

# Executive Board

## 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Subject:** Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review

**Purpose:** To consider and approve the 11-19 Review prior to:

- Discussion at the Executive Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016;
- A seminar for Elected Members on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016.

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

To consider and approve:

- The development of a shared curriculum for young people aged 11-19 in Carmarthenshire secondary schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and local training provision;
- The implementation of the recommendations contained within the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review.

**Reasons:**

To enable the strategic development of a Carmarthenshire 11-19 curriculum that meets the needs of the local economy, communities and learners.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted - YES

The Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee discussed this Review on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The Review was approved by the committee pending additional comments regarding provision of courses provided through the medium of Welsh. These comments have now been added to Section 13 of the document.

**Exec Board Decision Required:** YES 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Council Decision Required:** NO MEMBER'S SEMINAR : 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

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

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## **Carmarthenshire 11-19 Review – Executive Summary**

Educational partnership working in Carmarthenshire over the past 15 years has improved range and quality of courses available to young people. It has provided pupils and students with opportunities to take courses and gain qualifications relevant to the local economy and to enable them to progress to universities in Wales, elsewhere in the UK and beyond. The results of this work can be seen in the numbers of young people progressing to higher education and work in Wales and beyond and the reduction in the numbers of young people not in employment, education and training.

However, given impending curriculum changes, possible structural reorganisation and the impact of reductions in Welsh Government funding, all organisations involved in education and training in Carmarthenshire need to work more closely together to ensure that the learning and welfare needs of young people are met.

Delivering the identified 11-19 curriculum models will provide a clear focus for this work and demonstrate the commitment of the Carmarthenshire partnership to delivering educational experiences that meet the needs of young people, local communities and the economy. Implementing the curriculum models for all phases of 11-19 education provides a renewed focus for partnership working and informs the implementation of the national planning and reporting system and possible capital developments in the County. Implementing the recommendations identified below will provide a clear focus for the further development of the Carmarthenshire Learning Partnership and enable the current sector-leading practice in county evolve to meet the changing needs of young people and employers.

Given the strategic case set in the 11-19 Review document and discussions with key stakeholders, it is important that there is a shared vision for the development of a bilingual Carmarthenshire 11-19 curriculum that will:

- Provide 21st Century education which is creative, innovative and aspires to excellence for all;
- Focus on the needs of all learners with quality as the key requirement for both academic and vocational studies;
- Provide 11-19 educational provision that builds aspirations and self-esteem for all learners and ensures achievement across a breadth of ability;
- Ensure choice and flexibility of learning opportunities and meaningful progression to the next stage of learning or to employment;
- Provide learners with employability skills and work experience as appropriate;
- Be responsive to employer and community needs;
- Meet the needs of those learners who have Special Educational Needs (SEN);
- Ensure that the needs of those learners with additional learning needs (ALN) are met;
- Increase opportunities for Welsh-medium and bilingual learning;
- Provide equality of opportunity for all; and
- Provide value for money and maximise the use of limited resources.

### **11-19 Review Recommendations**

To ensure that the full benefits of the identified curriculum models can be achieved for young people in Carmarthenshire, it is proposed that the local authority, Coleg Sir Gâr and the wider learning partnership:

1. Agree the key components of 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19 shared curriculum offers (*by January 2017*);

2. Implement the agreed curriculum model across all Carmarthenshire Secondary Schools, Coleg Sir Gâr and Carmarthenshire based Welsh Government contracted training providers *(by January 2017)*;
3. Agree the revised shared governance and local authority commissioning structure for the revised curriculum offer *(by November 2016)*;
4. Develop a commissioning model to underpin the full implementation of the Post-16 Planning and Reporting system for Sixth Form Provision *(by November 2016)*;
5. Identify shared priorities for further capital developments based on the curriculum models and the needs of the local economy linked to Swansea Bay City Region priorities *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
6. Utilise Carmarthenshire Education Improvement Grant Funding (or any replacement funding) to support vocational course delivery in the identified growth sector areas (elder and early years care, engineering, energy and environment construction, tourism & hospitality, food and agriculture, creative industries, STEM industries, ICT and professional services) at Coleg Sir Gar and training providers for school pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 *(from November 2016)*;
7. Build on existing partnership relationships with local businesses to focus skills demands and employability of new labour market entrants within Carmarthenshire to ensure that local demands are met *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
8. Ensure strong links with the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013-2030 to enable a strategic fit with the key economic sectors being targeted and local progression to Higher Education in the identified priority sectors *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
9. Utilise regularly updated labour market intelligence on which to make informed decisions together with data on sector growth trends and growth sectors for employment on an on-going basis *(by January 2017 and on-going)*;
10. 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)*;
11. Implement the actions identified in the Carmarthenshire Youth Engagement and Progression Plan to reduce the number of young people who become NEET *(September 2016 and on-going)*;
12. Continue to track the destinations of young people to support effective Post 16 and Post 19 transitions through YEPF related work *(September 2016 and on-going)*;
13. Provide targeted support for vulnerable young people including those with disabilities and most at risk of becoming NEET utilising ESF funding via the *Cynnydd* and *Cam Nesa* projects for this work *(by September 2016 and on-going)* ;
14. Support the progress of the most able and talented learners via the Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire Seren Hub *(on-going)*;
15. Support teachers, lecturers and other practitioners to develop young people's learning about the world of work through a County-wide approach to the delivery of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate *(on-going)*;

16. Embed meaningful employer involvement in curriculum change, including strong links with key local employers and County Council regeneration departments (*by January 2017 and on-going*) ;
17. Consolidate the existing strengths of partnership working with FE colleges and training providers through the implementation of revised partnership structures (*by September 2016 and on-going*) ;
18. Ensure that the full requirements of the Careers and the World of Work Framework are delivered in Carmarthenshire (*on going*) by:
  - a. Implementing a format for careers days/ week in Years 7-9 involving local employers and LA regeneration departments and linked to local labour market information and JobCentre Plus data;
  - b. Maintaining a work experience placement database (jointly with Pembrokeshire CC)
  - c. Undertaking Health and Safety/ safeguarding vetting for all placements commissioned by the local authorities;
  - d. Delivering an annual Careers conference for Year 10/11 pupils in partnership with Careers Wales;
  - e. Supporting one week of work related experience built into Years 10 and 12, with links to the 3 Welsh Bacculaureate challenges, volunteering and Duke of Edinburgh's Award;
  - f. Strengthening links with parents and carers via newsletter/website, information evenings, parent's evening sessions;
  - g. One to one support with school pupils/students by personal tutors for all young people;
  - h. Developing Team Around the Family and Youth Worker brokerage roles to support transition to education and training for vulnerable young people ;
  - i. Early follow up of young people dropping out of school and college in the autumn and winter terms of Year 12.
19. Annual analysis of labour market information to inform collaborative vocational course delivery and Post 16 planning in the period to 2020 (*by November 2016 and on-going*);
20. Accountability for the progress of these recommendations to be overseen via the shared governance clusters, Coleg Sir Gâr Corporate Board, Local Service Board and the Education and Children's Scrutiny Committees (*on-going*).

*N.B. See additional implementation workplan for further details of these actions*