

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018

## ERW Business Plan 2018/19

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

The Committee will receive a presentation and opportunity to consider and comment on:

- ERW's functions
- Collaborative working across the region via an update on the ERW Business Plan 2018-19

### Reasons:

- To support the Committee's understanding of the National Model and progress against priorities
- To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring ERW's role in supporting school improvement within Carmarthenshire

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

### Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children Services)

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Andi Morgan  <b>Report Author:</b> ERW	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Education Services	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 246645 <a href="mailto:andimorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">andimorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 676840
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

#### ERW Business Plan 2018/19

School improvement services are delivered across Wales through four regional Consortia. Carmarthenshire forms an integral part of the ERW joint education service of six neighbouring LAs (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Pembrokeshire and Powys). This Business Plan sets out the key objectives, practice and direction of the region's work. Its content aligns profitably with our local school improvement agenda, thus ensuring benefits and progress for all our Carmarthenshire school settings. The Plan sets out its vision and direction as follows:

**'Delivering Local, Regional and National Priorities'** - All Local Authorities within the region contribute to the regional planning process. Key objectives from local Business Plans are used to inform the regional priorities at the 1st level of regional planning.

The region is committed to delivering the National Mission. To deliver our priorities we will work collaboratively with stakeholders including the teaching profession and the wider education workforce, the Welsh Government, diocesan authorities, Trade Unions, other regional services, Estyn, the Education Workforce Council (EWC), Qualifications Wales, higher education institutions and others.

The region is confident in tackling identified challenges and building on our strengths. This requires prioritising the most important aspects of our work and targeting the necessary support to both schools and learners in a timely way. Responding proactively to the objectives set out in Qualified for Life 2 and a Curriculum for Wales a Curriculum for Life will continue to require a significant focus on workforce support and development. These key drivers of education in Wales currently, reflect well the direction in which the region has been steered in recent years. As a region we are strengthening existing partnerships with higher education and supporting school staff to rebuild confidence and morale whilst re-skilling for a digital future.

We are committed to supporting a self-improving system. Working in partnership with schools and local authorities, we share our support and resources to improve our school system and as a result, raise standards and performance in the region. The system is about providing support and encouraging collaborative improvement by putting schools into a position that enables them to identify the factors that contribute to their progress and achievement, or what areas to focus on to achieve further development. It is not about labelling or creating league tables. Welsh Government guidance places an emphasis on schools' own assessment (self-evaluation) of their quality of teaching and learning and ability to help other schools to improve. One of the recommendations from OECD's report last year was that Welsh Government should consider making school self-evaluations more prominent in the School Categorisation System. This approach has been consistently implemented.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>YES</b> (ERW Regional Business Plan 2018-19)
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## IMPLICATIONS

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



Signed:

Head of Education Services

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

### Legal:

ERW is a legally constituted alliance of the six Local Authorities (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Powys and Ceredigion). Its functions align and adhere to the national guidance for 'school improvement' as cited within – 'Education in Wales: Our National Mission' (WG, September, 2017)

### Finance:

We employ a team of Challenge Advisors / Associate Challenge Advisers at a local level. The necessary funding for these colleagues needs to be considered in an ongoing manner as the models for 'school improvement services' evolve.

### Risk Management Issues:

School improvement services provided through ERW (in the main via our locally employed team) support and challenge all schools in the pursuit of high quality leadership, provision and therefore outcomes for our children. This agenda includes areas of statutory work such as Estyn inspection processes.

### Staffing Implications:

We currently employ a team of Challenge Advisers, Associate Challenge Advisers and Advisory staff. Our obligations to this staffing complement remain within the current regional service agreement.

## CONSULTATIONS

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



Signed:

Head of Education Services

1. ECS Scrutiny Panel Committee: 20.12.18



AILGYLCHWCH OS GWELWCH YN DDA – PLEASE RECYCLE

2. Local Member(s): ECS Scrutiny Panel members / Cllr Glynog Davies,
3. Community / Town Council – N/A
4. Relevant Partners - Partner LAs within the Alliance, ERW central officers and WG
5. 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:**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Education in Wales: Our National Mission		<a href="https://beta.gov.wales/education-our-national-mission">https://beta.gov.wales/education-our-national-mission</a>

