

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

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Chair's Foreword

As the new Chair of the Committee I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee for the 2016/17 municipal year. The report provides a comprehensive summary of the work undertaken by the Committee during the period May 2016 to April 2017.

I would like to thank the previous Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee for their valuable input and dedication over the last year. I would also like to thank the co-opted members of the Committee, who have continued to provide a constructive input and external point of view that provide added independence to the scrutiny process. The Local Government Elections resulted in significant changes to the membership of this Committee and I am sure that the new Members are looking forward to further developing the excellent work of this Committee.

The Committee continued to play its part in terms of scrutinising performance and contributing to key Council policies and decisions within the remit of Education and Children Services. It was also pleasing to see public participation at two meetings regarding the Modernising Education Programme proposals, with parents and community representatives from Llangennech addressing the Committee with a series of questions during the consultation processes.

As part of their school visits programme Members of the Committee visited a number of different schools during the year. All the schools across the County have now received a visit since the commencement of the programme in 2009. The visits have been an invaluable experience to those members involved and have helped to inform discussions at the main committee meetings. Members have had the opportunity to see a cross-section of the county's schools and to speak with head teachers, staff, school governors and pupils. With the completion of the visits and the recent changes to the membership of the Committee the opportunity will be taken to consider the future format and focus of the visits.

I am looking forward to chairing this Committee and working with all the Members and Co-opted Members during 2017/18. I have no doubt that it will be a challenging year with some complex and difficult issues to scrutinise.

Cllr. Darren Price
Chair, Education & Children Scrutiny Committee



1. Introduction

1.1 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."

This report provides an overview of the work of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2016/17 municipal year. The report allows Members to reflect on the achievements during the year and to identify what worked well and where improvements could be made. This analysis is instrumental in developing the work of scrutiny and the Forward Work Programme for the upcoming year.

1.2 Number of Meetings

In all, the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee met on 12 occasions between May 2016 and April 2017. Of these, 3 were joint meetings, two with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee in May 2016 and January 2017 and one with Social Care & Health, Environment & Public Protection, Communities and Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committees in February 2017.

1.3 The Work Programme

In the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined by the Forward Work Programme for 2016/17, which was confirmed by the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 23rd May 2016.

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.

1.4 Committee 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
- Children's Services including Social Services & Family Support Services

2. Key issues considered during 2016/17

2.1 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 September 2016 and March 2017.

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. As part of the scrutiny of these reports Members highlighted the delays in progressing the new primary school for Ammanford, and they were informed that it was being addressed by the Modernising Education Programme (MEP) team.

Actions & Referrals Updates - During the course of the municipal year several requests for additional items were made by Members of the Committee to assist them in discharging their scrutiny role. Quarterly reports were produced to give an update on progress and information was also circulated to members outside the formal committee meetings.

2.2 Strategic Issues / Progress Monitoring

Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire 2015/16 - In May 2016, during a joint meeting with Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee, Members received the Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire for 2015/16. Members noted that there was a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to Council on the delivery, performance and risks, as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of Social Services. It was noted that the presentation of this report to scrutiny members was an important element within the development of the final document.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committees unanimously resolved to recommend the report to the Executive Board for its consideration.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on the 13th July 2016, County Council resolved to endorse the Executive Board's recommendation that the Annual Report be approved.

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. Members comments included supporting local clubs in overcoming increased fees for utilising playing fields and other facilities for the County's children. It was suggested that new schools and their facilities were an ideal place for enabling play and activities outside of school hours. It was also clarified that the Service did have plans and priority areas identified in the event of any future funding becoming available.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on the 20th June 2017 the Executive Board endorsed the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 2016 for submission to the Welsh Government.

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 Gar 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 of their lives. Members queried the timescales for the joint working and it was envisaged that the plans would be in place by 2021, tying in with the introduction of the new national curriculum. The Committee asked how these proposals could be met without creating competition between providers (e.g. schools and the College). It was explained that post 16 education was viewed as a mixed economy provision and no one college or secondary school would be able to offer every possible subject or combination of subjects and partnership working

was essential. Members highlighted the lack of focus on the Welsh language and reassurances were provided that the Welsh language was at the forefront of this work.

Members asked how schools were to keep track of all the different strategies and ensure they were meeting the different requirements placed on them. Officers acknowledged this point and highlighted the role the Local Authority had in assisting and supporting schools. New planning and funding systems for post-16 education were noted.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on 17th October 2016, the Executive Board approved the development of a shared curriculum for young people aged 11-19 in Carmarthenshire secondary schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and local training provision; approved the implementation of the recommendations contained within the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review; and endorsed the suggestion referred to above with regard to a schools conference on the subject of career opportunities in the care sector.

Carmarthenshire County Council's Annual Report 2015/16 and Improvement Plan 2016/17 - In June 2016, the Committee considered the relevant extracts for its service remit from the Council's draft Annual Report 2015/16 & 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 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: Unanimously resolved that the extracts be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on the 13th July 2016, County Council resolved to endorse the Executive Board's recommendation that the Council's Draft Annual Report for 2015/16 and Improvement Plan 2016/17 be approved.

Youth Support Services Business Plan 2016/17 – The Committee considered the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Services Business Plan 2016/17, which was the first one following the merger of the Youth Service with the Youth Offending Service under a single management structure. The merger had resulted in a more holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services and a more robust range of support. Areas of discussion included youth clubs, the role of voluntary organisations, the impact of reductions in funding, access to mental health services and preventing the criminalisation of young people.

TIC Project Update – The Committee received an update on the TIC Programme and an overview of the projects relating to services in the Education & Children Department which had led to significant savings in both time and money. The projects included – food orders in school kitchens,

petty cash and free school meals service. Members welcomed the developments that had been made in improving services.

Partnership Arrangements Established in West Wales under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the West Wales Population Assessment — The Committee considered a report on the partnership arrangements and the West Wales Population Assessment, in a joint meeting with Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee, in January 2017. The report provided an overview of partnership arrangements established within the West Wales footprint to meet the requirements within Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014, which included the establishment of a statutory Regional Partnership Board (PRB). Members were advised of work that had been undertaken on behalf of the PRB to complete an initial Population Assessment that were required to be endorsed by the statutory partners prior to publication by 31st March 2017. Members noted the positive steps that had been made, such as working towards pooled budget. The Joint Committee were supportive of the report and in a meeting of Council held on 8th March 2017 the statutory requirements in place within West Wales under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the partnership arrangements to meet those requirement were noted and the contents of West Wales Population Assessment were endorsed.

Carmarthenshire County Council – Well-being Objectives 2017/18 — In February 2017, all Scrutiny Committees which included the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee, met together to form a Joint Scrutiny Committee (also known as a Super Scrutiny Committee). Together, all Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the Carmarthenshire County Council's Well-being Objectives for 2017/18. The Joint Committee were informed that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 required the Council to set Key Improvement Objectives Priorities (KIOPs) each year and that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 required all public bodies to:-

- Set and publish Well-being Objectives
- Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives
- Publish a statement about Well-being Objectives
- Publish an annual report of progress
- Publish our response to a recommendation made by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



The new Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 placed a Duty on public bodies to consider and improve the well-being of Wales, by taking into account the needs of future generations when taking decisions.

Each of the Council's Well-being Objectives 2017/18 were developed to comply with the Act, which states that public bodies must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. This includes the adoption of the 5 new ways of working, demonstrating that the sustainable development principle has been applied. The 5 new ways of working aims to encourage collaboration, avoid duplication of effort between public bodies and tackle some long-term challenges. In addition, in order to ensure that those public

bodies listed within the Act were working towards the same vision, the Council's well-being objectives were linked to the 7 National well-being goals which the Act had in place.

The Council is required to publish an annual report showing progress made in meeting the objectives. The Joint Scrutiny Committee made additional comments and suggestions which finalised the Well-being objectives

RECOMMENDATION: the Joint Committee resolved that subject to the inclusion of its comments and additional suggestions, the report be received and referred to the Executive Board for its consideration.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on the 8th March 2017, County Council resolved to endorse the Executive Board's recommendation that the report be approved

2.3 Schools

Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and Provisional School Attendance Data – The Committee received the provisional examination and teacher assessment results together with the provisional attendance data in September 2016. The verified results were then presented to the Committee in January 2017.

It was noted that there had been disappointing results in relation to Foundation Phase and the performance of schools with high number of pupils in receipt of free school meals, which required more examination. It was noted that schools in other Local Authority areas had performed better in relation to Welsh Language and officers confirmed that work was being undertaken to improve this. Continuing to improve attendance levels remained a priority and there had been an increase in levels in secondary schools, which was welcomed by Members.

ERW Business Plan – The Committee received an update in relation to the work of ERW during 2015/16 and the Business Plan for the consortium for 2016-19. The results of the recent Estyn inspection of the ERW consortium was noted, with four out of five aspects being rated as good and one as adequate. It was highlighted that Estyn was developing a revised inspection model for local authorities and schools. Clarification was sought on arrangements for local authority officers that were seconded to ERW. It was suggested that the school categorisation process needed to be more clearly communicated to parents, as there appeared to be some confusion over it. Concerns over the categorisation of smaller schools was also discussed. It was recognised that there were issues with the categorisation process and these had been raised with Welsh Government. It was noted that the changes as a result of the Donaldson Report may address some of these issues.

School Improvement Panel – The Committee considered an update on the work of this Panel, which was established in November 2014 to enable the Executive Board Members for Education and Children and the Committee to effectively discharge constitutional and statutory responsibilities for monitoring school performance. The report outlined the 'learning' to date and the proposals of how to disseminate the good practice identified.

Categorisation of Schools — The Committee received a summary report on the National Categorisation for Carmarthenshire Schools for the 2016/17 academic year. The report highlighted the current position as well as areas for improvement. Members queries regarding sufficient number of Challenge Advisors confirmed that there was a shortage in Carmarthenshire, this shortfall was being addressed by commissioning head teachers who acted as additional Challenge Advisors. It was noted that they received the same training to ensure consistency across the service. Some concerns were expressed about pupils being entered early for exams before they were ready and officers acknowledged these concerns and informed Members that they were addressing them.

2.4 Children's Services / Safeguarding

CSSIW Inspection of Children's Services in Carmarthenshire County Council— The Committee considered a report outlining the CSSIW's findings and recommendations for Children's Services following its inspection in July 2016. The inspection took place during a period of significant changes, as the Council was in the process of implementing the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014. The Authority was also bringing in revised social work operating models across Children's Services. The inspection was piloting a revised approach to Local Authority inspection, with greater emphasis on understanding how the delivery of social services improves outcomes for children and families in need of care and support. The report was considered to be balanced and fair and officers advised the Committee that they were already implementing the recommendations. It was still early days in terms of change following the new legislation, however, good progress was being made.

Corporate Parenting Update— The Committee considered the Corporate Parenting Annual Update Report, which provided information on Corporate Parenting, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and fostering services. The report outlined the successful outcomes that had been achieved, the challenges of retaining foster carers and having sufficient staff and resources to meet the increasing demands of care leavers. It was highlighted that Corporate Parenting included young people aged between 16 and 25 years old. The Committee heard from two care leavers about their experiences and the support they had received, which provided Members with a useful insight directly from the young people themselves. Concerns were raised regarding the number of placement moves for looked after children. Officers explained how they were addressing this issue and the difficulties in recruiting foster carers for teenagers, especially as they would often have complex and challenging needs. It was noted that further recruitment was also required for mother and baby placements. It was highlighted that there was a lot of competition with other areas and Independent Fostering Agencies, however, good support and training was provided by the Council to their foster carers.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Executive Board that the Council writes to the Welsh Government supporting the proposals to develop regulations to restrict Independent Fostering Agencies making a profit from placing looked after children.

2.5 Pre-Decision Scrutiny & Consultation

Modernising Education Programme (MEP) Biennial Review – The Committee considered the updated programme for school rationalisation and investment. Members were reminded that the 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 Committee raised concerns about rural schools not receiving sufficient investment and it was noted that the Programme was based on school viability and sustainability. The criteria detailed in the report, was used to prioritise investment.

RECOMMENDATION: that the updated Modernising Education Programme and capital programme be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on the 20th June 2017 the Executive Board approved the updated Modernising Education Programme.

Modernising Education Programme (MEP) – Proposals to Discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and Establish Llangennech Community Primary School – This item was presented to the Committee in May and November 2016, following the statutory consultations on the proposals. It created a lot of public interest and there were public questions at both meetings.

The Committee was informed 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. The schools had been federated and now the Authority now wished to proceed with a proposal to create a Community school to replace Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. Part of the proposals was to change the linguistic category from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium. There had been extensive correspondence on the proposals. As per Welsh Government requirements the statutory proposals had been consulted upon.

There were several areas of discussion, which included policy context, catchment areas, surplus places, housing developments, school categorisation, nursery provision, number of pupils in the different language streams, impact assessments and Special Educational Needs. In addition, reference was made to the significant research into full immersion in a Welsh-medium setting was more effective than dual stream. The Committee highlighted that the objectors concerns should not be ignored and all the information was available before progressing with the proposals.

RECOMMENDATION: that being satisfied that there were no other related proposals; that the statutory proposals had been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contained all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, the objections and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals in the objection report, it be recommended to the Executive Board that the proposal, as laid out in the Statutory Notice, be implemented.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on the 22nd December 2016, the Executive Board agreed that that the submission received to the Statutory Notice and the Authority's responses be noted and the proposals implemented, as endorsed by the Committee.

Modernising Education Programme (MEP) – Proposal to Change the Language Category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh-Medium (WM) – The Committee considered the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual to Welsh medium following the publication of the Statutory Notice. There were discussions regarding the difficulties in the process for changing language category.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Executive Board that it proceeds with the proposals to change the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin from Bilingual 2A to Welsh-medium and implement the proposals as detailed in the Statutory Notice, as from 1st September 2016.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on 20th June 2016, the Executive Board resolved to make this recommendation to County Council and at its meeting on 13th July 2016, County Council resolved that the recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION: The Executive Board be asked to recommended to County Council that it lobby Welsh Government and request 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.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on 13th July County Council unanimously resolved the recommendation agreed by the Executive Board to lobby the Welsh Government and requests it simplify the process required for changing school language categories.

Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2017/18 to 2019/20— The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget for 2017/18 together with the indicative figures for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. Concern was expressed over school reserves. Members requested for the Executive Board to reconsider increasing the costs of school meals in primary schools. Also, to reconsider the proposal to reduce the core Special Educational Needs budget to schools. In addition, the impact of early voluntary retirements in schools was highlighted and officers reassured Members that they were being proactive in seeking to address budgetary pressures in schools.

RECOMMENDATION that:

- The Charging Digest for the Education & Children Department be endorsed.
- The Executive Board be requested to reconsider the proposals to increase school meal charges in the primary sector, to reduce SEN funding and reduce the delegated school budgets.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on 6th February 2017, the Executive Board agreed that an additional £1.76m be added to the Delegated Schools Budget, thereby bringing it back to a cash neutral position.

Five Year Capital Programme—2017/18—2021/22— The Committee considered the consultation proposals for the Five Year Capital Programme. There was some discussion over which proposals had been selected to be included in the MEP.

2.6 Policy Development and Review

Reforming the Provision of Support for Learners with Additional Learning Needs —

The Committee received a presentation outlining the transformation of additional learning needs support in Wales and the current position in Carmarthenshire. The Committee was informed that the Welsh Government was introducing the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill to reform the support system for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Members were updated on the approach being taken by the Local Authority in readiness of having to implement the new legislation, namely through workforce development, implementation / transition support, awareness raising and supporting policy.

Members raised that there could be potential savings from streamlining the system and the reduction in the number of assessments and it was confirmed that any savings would be re-directed into other services. It was noted that the main saving would be in staff time. The Bill would help to raise aspirations and expectations of all pupils. Reassurance was given to the Committee that the training of school staff would be sufficient and the Inclusion Service operated a coaching model approach.

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategy – 2016/17 – In June 2016, The Committee considered the updated Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) as the WESP had to be reviewed on an annual basis. The revised plan had been subject to consultation and the responses were included in the report. Progress against the targets was discussed and it was acknowledged that the targets were challenging and often influenced by other factors. It was suggested that the WESP could be incorporated into local authorities' existing corporate strategies rather than being standalone. The Committee agreed with this proposal. There was some discussion regarding the recommendations made by the Census Working Group and providing a linguistic continuum between Welsh-medium primary and secondary schools.

RECOMMENDATION: that Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan be endorsed for consideration by the Executive Board.

RECOMMENDED: 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.

OUTCOME: At its meeting on 19th September 2016, the Executive Board accepted the revised WESP. The Executive Board Member for Education & Children discussed the proposal with the Welsh Shadow Minister for Education, Children, Skills & Lifelong Learning.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) - The Committee also considered the draft WESP in December 2016, following the public consultation period. Members received an overview of the general themes and issues arising from the consultation responses. Reference was made to the need to promote the benefits of bilingualism in education. Concerns were raised about pupils not continuing on the Welsh language continuum in secondary education.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Committee endorsed the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan to the Executive Board for its consideration.

OUTCOME: at its meeting on 23rd January 2017 the Executive Board unanimously resolved that the final version of the WESP be received and endorsed and submitted to Welsh Government.

Draft Carmarthenshire Curriculum Declaration—The Committee received a presentation outlining the proposed components of local curriculum design and offered the draft high level principles in the form of the Carmarthenshire Curriculum Declaration. Subject to approval, this blueprint would be further developed in a rolling programme between 2017 and 2021, involving school practitioners at every stage of the process. The development of a new curriculum was welcomed but it was felt that this was not solely a matter for the Education Department and all Council's departments needed to contribute in some way or another as their initiatives and activities also impacted on the communities in which the County's schools operated.

3. Task & Finish Review

The Committee did not undertake a task and finish review during 2016/17 as its previous review of the attainment gap and learners eligible for free school meals, carried over into 2016/17. The Task & Finish Group published this particular report in January 2017. The Chairman of the Committee presented the findings of the Review to the Executive Board in April 2017 and the Executive Board endorsed the recommendations.

4. Site Visits

During the last municipal year, the Committee continued with its regular programme of school visits. In all, it visited 5 schools / Children's Services facilities between May 2016 and February 2017:

- Queen Elizabeth High School, Carmarthen
- Ffairfach CP School
- Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, Ffairfach
- Rhyd-y-Gors Special School (*Representatives from each political group and the Executive Board Member only*)
- Glan-y-Môr School, Burry Port

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. In 2016/17 it began re-visiting schools, linking in with

the School Improvement Panel's work programme and the Authority's Modernising Education Programme proposals. The Committee will be considering the future format and focus of the visits for 2017/18.



5. Other Activities during 2016/17

As noted earlier in the report, the Committee received several questions from members of the pupil in regards to the Modernising Education Programme (MEP) – Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School at two meetings of the Committee. This was a contentious issue and all questions submitted within the agreed timescales were heard and responded to by the Committee. This was a good example of public engagement in scrutiny, as it provided a platform for members of the public to voice their views. Public engagement in the democratic process is encouraged by all Members of scrutiny.

5.1 Development Sessions

The following all-member development sessions were held during 2016/17, to which Committee members were invited:

- Changes to Community Services in Wales (May 2016)
- Changes to the Planning System (June 2016)
- Changes to Refuse and Recycling Collection Seminar (September 2016)
- Well-being Objectives (October 2016)
- Empty Houses in the Private Sector (November 2016)
- Launch of Roadworks Information Services (November 2016)
- Curriculum Developments (November 2016)
- Corporate Parenting (February 2017)

In addition, there were several departmental budget seminars held and two Members Induction Focus Groups to assist with the development of the new induction programme following the Local Government Elections in May 2017.

6. Support for the Scrutiny Function

Support for Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny function is provided by the Democratic Services Unit, based in the Administration & Law Division of the Chief Executive's Department.

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

- Providing support and 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.wales/scrutiny

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or
e-mail scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk



7. Committee Member Attendance

Attendance by members of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2016/17 year is shown in the table below. A total of 9 meetings were held between May 2016 and April 2017.

Member	No. of meetings attended	%
Cllr. Ryan Bartlett	8	89
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	7	78
Cllr. Mansel Charles	9	100
Cllr. Ieuan Davies	9	100
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	9	100
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	9	100
Cllr. Andrew James (as of 12 th October 2016)	2	-
Cllr. John James	8	89
Cllr. Pat Jones	3	33
Cllr. Jean Lewis	9	100
Cllr. Hugh Richards	7	78
Cllr. Tom Theophilus (until July 2016)	2	-
Cllr. Eirwyn Williams	8	89
Cllr. Jan Williams	2	22
Parent Governor Representatives		
Emma Heyes	6	67
Kate Hill	8	89
Alex Pickles	7	78
Church Representatives		
Vera Kenny	8	89
Jean Voyle Williams (from 21 Nov 2016)	4	-
Rev. Canon B Witt (until 21 Nov 2016)	0	-

Substitute	No. of meetings attended
Cllr. Jeff Edmunds	1
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1
Cllr. Ivor Jackson	2
Cllr. Eryl Morgan	1
Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas	1
Cllr. Elwyn Williams	1

EBM	No. of meetings attended
Cllr. Gareth Jones	8
Cllr. David Jenkins	1
Cllr. Mair Stephens	1

Joint Attendance

Attendance by members of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee at joint meetings during the 2016/17 year, is shown in the table below. The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee held 3 joint meetings between May 2016 and April 2017.

Member	Joint SC&H (i)	Joint SC&H (ii)	Joint E&C, E&PP, Comm.& P&R
Cllr. Ryan Bartlett	1	1	1
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	1	1	1
Cllr. Mansel Charles	1	1	1
Cllr. Ieuan Davies	1	1	1
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	1	1	
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	N/A	1	1
Cllr. Andrew James (as of 12 October 2016)		1	1
Cllr. John James	1	1	
Cllr. Pat Jones			1
Cllr. Jean Lewis	1	1	
Cllr. Hugh Richards	1	11	
Cllr. Tom Theophilus (until July 2016)	1	N/A	1
Cllr. Eirwyn Williams	1	1	N/A
Cllr. Jan Williams	0	1	1
Parent Governor Representatives			
Emma Heyes	1		
Kate Hill	1		
Alex Pickles	1		1
Church Representatives			
Vera Kenny	1	1	1
Jean Voyle Williams (from 21 Nov 2016)	N/A		
Rev. Canon B Witt (until 21 Nov 2016)			

Substitutes	Joint SC&H (i)	Joint SC&H (ii)	Joint E&C, E&PP, Comm.& P&R
Cllr. Jeff Edmunds	1		
Cllr. Eryl Morgan	1		

Executive Board Members	Joint SC&H (i)	Joint SC&H (ii)	Joint E&C, E&PP, Comm.& P&R
Cllr. Gareth Jones	1		1
Cllr. Jane Tremlett	1	1	1
Cllr. Pam Palmer			1
Cllr. David Jenkins			1
Cllr. Linda Evans			

8. Glossary of Terms

- ALN—Additional Learning Needs
- 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
- 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
- KIOPS—Key Improvement Objectives Priorities
- PDG - Pupil Deprivation Grant
- PRB—Regional Partnership Boards
- SC&H - Social Care & Health
- TIC—Transformation, Innovation & Change Programme
- VCP School - Voluntary Controlled Primary School
- WESP - Welsh in Education Plan
- WG - Welsh Government
- WM - Welsh-Medium
- Ysgol - School

