

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10th OCTOBER 2016

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Site Visit Activity Report 2015/16

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee considers and comments on the attached activity report.

Reasons:

- At its meeting in on the 18th May 2015, the Committee resolved to continue with its programme of visits to schools and children's services settings during the 2015/16 academic year, as part of its forward work programme.
- The visits also contribute to the Committee's role in monitoring of key front-line services.

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

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

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Directorate: Chief Executive's | Designations: | Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses: |
| Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones | Head of Administration & Law | 01267 224010 lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Report Author: Matthew Hughes | Democratic Services Officer | 01267 224029 mahughes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10th OCTOBER 2016

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Site Visit Activity Report 2015/16

During 2008/09, the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (as it was formerly known) established a Task & Finish Group to review Access, Inclusion and Support Services to Schools.

As part of the Task & Finish Group review, members undertook a series of site visits to schools within the county in order to speak to head teachers and staff. The Group found these visits invaluable but timescales prevented the members from visiting more schools. Therefore, in its final report the Group recommended that a programme of structured school visits be developed for all members of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. The Committee considered the Group's recommendation at its meeting on the 8th May 2010 and unanimously resolved that local members, those who were school governors and the Executive Board Member be invited to attend a structured programme of visits to all schools and special units during the 2009/10 municipal year.

The programme of visits has continued since this time and in all, the Committee has now visited all the County's schools, as well as visiting other facilities such as children's centres and special units.

During the 2015/16 academic year, 19 schools / Children's Services facilities were visited between October 2015 and June 2016.

Feedback sessions were also held on the 21st January, 14th April, 17th June and 29th June 2016 in order for members and officers to discuss and review the visits undertaken. The Chair and Vice-Chair also met with the Director and Executive Board Member for Education & Children in November 2015, April 2016 and July 2016 to feed back on the Committee's comments and any issues raised during the visits.

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 |
| NONE | NONE | NONE | NONE | NONE | NONE | NONE |

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. **Local Member(s)** – Local members, in addition to those members who are school governors at the relevant schools, were invited to join the Committee on its school visits.
2. **Community / Town Council** – N/A
3. **Relevant Partners** – N/A
4. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Officers from the Education & Children’s Services and Technical Services Departments attended the school visits.

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 |
|---|---|
| E&C Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2015/16 (E&C Scrutiny Committee, 18th May 2015) | Report http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC20150518/REP08.HTM Minutes http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC20150518/MINUTES.HTM |
| E&CS Scrutiny Committee (8th May 2009) | http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/ECSS20090508/MINUTES.HTM |