting local sports clubs in overcoming increased fees for utilising playing fields and other facilities as well as the costs involved in providing new playground facilities for the county's children. The Director of Education & Children's Services acknowledged the Committee's frustrations with the lack of resources available to support those needs identified by the assessment. He suggested that new schools and their facilities were an ideal place for enabling play and activities outside school hours and that the Authority was open to discussions with communities and school governors about developing such opportunities.

It was asked whether the Authority had contingency plans in place so that it had projects that were 'ready to go' should funding suddenly become available. The Childcare & Play Sufficiency Manager informed the Committee that the service did have plans and priority areas identified in the event of any future funding becoming available.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** the Plan Sufficiency Assessment and accompanying Action Plan be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

## **7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) BIENNIAL REVIEW**

The Committee considered the Biennial Review of the MEP and an updated prioritised programme for school rationalisation and investment. Members were reminded that in 2010, the County Council had resolved that the Programme be reviewed and revised every two years, or otherwise as required, to ensure consistency with the timeframe of the national 21st Century Schools Programme. The report provided the Committee with a further update on the status of the Programme and an opportunity to comment on the forward work programme.

The following comments were made during consideration of the report and its appendices:

Concern was expressed that rural schools were not receiving sufficient investment which in turn made them less attractive to prospective pupils' parents. The Director of Education & Children's Services acknowledged the concern but stated that the Programme was based on school viability / sustainability in addition to the competing financial demands on the Authority's services. In developing the Programme, it had been decided to be open and up-front about the viability of schools but in doing so, the Authority had been criticised and accused of trying to close schools by suggesting that they were under threat. The Director added that ultimately, the Authority was unable to invest everywhere at the same time and that the criteria, as detailed in the report, was used to prioritise investment and the allocation of funds towards a particular school. It was not an easy task but officers were seeking to be open about the Authority's priorities.

The decision to utilise the former Pantycelyn site in Llandovery was welcomed but the future of other similar sites across the county was queried. The School Modernisation Manager stated that for the former Gwendraeth School site, the aim was to make the site safe for those services that continued to operate from that location and especially as Neuadd y Gwendraeth continued to be used on a regular basis. He reminded the Committee that there was a corporate working group continuing to look at options for former school sites and the Education & Children Department had aspirations for keeping the Gwendraeth site as an educational establishment in the future. The Director of Education & Children's Services added that the former Tregib School site was an option for the future provision of primary education in Llandeilo but much work was still needed on proposals for these sites.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the updated Modernising Education Programme and capital programme be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

## **8. EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17**

The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme (FWP) for 2016/17 which had been developed following the Committee's informal planning session held in April 2016. The following comments were made during consideration of the report:

The Chief Education Officer noted that an additional report would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting in June in relation to a recent consultation on the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Forward Work Programme for 2016/17 be endorsed.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_



## EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016

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

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

**Mrs. V. Kenny – Roman Catholic Church Representative**  
**Mrs. E. Heyes – Parent Governor Member (Llanelli Area)**  
**Mrs. K. Hill – Parent Governor Member (Dinefwr Area)**  
**Mrs. A. Pickles – Parent Governor Member (Carmarthen Area)**

**The following officers were in attendance:**

Mr. R. Sully – Director of Education & Children’s Services  
 Mr. A. Rees – Head of Learner Programmes  
 Mr. S. Smith – Head of Children’s Services  
 Mr. D. Astins – Strategic Development Manager  
 Mr. S. Davies – School Modernisation Manager  
 Mrs. C. Griffiths – Challenge Adviser (with responsibility for Welsh)  
 Mr. R. James – Performance Planning & Business Officer (*for Items 10 and 11*)  
 Mr. M. Morden – Learning Transformation Manager  
 Ms. S. Nolan – Group Accountant (*for Item 7*)  
 Mr. M. Hughes – Democratic Services Officer

**Venue:** County Hall Chamber, Carmarthen (10:10am – 12:15pm)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P.E.M. Jones and J. Williams as well as Canon B. Witt. Apologies were also received from Councillor G.O. Jones (Executive Board Member for Education & Children).

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Item(s)	Nature of Interest
Councillor P. Hughes-Griffiths	Item 9	He is a governor at Ysgol Bro Myrddin. He informed the Committee that whilst he could take part and vote, he would not be contributing to discussions during consideration of this item.

### 3. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS

There were no declarations of party whips.

#### 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

#### 5. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the items to be considered at its next meeting, scheduled for Thursday 22nd September 2016, be noted.

#### 6. 11-19 LEARNING NETWORK UPDATE

The Committee considered a report outlining the findings of the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review. Members were informed that the Local Authority and Coleg Sir Gâr had jointly commissioned the review as both organisations considered that a shared strategic approach was needed to deliver 11-19 education and training in Carmarthenshire in the future. The recommendations contained within the report set out the actions required to implement the new curriculum and ensure that young people were both well-educated and suitably prepared for the next phase in their lives.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

Reference was made to the ESTYN Annual Report in 2015 which highlighted the role of schools, colleges and local authorities in working together to develop a curriculum relevant both to learners and the key sectors of the local economy and it was asked what the timescale for this joint working was likely to be. The Director also informed the Committee that it was envisaged that this would be in place by 2021, tying in with the introduction of the new national curriculum.

It was also suggested that many secondary schools were uneasy at the prospect of losing pupils to Coleg Sir Gâr and it was asked how these proposals could be implemented without creating competition between providers and whether the courses offered by the College would be available through the medium of Welsh? The Learning Transformation Manager informed the Committee both the Local Authority and Coleg Sir Gâr viewed post-16 education in Carmarthenshire as a mixed-economy provision. The Committee was also informed that further education colleges were under more pressure from the Welsh Government to deliver more courses through the medium of Welsh and that Coleg Sir Gâr were working towards this. The Director of Education & Children's Services noted that the aim of this review and the resulting recommendations was to get rid of any sense of competition between providers and ensure that young people were offered the best provision. He acknowledged the valid concerns of schools but stressed that there was an excellent relationship between the Authority and Coleg Sir Gâr in respect of post-16 provision. However, he noted that no one college or secondary school would be able to offer every possible subject or combination of subjects in the future and therefore, partnership working was essential.

Members welcomed the report and the context and whilst the list of all the relevant strategies past and present, was also appreciated, it was felt that the inclusion of more data on young people's destinations after compulsory full-time education would have been beneficial (e.g. those going on to university, further education

colleges or those becoming NEET). The Learning Transformation Manager welcomed the comments and stated that such data was readily available and that he would be happy to present such information to members at a future meeting.

Disappointment was expressed that whilst the report emphasised the importance of economic and social matters, there was no clear mention or focus on the Welsh language and no reference to the language in any of the recommendations. The Head of Learner Programmes reassured the Committee that the Welsh language was very much at the forefront of this work and enjoyed a prominent position within the overall policy context of this review. He noted that nationally, one of Donaldson's eight 'building blocks' included Welsh receiving a rightful place within the curriculum and that on a local level, the County's 14-19 Welsh-Medium Education Partnership promoted and supported the language in the education sector. The Committee was also informed that Coleg Sir Gâr now had a Welsh language development officer who was actively working within the College to promote the use of the language. The Head of Learner Programmes also referred to recommendation 10 in the report which proposed that the Local Authority, Coleg Sir Gâr and the wider learning partnership 'implement a programme of blended and e-learning learning to deliver the 16-19 curriculum in low take-up AS and A Level subjects in both Welsh and English (from September 2017)'. He explained that there was work on-going to develop a flexible learning package that could allow pupils to follow a particular course through the medium of Welsh, even if numerically, there was little demand for it. This could be done in partnership with other providers and utilising online technology for example. The Learning Transformation Manager added that the report could be amended in light of the Committee's comments.

It was asked how schools were expected to keep track of all the different strategies (as referred to in the report) and ensure that they were meeting the different requirements placed upon them by national and local government, especially as curriculum was constantly being changed and amended. The Learning Transformation Manager acknowledged that this was a point well-made and it highlighted the key role which the Authority had in assisting and supporting schools in the implementation of all these strategies. The Director of Education & Children's Services added that in the past there had been a great deal of frustration as schools often operated in isolation. However, the new curriculum offered an opportunity to create a coherent education system for all schools but that input from schools themselves was a key element in the development of this process.

Clarification was sought as to the role of the Swansea Bay City Region and what collaboration was taking place with other partners. The Learning Transformation Manager stated that on a local level, officers in the Education & Children's Services Department worked closely with colleagues in the Regeneration & Policy Division on matters such as careers / World of Work schemes. The Director of Education & Children confirmed that the Authority was working on a regional basis and acknowledged that the Swansea Bay City Region was taking on an increasing importance as it sought to stimulate and define the economy of the whole area. It was important that the Authority was aware of the types of skills the regional economy would require in the future and that children and young people were being prepared for the jobs of the future. He added that this was a key role for the Regional Learning & Skills Partnership, a sub-group of the City Region.

In response to a question on funding for schools, the Learning Transformation Manager informed the Committee that in September 2014, the Welsh Government

had implemented a new planning and funding system for post-16 education in school sixth forms. The new system brought funding allocations for schools' sixth forms into line with the arrangements for Further Education colleges and Work Based Learning. As of September 2016 however, Welsh Government were now proposing that funding would be based upon programmes of learning rather than qualifications, with each programme having a defined purpose and outcome against which it would be monitored. This now required the Local Authority to plan ahead as well as co-ordinate the delivery of sixth form provision, ensure that duplication of provision was avoided and that the courses provided met local and regional economic priorities. Officers had been undertaking preparatory work with secondary schools to prepare for the new funding system. He informed the Committee that during the transitional period, the Authority was using a funding model based on pupil numbers and funding uplifts for Welsh-medium provision, sparsity and rurality, factors that had been agreed with the secondary school head teachers.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

## **7. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2015/16**

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 2015/16 financial year. The Committee was informed that this was the final end of year position and not the 'near actual' financial position as stated on the report cover sheet. The Committee noted that the Education & Children Department's revenue budget was reporting a net overspend of £735,000 for the year whilst the capital programme showed a variance of -£6,154,000 against the 2015/16 approved budget. There were also no departmental reserves left for the 2016/17 year.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

Members expressed concern at the costs associated with school-based early voluntary retirement and redundancies and as these were likely to continue and increase, it was asked whether the Department was able to predict what the financial impact was likely to be over the next twelve months and if there was dialogue between the Authority and schools on this matter. The Group Accountant stated that based on the business cases already received, the Department was anticipating an overspend of approximately £500,000 for 2016/17. The Committee was informed that changes to the process were being made to ensure that the system was clearer and that the Authority worked with schools from the onset to plan retirement applications and make use of redeployment opportunities for staff facing redundancy.

In light of the on-going financial pressure faced by schools, the Chair suggested that the Executive Board be asked to consider allocating more funding for the Education & Children Department to help alleviate the financial pressures currently being experienced. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

7.1 The report be received.

7.2 The Executive Board be asked to consider allocating more funding for the Education & Children Department to help alleviate the financial pressures currently being experienced.

## **8. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGY – 2016/17 CONSULTATION UPDATE**

The Committee considered the 2015 update of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which was originally approved by the Welsh Government in September 2014. The Committee was reminded that local authorities were required to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for approval or modification by Welsh Ministers and that these were to be reviewed on an annual basis. Members noted that there had not been any changes to the original seven outcomes other than to integrate the needs of the local economy into the Plan.

The Committee was informed that in complying with the requirement of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh-medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013 to review its Plan annually (i.e. a review of progress against the targets set out in the Plan), there had been some confusion in respect to the requirement to consult on the revised WESP. Welsh Government officials had subsequently advised that the revised Plan was also required to be subject to consultation and therefore, the Authority undertook a period of consultation between the 29th March and 12th May 2016. A total of 16 responses were received and analysis was included in the attached report.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the revised Plan:

Progress in relation to meeting the targets outlined in the original Plan was welcomed but in light of the many challenging targets and tight timescales, it was asked how much further progress could be achieved. The Director of Education & Children's Services welcomed the comment and acknowledged that the targets were indeed challenging and often influenced by other factors. For instance, changing school language categories required the Authority to adhere to statutory processes and these often took place over a longer period of time. He also added that there were 10 dual-stream schools in Carmarthenshire and not 6 as outlined in the Action Plan (Section 2).

It was suggested that in general, WESP progress across Wales had been quite disappointing and that the requirement for another strategy and the WESP's format might have contributed to the slow response by other local authorities in developing their own plans. It was proposed that the Executive Board Member (Education & Children) lobby the newly established Welsh Government and request that WESPs be incorporated into local authorities' existing corporate strategies, rather than being considered as stand-alone documents. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

Reference was made to the Authority's Language Centres and that during the Committee's school visits earlier that week, a head teacher had suggested to members that this service was not sufficient to support learners. It was also suggested that the language stations project should ensure that not only was Welsh history taught but that learners were also taught about the struggle that the Welsh language had faced over the years. The Challenge Advisor informed the Committee that officers were continuing to consider other models used in other counties by

modifying the Carmarthenshire set-up to be more flexible and adaptable to local challenges. One current option was to encourage schools to work in local clusters due to the geographical nature of the county. However, costs of associated with the service (e.g. transport) were a problem and adopting the Ceredigion / Gwynedd models would require significant investment. She also confirmed that the history of the Welsh language was included in the language stations project.

In response to a question on the development of a booklet to promote the benefits of bilingualism, the Challenge Advisor confirmed that these had been published and were available on the County Council's website.

Reference was made to the Census Working Group which had recommended that 'the County Council ensured that Welsh medium primary schools were part of a secondary school family that could provide appropriate linguistic continuum from the primary sector to KS3 and KS4'. However, it was suggested that this was still not possible for some pupils leaving Welsh-medium primary schools and moving to secondary schools in the Llanelli area. The Challenge Advisor noted that the Plan 'expected' rather than 'demanded' that secondary schools offered this provision. This had been a challenge and following an initial decrease in the number of pupils entering Welsh streams, this number had been increased once more. In response to a further comment, the Challenge Advisor informed the Committee that much work had been undertaken with pupils and parents and that the Schools Language Charter had been particularly successful and activities related to this were popular amongst younger aged children.

It was asked whether schools with empty places could change their age categories to 3-11 from 4-11 in order to boost numbers. The Director of Education & Children's Services stated that officers would welcome this but that unfortunately, it was not possible in all schools with building and financial constraints being the main two barriers. The schools that were currently having their age categories changed were located in areas that were in receipt of national programmes such as Flying Start.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- 8.1 The revised Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.
- 8.2 That the Executive Board Member (Education & Children) be requested to lobby the Welsh Government and request that WESPs be incorporated into local authorities' existing corporate strategies, rather than being considered as stand-alone documents.

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

*Councillor P. Hughes-Griffiths had earlier declared that he is a governor at Ysgol Bro Myrddin and that whilst he could take part and vote, he would not be contributing to discussions during consideration of this item.*

The Committee considered the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh-medium (WM) following the approval of the County Council in March 2016, for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The

notice had provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period ended on 10th May 2016 and a total of 2 objections were received.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the proposal:

Disappointment was expressed that the processes that were required to be followed in order to enable schools to change their language categories, appeared to be a hindrance rather than helpful. It was suggested that whilst the Welsh Government appeared to support the principle of allowing schools to progress along the language continuum, their own processes were actually designed to frustrate the process at the same time. It was suggested that the County Council, via the Executive Board, be asked to lobby the Welsh Government and request that it simplify the process required for changing school language categories, thus making it easier for schools to move along the Welsh language continuum. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- 9.1 The report be received.
- 9.2 It be recommended to the Executive Board that it proceeds with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin from Bilingual 2A to Welsh-medium and implement the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice, as from 1st September 2016.
- 9.3 The Executive Board be asked to recommend to County Council that it lobby the Welsh Government and request it to simplify the process required for changing school language categories, thus making it easier for schools to move along the Welsh language continuum and to change their language categories to Welsh-medium.

## **10. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT (2015/16) AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2016/17)**

The Committee considered the First Year's progress report on the Council's Corporate Strategy 2015-20 as well as the Council's Annual Report (2015/16) and Improvement Plan (2016/17). The Committee noted that annual reporting was one of the prime opportunities for review, monitoring and reflection and an opportunity for the authority to capture its on-going activity around meeting its general and specific duties. It also noted that the Council was required by law to publish an Improvement Plan as soon as it was reasonably practicable after the start of the financial year (i.e. April 1st) and also publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of October each year.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to endorse the Council's draft Annual Report 2015/16 and Improvement Plan 2016/17.

## **11. END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2015 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016**

The Committee received, for consideration, the End of Year Performance Management Report for the services within its remit, for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. The report included:

- Heads of Service Overview of Performance
- Improvement Plan Monitoring – Actions and Performance Measures
- Complaints and Compliments Monitoring

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

In response to a question regarding the ERW (Education through Regional Working) Consortium, the Head of Learner Programmes informed the Committee that it was currently being inspected by ESTYN, as had the other three Welsh education consortiums in South, East and North Wales.

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

## **12. 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 scrutiny meetings.

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

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

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



**JOINT EDUCATION & CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE &  
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2016**

**Present:** Councillor G. Thomas (Chair)

**Education & Children**

**Councillors C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, I.W. Davies, W.G. Hopkins, P. Hughes-Griffiths, J.D. James, M.J.A. Lewis, D.W.H. Richards, T. Theophilus, J.E. Williams**

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

**Mrs. E. Heyes – Parent Governor Member for Llanelli Area**

**Mrs. K. Hill – Parent Governor Member for Dinefwr Area**

**Mrs. A. Pickles – Parent Governor Member for Carmarthen Area**

**Social Care & Health**

**Councillors S.M. Caiach, W.T. Evans, H.I. Jones, K. Madge, E. Morgan, E.G. Thomas, J.S. Williams**

**Also in attendance:**

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

**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 – Chief Education Officer / 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 (Communities)

Mr. M. Hughes – Democratic Services Officer

Present as an observer:

Ms. L.J. Morris – Senior Press Officer

**Venue:** County Hall Chamber, Carmarthen (2:00 – 2:45pm)

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

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor G. Thomas as Chair for the meeting.

**JOINT EDUCATION & CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE &  
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2016**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S.M. Allen, D.J.R. Bartlett, D.J.R. Llewellyn, J. Williams and Canon B. Witt.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Minute Item(s)</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor K. Madge	Item 6	His daughter works in Social Care Services.
Councillor E. Morgan	Item 6	His daughter is a staff nurse in Mental Health Services.

**4. DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS**

There were no declarations of party whips.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions were received.

**6. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN CARMARTHENSHIRE 2015/16**

*Councillor K. Madge declared an interest in that his daughter works in Social Care Services.*

*Councillor E. Morgan declared an interest in that his daughter is a staff nurse in Mental Health Services.*

The Director of Community Services presented his annual report on the effectiveness of the Social Care Services in the county. Members 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. Members also noted that there was 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.

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The Director of Community Services noted that he considered the presentation of this report to scrutiny members as an important element within the development of the final document. He reminded members of both Committees that this draft report provided them with the opportunity to question the content and gave him an opportunity, as the Statutory Director for Social Services, to consider any comments elected members might have.

The following issues were discussed during consideration of the report:

It was asked whether any studies on the impact of population movements on health and social care services had been undertaken (e.g. a resident of another county receiving care in a Carmarthenshire hospital or vice-versa). The Director of Community Services informed members that whilst such instances were not recorded in the Authority's statistics, they did impact in terms of adding pressure to the care system. However, he added that no new or significant trends had emerged from the population profile and census data used during the past year. However, officers had undertaken some work in relation to looked after children from other local authority areas being moved to Carmarthenshire, due to the pressure that such movements placed on the Authority's services and in particular, the County's schools. The Director of Education & Children informed the members that numbers were volatile and that these figures were monitored on a regular basis by officers from the Authority alongside colleagues in the Hywel Dda Health Board. He acknowledged that there were large numbers of looked after children residing in the County but that the report highlighted the good work being done in this complex and challenging area.

It was asked whether the numbers of children moving into the County was due to the quality of the services provided by the Authority. The Director of Community Services noted that there was limited evidence to suggest that families moved nearer schools with good disability services/centres but there was no evidence of substantial movements of children into specific catchment areas.

Reference was made to travelling times of staff in rural areas and it was asked whether this was now taken into account in terms of their work hours and salaries. The Director of Community Services informed the members that payment for domiciliary care workers was for the number of hours worked and this included travelling time. There had been a problem with a previous arrangement but this had now been dealt with as part of the new re-commissioned service. He stated that the Authority did struggle to complete care packages in more rural areas via the independent sector which is why the Authority's domiciliary care service had been retained in order to cover for arrangements that could not be met by the independent or private sector.

The proactive work of the Authority in conjunction with the Health Board in bringing the budget under control was welcomed and it was asked whether any additional costs had been experienced due to the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. It was also asked whether the recent milder winters had helped ease the financial pressure on the services. The Director of Community Services noted that the services were facing the same relentless pressures all year round

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and that the winter pressures were something of a misnomer. He reminded members that the budget for this year had reduced once again and this only added to the problem of providing and maintaining the various services. The Director of Education & Children noted that there were pressure points and referred to the 'When I'm ready' scheme which had been introduced as part of the new Act. This gave children in care the statutory right to remain with foster carers beyond the age of 18, subject to meeting certain criteria such as remaining in some form of full-time education and so on.

Members welcomed the comprehensive report which showed the achievements across the services as well the challenges and priorities for the future. They requested that both committees' appreciation be relayed to officers in the relevant departments for their hard work.

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

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

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