

Document Pack



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County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

FRIDAY, 1ST JUNE, 2018

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 10.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE, 2018** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

Mark James CBE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

Democratic Officer:	Michelle Evans Thomas
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Ref:	AD016-001

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 7 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Liam Bowen |
| 2. | Councillor | Kim Broom |
| 3. | Councillor | Betsan Jones |
| 4. | Councillor | Jean Lewis |
| 5. | Councillor | Darren Price (Chair) |
| 6. | Councillor | Emlyn Schiavone |
| 7. | Councillor | Dorian Williams |

LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|---------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Dot Jones |
| 2. | Councillor | Gary Jones |
| 3. | Councillor | Shahana Najmi |
| 4. | Councillor | Bill Thomas |

INDEPENDENT GROUP – 2 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Ieuan Wyn Davies |
| 2. | Councillor | Edward Thomas (Vice-Chair) |

UNAFFILIATED 1 MEMBER

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Councillor | John Jenkins |
|----|------------|--------------|

NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs V. Kenny | Roman Catholic Church Representative |
| 2. | Mrs J. Voyle Williams | Church in Wales Representative |

ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS (3)

Term of office expires on the 31/03/2020

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mrs M. Jones | Area 1 – Dinefwr |
| 2. | Mrs G. Cornock-Evans | Area 2 – Carmarthen |
| 3. | Mr J. Davies | Area 3 - Llanelli |

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
3. DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
5. ALN TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE (ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS). 5 - 12
6. EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19. 13 - 18
7. ACTIONS & REFERRALS UPDATE. 19 - 26
8. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 23RD APRIL, 2018. 27 - 36

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7th JUNE 2018

ALN Transformation Programme Update (Additional Learning Needs)

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To note the contents of the 'ALN Transformation Programme Update' presentation by ALN Managers.

Reasons:

- To enable and support members of the Scrutiny Panel to undertake their key role in monitoring progress in school provision and support for the Authority's schools. Assist in determining future priorities as a result of the issues raised from discussion.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Andi Morgan</p> <p>Report Author: Andi Morgan</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Education Services</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>Telephone: 01267 246645 Email: andimorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 7th JUNE 2018

ALN Transformation Programme Update

The ALN Transformation Programme presentation will provide Scrutiny Panel members with an overview of progress and developments within this crucial area of work within our schools and communities.

Background and context:

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill was unanimously passed by Welsh Government on 12 December 2017. The Act will be supported by regulations and a new ALN Code, both of which will be revised and then consulted on during the Autumn 2018. They will then be laid before Welsh Government and published. It is anticipated that both will be in place by the end of 2019 following Assembly scrutiny.

Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education stated ...

‘The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill is at the heart of our programme to transform the education and support for children and young people with additional learning needs in Wales. To make sure stakeholders are fully involved in developing and delivering our reforms, we have consulted widely about how we should implement the new additional learning needs system.’ (December 2017)

Three overarching aims of the Bill:

- **A unified legislative framework** to support all children of compulsory school age or below with ALN, and young people with ALN in school or further education (FE) (rather than two separate systems of SEN up to age 16 and Learning Skills Plans for post-16/19, both of which are currently covered by separate legislation);
- **An integrated, collaborative** process of assessment, planning and monitoring which facilitates **early, timely and effective** interventions (including duties on health boards and local authorities to collaborate with each other through a statutory Individual Development Plan for each learner with ALN);
- A **fair and transparent system** for providing information and advice, and for resolving concerns and appeals (including requiring local authorities to make arrangements for avoiding and resolving disagreements, revising a system found by previous reviews to be ‘complex, bewildering and adversarial’)

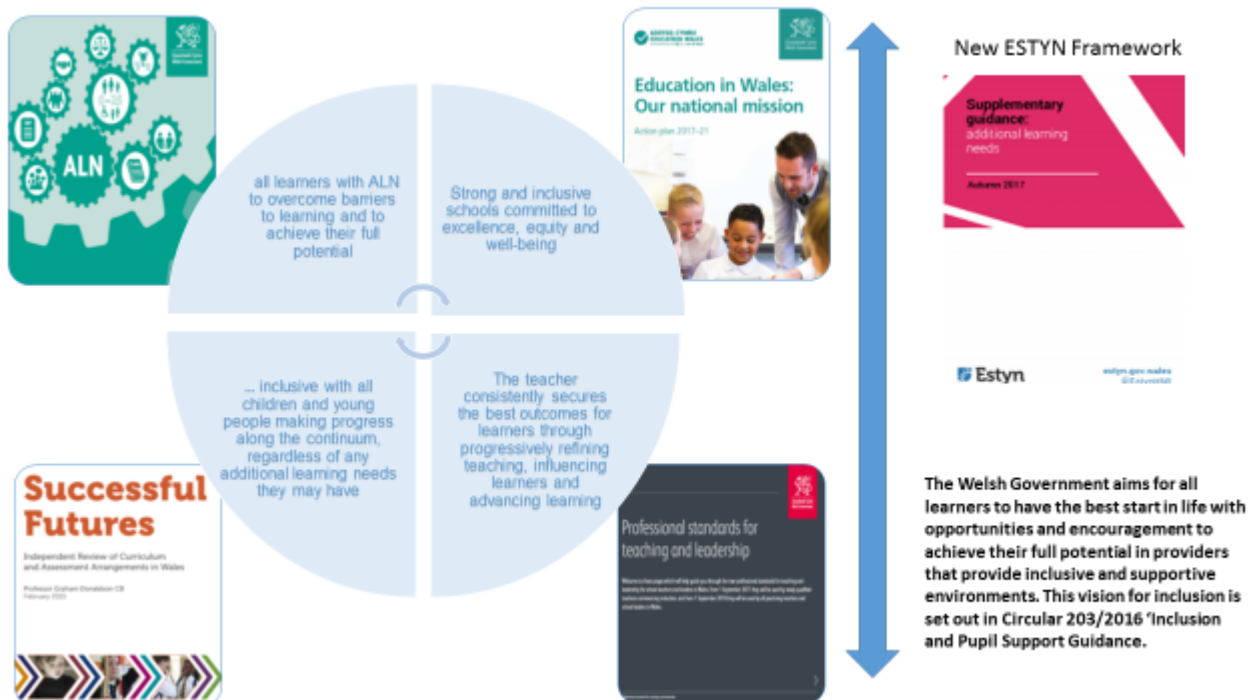
ALN Transformation Timeline:

Work of this nature demands much preparation and ongoing scrutiny. It is imperative to maintain open communication and an informative flow of information with all partners and stakeholders. The following timeline has been devised to support this aspect:



ALN Transformation - an integral part of our provision:

We are currently working within an exciting and evolving climate of curriculum provision and learning opportunities for all children and young people across Wales. The ALN Transformation agenda has an integral part to play within this development, sitting firmly at the root of excellent teaching and learning practice. The key links to current strategic documentation are demonstrated as follows:



Regional working in support of Transformation:

As part of the wider ALN Transformation Programme the Welsh Government initiated a two year, pre-legislative grant to support collaborative projects across each of the four consortia. The purpose was to develop innovative practice in readiness for the roll-out of proposed legislative changes. A conference will be taking place in June 2018 to share the work undertaken as part of the innovation funding across Wales.

Our officers currently enjoy and benefit from engagement with the recently appointed Regional Transformation Lead for South West Wales, Mr Huw Davies (Huw has seconded for two years from Estyn) and will provide further feedback during future Scrutiny sessions.

The Carmarthenshire perspective:

We are proud of our progress and collaborative approach to enhancing ALN provision across our schools. We have a solid foundation of skills and experience which supports the Transformation agenda well. We have focused successfully on:

1. Person Centred Planning:

- Three Conferences for **Senior Managers, Headteachers, ALNCOs**
- Termly input through ALNCo* Forum (*Additional Learning Needs Coordinator)
- ECP Coaching Model followed by Inclusion Department support **directly to schools**
- Champions and Coaches Training: Six 'Champions' and forty 'Coaches' (by Summer 2018)

*Next Steps: Roll out practice further through School Development Planning and School Self Evaluation. Encourage its use as a means to resolve disputes early.

2. One Page Profiles (1PPs):

- Significant support **over the past 5 years** has been given to schools to develop '1PPs' through training and the ALNCo Forum
- All schools should already be undertaking '1PP' with individuals/clusters of children as a minimum **and should have plans in place for embedding practice across the whole school**
- 1PPs sit under the context of personalised learning as set out by Donaldson, Foundation Phase agenda and revised Estyn Framework
- ALNCOs have received extensive training through the ALNCo Forum
- IDPs will contain the child's 1PPs

*Next Steps: All children to have a '1PP' (target through the School Development Plan and Self Evaluation Document)

3. Individual Development Plans (IDPs):

- Well developed within Carmarthenshire through its initial piloting within the Glan y Môr Family of Schools

- Standard format will be issued by WG possibly based on the Gwynedd Model (the Carmarthenshire model is aligned to this)
- A significant number of children already have IDPs within Carmarthenshire
- Build into the statutory process
- All schools have received training and support (schools can access resources/ practical support through Learning Wales Website / Helen Sanderson Website / plus ongoing support available from the department)
- ALNCoS should now be on a journey to refine their practices and be supporting teaching staff to develop across the school

*Next Steps: Further clarity needed through the Code of Practice as to the role of Local Authority (processes and provision). We await confirmation of conversion of Statements of Special Education Needs into IDPs (scoping exercise to be undertaken to assess the impact of undertaking this task).

4. Developing the role of the ALNCo:

The new Bill sets out clear expectations for the role of the ALNCo. The role will be mandatory for every school set at a senior leadership position. In partnership with schools, the Local Authority has been considering ways of supporting and enhancing the role of the ALNCo through packages of training and opportunities to share, resources and provision mapping tools.

- ALNCoS offered significant training on: PCPs, 1PPs, IDPs, Provision Mapping
- PCP Coaching model
- Support and training from their ECP

*Next Steps: Schools to identify a Senior Manager to undertake the mandatory duties of the ALNCo. Small schools may identify an ALNCo for Federations or clusters. Schools must be encouraged to engage early in preparation for Transformation.

5. Additional Learning Provision – ‘Provision Mapping Tool’:

An electronic ‘provision mapping tool’ has been devised by our Team and enables the ALNCo to set up a recording system (identifies provision within the school, tracks’ pupils’ progress, measures effectiveness at each stage of intervention).

- Carmarthenshire is leading within ERW on the development of an electronic dynamic Provision Mapping Tool
- Tried and tested successfully within a small cluster of schools already
- All schools are already expected to map provision for all areas of ALN at universal, targeted and specific levels of need

*Next Steps: Roll out practice across the region. The tool will enable greater quality assurance, support and challenge of provision and outcomes for our learners. It will also provide schools with the ability to cost and analyse the effectiveness of interventions and support.

6. Working with Families to create a less-adversarial system:

- The development of high quality help and advice which is easily accessible to families is a key element of our service. We feel this has been further strengthened by the new Bill.
- Carmarthenshire offers families readily available/ face-to-face support from our two Family Liaison Officers. They are assigned to the Primary and Secondary sector. Their role is to provide advice and support regarding SEN processes and range of services available. They act as an advocate for parents and the voice of the child.
- Our Family Liaison Officers attend third sector organisation events, facilitate network groups and workshops for families across the Carmarthenshire area.

In conclusion, we hope that Panel members will benefit from the presentation in support of their scrutiny activities and interaction with schools. We look forward to discussing the work and its positive impact on our Carmarthenshire practice and learners.

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 – Act Summary:

<https://seneddresearch.blog/2018/03/13/new-publication-additional-learning-needs-and-education-tribunal-wales-act-2018-act-summary/>

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: **Andi Morgan** Head of Education Services

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: Andi Morgan Head of Education 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:**

THERE ARE NONE:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7TH JUNE 2018

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for 2018/19

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee confirm its Forward Work Programme for 2018/19.

Reasons:

- The County Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to develop and publish annual forward work programmes that identify issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: NOT APPLICABLE

<p>Directorate: Chief Executive's</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones</p> <p>Report Author: Michelle Evans Thomas</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Administration & Law</p> <p>Principal Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 224010 lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 224027 MEEvansThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7TH JUNE 2018

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for 2018/19

Purpose of the Forward Work Programme

Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution states that: *"Each scrutiny committee is required to develop and publish an annual forward work programme, identifying issues and reports to be considered during the course of a municipal year"*.

The development of a work programme:

- Provides an opportunity for members to determine the priority issues to be considered by their scrutiny committee over the course of the next year.
- Provides a focus for both officers and members, and is a vehicle for communicating the work of the Committee to the public. The programme (see attached report) will be published on the council's website www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/scrutiny and it will be updated on a quarterly basis.
- Ensures agreement of provisional agendas for scheduled scrutiny meetings within the council diary. The Programme is a flexible document that can be amended to reflect additional meetings and agenda items during the course of the year.

The draft Forward Work Programme includes statutory and annual reports as well as those reports requested by the Committee during the course of previous meetings.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Forward Work Programme 2018/19

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
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

- 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – In line with requirements of the County Council’s Constitution.
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- 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
Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=169

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Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Draft Forward Work Programme 2018/19

14 th May 2018	7 th June 2018	4 th July 2018 (Joint with SC&H)	5 th July 2018	27 th Sept 2018	26 th Nov 2018	20 th Dec 2018	24 th Jan 2019	13 th Mar 2019	24 th Apr 2019
MEP – Proposal to Increase Capacity of Gorslas from 110 to 210	ALN Reform including SEN	Annual Report of Director of Social Services 2017/18	Carmarthen-shire County Council's Annual Report 2017/18	Prov Exam & Teacher Assessment Results & Prov School Att Data	School Redundancy & EVR	3-year Revenue Budget Consultation	School Performance & Achievement 2017/18	Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring 2018/19	Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2018
MEP – Pembrey – Proposal to Increase Age Range From 4-11 to 3-11	E&C Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2018/19		Carmarthen-shire Music Service	Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring 2018/19	Half Year Compliments & Complaints Report 2018/19	Education & Children's Services Departmental Business Plan 2018/19-2021	MEP Progress Report to December 2018	WG Categorisation of Schools 2018	Fostering Annual Report
Task & Finish Review 2015/16 Action Plan Monitoring	Actions & Referrals Update		Positive Behaviour Approaches in relation to Bullying	Q1 New Corporate Strategy Performance Monitoring Report 2018/19	Healthy Schools Initiative	Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring 2018/19	New Children's Zone	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP0)	Q3 Performance Monitoring Report 2018/19
TIC Programme for Schools Update			Recruitment and Retention of Staff – Teachers and Headteachers	Adoption Service Annual Report	Local Authority Education Services Self Evaluation	ERW Business Plan 2018-19 and Review of 2017-18 (inc update on curriculum changes)		Wellbeing Strategy	End of Year Compliments & Complaints Report 2018/19
Page 17			ERW Core Visits SCC Follow Up	E&C Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2017/18	Actions & Referrals Update			ALN Reform (including SEN)	

			End of Year Compliments & Complaints Report 17/18	Youth Support Service Business Plan				Actions & Referrals Update	
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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7TH JUNE 2018

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Actions & Referrals Update

To consider and comment upon the following issues:

- To scrutinise the progress made in relation to actions, requests or referrals recorded during previous meetings of the Committee.

Reasons:

- 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: *NOT APPLICABLE*

<p>Directorate: Chief Executive's</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones</p> <p>Report Author: Michelle Evans Thomas</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Administration & Law</p> <p>Principal Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 224010 lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 224470 MEEvansThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7TH JUNE 2018

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Actions & Referrals Update

During the course of a municipal year, several requests for additional information are made by the Committee in order to assist it in discharging its scrutiny role.

The attached report provides members of the Committee with an update on the progress made in relation to these requests.

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) – 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	Agendas and Minutes available to view on the Council's website.

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Education Children Scrutiny Committee Actions 2017-2018

Ref No	Meeting Date	Recommendation / Action / Referral	Description	Progress Update	Member / Officer	Status
E&C 001-17/18	27th November 2017	Action	School Budgets - Resolved that the Committee receive an update report on School Budgets at a future meeting.	An updated report was presented to Committee on 21st December 2017 following an all-member Budget Seminar on 20th December 2017.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 002-17/18	27th November 2017	Action	TIC Programme Update - Resolved that the Committee receive an update report in 6 months' time.	Update report was presented to Committee on 14th May, 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 003-17/18	27th November 2017	Action	Non Submission - ERW Business Plan 2017/18 and Review of 2016/17 (including update on curriculum changes)	An update report on curriculum changes was presented to Committee on 14th May, 2018. The ERW Business Plan 2017/18 and Review of 2016/17 will be presented to Committee on 20th December.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 004-17/18	27th November 2017	Action	Non Submission - Fostering Annual Report	The report was presented to Committee on 23rd April, 2018.	Stefan Smith	COMPLETED
E&C 005-17/18	21st December 2017	Action	Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation - Resolved that, whilst noting the proposals for the delivery of efficiency savings for the Education & Children Department, as detailed in Appendix A(i) to the report, the Committee's concerns regarding any reduction in respite care provision be relayed to the Executive Board.	Conveyed as part of the consultation on the budget.	Gareth Morgans	COMPLETED
E&C 006-17/18	21st December 2017	Action	Education & Children Departmental Draft Business Plan - Also Arising: Committee requested an update report on Band A projects.	Report presented to Committee at the meeting held on 25th January 2018.	Simon Davies	COMPLETED
E&C 007-17/18	21st December 2017	Action	Forthcoming Items - RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items include a report on the establishment of a Task and Finish Group be considered at the next scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, 25th January, 2018 be noted.	Report presented to Committee at the meeting held on 14th March 2018.	Michelle Evans Thomas / Gareth Morgans	COMPLETED
E&C 008-17/18	25th January 2018	Action	School Performance & Achievement 2016/17 - Resolved that a report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee on the steps being taken by the Authority to attract more people into teaching and to attract more teachers to progress to become headteachers.	Officers are preparing a summary of current activities undertaken to support this crucial piece of work. A report will be submitted to Committee on 5th July 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED

Education Children Scrutiny Committee Actions 2017-2018

E&C 009-17/18 Page 24	25th January 2018	Action	MEP Proposal to Provide Nursery Provision at Ysgol Parc-y-Tywyn by Increasing Its Age Range from 4-11 to 3-11 - Resolved to endorse to the Executive Board the publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal to provide nursery provision at Ysgol Parc-y-Tywyn by increasing its age range from 4-11 to 3-11.	Report presented to the Executive Board meeting held on 26th February, 2018.	Simon Davies	COMPLETED
E&C 010-17/18	25th January 2018	Action	MEP Proposal to Increase the Capacity of Gorslas Community Primary School From 110 to 210 - Resolved to endorse to the Executive Board the publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal to increase the capacity of Gorslas Community Primary School from 110 to 210.	Report presented to the Executive Board meeting held on 26th February, 2018.	Simon Davies	COMPLETED
E&C 011-17/18	25th January 2017	Action	School Performance & Achievement 2016/17 - Members requested further information in relation to the difference between authorised and unauthorised absences	Officers prepared a further analysis as requested. Members were provided with an updated data set on 23rd April, 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 012-17/18	25th January 2018	Action	School Performance & Achievement 2016/17 - Members asked for information regarding whether the fact that some children don't want to go to school during the last few weeks of the summer term because they don't have any work to do and tend to watch DVDs has any impact on attendance statistics	Members were provided with an additional commentary in response to this query on 23rd April, 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 013-17/18	25th January 2018	Action	School Performance & Achievement 2016/17 - Members asked for more detailed data in relation to those schools which are causing concern and in particular those schools where English is weak in the Foundation Phase	Officers will prepare an overview of SCC follow up findings of current ERW Core Visits (Spring/Summer Term 2018) and will present to Committee on 5th July, 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 014-17/18	25th January 2018	Action	School Leadership and Data Contextual Paper 2016/17 - Members asked for information regarding trends	Members were provided with an additional data set in response to this query on 23rd April, 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 015-17/18	25th January 2018	Action	Carmarthenshire 11-19 Curriculum Review Update - Members requested information regarding the number of apprenticeships in Carmarthenshire and how do we compare with the rest of Wales	Members were provided with an updated commentary in response to this query on 23rd April, 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 016-17/18	25th January 2018	Action	Forthcoming Items - Members asked whether, as part of the school visits programme, arrangements could be made for members to speak to the school's ALN Co-ordinator to see how they provide the service at their school	This element has been built into the School Visit Programme. It will be rolled out during the forthcoming Spring Term visits and reviewed accordingly.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED

Education Children Scrutiny Committee Actions 2017-2018

E&C 017-17/18	14th March 2018	Action	Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Committee to receive a report later in the year on School Redundancy and EVR detailing the approach taken and the progress made	A report will be presented to Committee on 26th November, 2018.	Andi Morgan / Susannah Nolan	COMPLETED
E&C 018-17/18	14th March 2018	Action	Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Committee to receive a report at a future meeting on the recruitment and retention of staff.	To be included in the FWP and blended with the response to E&C 008-17/18 for presentation to Committee on 26th November, 2018.	Andi Morgan / Julie Stuart	COMPLETED
E&C 019-17/18	14th March 2018	Action	Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report - Committee to receive a report at a future meeting on the problems being faced by the county's Music Service.	Report to be presented to Committee at the meeting to be held on 5th July, 2018.	Aeron Rees	COMPLETED
E&C 020-17/18	14th March 2018	Action	Elective Home Education Update - Committee to receive a report at a future meeting regarding the positive behaviour approaches being implemented by the Authority in relation to bullying.	Report to be presented to Committee at the meeting to be held on 5th July, 2018.	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
E&C 021-17/18	14th March 2018	Action	Elective Home Education Update - officers to draft a letter to the Welsh Government expressing the Committee's concerns with regard to the problems being experienced with home schooled and flexi schooled children, for approval by the Committee prior to despatch.	Letter drafted and translated and circulated to members of the Committee. Several positive responses received from Committee members. Letter dispatched in the Chair's name.	Aeron Rees	COMPLETED
E&C 022-17/18	23rd April 2018	Action	WESP - the Committee to receive an update report on case studies involving the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary schools.	To be included in the FWP.	Aeron Rees	IN PROGRESS
E&C 023-17/18	23rd April 2018	Action	Draft New Corporate Strategy 2018-23 - In future the entire strategy to be brought to Committee with the Education & Children elements highlighted.	Request to include the entire strategy document in future has been passed on to Rob James, Performance Planning and Business Officer, whose team prepare the Corporate Strategy for all Scrutiny Committee meetings.	Jonathan Buck	COMPLETED
E&C 024-17/18	23rd April 2018	Action	Draft New Corporate Strategy 2018-23 - With regard to the statement in the report "We aim to keep the percentage of looked after children ... to a minimum". The Committee felt that this should say "We will continue to reduce...". Officers agreed to check and change the wording if possible.	The wording "We aim to keep the percentage of looked after children... to a minimum" will be kept as the target for this measure has been set to remain constant to the result of the previous year (4.0%). We haven't set a target to reduce this measure, therefore we can't state this.	Jonathan Buck	COMPLETED

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MONDAY, 23 APRIL 2018

PRESENT: Councillor D. Price [Chair]

Councillors:

L.R. Bowen, I.W. Davies, W.T. Evans (in place of K.V. Broom), J.P. Jenkins, B.W. Jones, D. Jones, G.R. Jones, M.J.A. Lewis, S. Najmi, E.M.J.G. Schiavone, B. Thomas, E.G. Thomas and D.T. Williams

Mrs V. Kenny – Roman Catholic Church Representative
Mrs J. Voyle-Williams – Church in Wales Representative
Mrs M. Jones – Parent Governor [Dinefwr Area]
Mrs G. Cornock-Evans – Parent Governor [Carmarthen Area]
Mr J. Davies – Parent Governor [Llanelli Area]

Also in attendance:

Councillor G. Davies – Executive Board Member for Education & Children

Also present:

Mr Alan Edwards, ERW Head of Teaching and Learning – in respect of agenda item no. 5

The following Officers were in attendance:

Mr G. Morgans	-	Director of Education & Children's Services
Mr N. Daniel	-	Head of ICT
Ms E. Forsyth	-	Head of School Effectiveness/Principal Challenge Adviser
Mr A. Morgan	-	Head of Education Services
Mr A. Rees	-	Head of Curriculum & Wellbeing
Mr S. Davies	-	Modernisation Services Manager
Ms C. Griffiths	-	Welsh Language Development Manager
Ms B. James	-	Service Manager Corporate Parenting
Mr M. Jenkins	-	Strategic Technical Manager
Ms J. Meredith	-	Service Manager
Ms A. Parsons	-	Social Worker Fostering Recruitment
Mr J. Buck	-	Children & Schools Information Officer
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen : 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor K. Broom. The Chair welcomed to their first meeting the newly elected Parent Governor Members, Mrs Melanie Jones, Mrs Georgina Cornock-Evans and Mr James Davies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute Item(s)	Nature of Interest
D. Jones	5 – ERW Curriculum Update	Her sons are members of the Carmarthenshire Music Service
G. Jones	8 – Draft New Corporate Strategy 2018-2023	His wife works in the Education Department
G. Jones	10 - 2017/18 Wellbeing Objectives Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 3	His wife works in the Education Department
G. Jones	11 - Digital Schools Strategy 2018-2021	His wife works in the Education Department
Mrs V. Kenny	6 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report	Her daughter works in Social Services
Mrs V. Kenny	9 – Fostering Service Annual Report	Her daughter works in Social Services
D. Price	5 – ERW Curriculum Update	His wife lectures at Canolfan Peniarth
D. Price	7 – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	His wife lectures at Canolfan Peniarth

3. DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

5. ERW CURRICULUM UPDATE

[NOTE: Councillors D. Jones and D. Price had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Alan Edwards, ERW Head of Teaching and Learning, who had been invited to give a presentation to the Committee.

The presentation provided an overview of progress and developments within the school curriculum. Reference was made to the evolving curriculum agenda across Wales at this current time which supported the statement made by the Welsh Assembly Cabinet Secretary for Education:-

“The children and young people of today are entering a fast-changing world that is increasingly competitive, globally connected and technologically advanced. Schools are having to prepare our young people for jobs that have not yet been created and challenges that we are yet to encounter. This will require a renewed

commitment to improving both the skills and knowledge of our young people, as we raise standards in our transformational curriculum. Education has never been more important. Education reform is our national mission.”

The presentation covered the following key areas:-

- Successful Future Progress
- Engagement
- Curriculum Design
- Professional Teaching Standards
- Change Management

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

- Asked how much input immediate past pupils have had in the process, the Committee was advised that up until now pupils have not been engaged to any great extent, however, from now on school pupils will be asked what they think an effective curriculum looks like;
- With regard to the preparation of resources in Welsh and English, officers were asked if we are getting to the stage where a PISA type approach is needed. The Committee was informed that in terms of PISA, a range of bilingual resources have been developed and are already available in secondary schools. A project has also commenced this year which assists secondary schools to use these resources effectively. Work is also beginning with primary schools in this regard, however, no resources have been allocated yet as these would be tailored to the individual requirements of the school;
- Asked how much scope there is for a Carmarthenshire curriculum to be developed and how school could feed in to that. The Committee was advised that the new curriculum would not be overly prescriptive, therefore, there would be the ability to develop a localised curriculum;
- Reference was made to Leaders of Learning and officers were asked how confident they are with regard to capacity. The Committee was advised that there would be a huge amount of change, however, all the Leaders of Learning that have been recruited have been trained in change management. Training is also being provided to all headteachers to support that change. Officers are fairly happy with capacity and have recently undergone an external review of the new system before it is rolled out the result was amber/green which was very positive at this stage of the process.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

6. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT

[NOTE: Mrs V. Kenny had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Committee considered the Corporate Parenting Annual Report which provided details regarding how well the Local Authority is meeting its corporate parenting duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014.

The report detailed outcomes for children looked after by the Local Authority up to the age of 25 and an update on progress against targets set in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Service Manager (Corporate Parenting) was accompanied by a young looked after person who gave the Committee a brief outline of her experiences whilst in foster care.

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

- Reference was made to the necessity of ensuring that looked after children visit the doctor and dentist regularly and officers were asked why this was not included in the strategy. The Committee was advised that this was an omission and confirmed that this information would be included in the strategy;
- Reference was made to permanency planning and officers were asked if looked after children are matched with the foster carer to ensure a longer term placement as they are unable to form attachments if this is not the case. The Committee was informed that there is a process of matching foster carers, however, Carmarthenshire does have a small number of children who have a high number of placement moves and this is often due to complex issues;
- Concern was expressed that when they reach the age of 16 looked after children are moved and when they reach 18 they do not have the same level of support. The Committee was informed that looked after children are supported in Carmarthenshire up to the age of 25 and quite a high number remain with their foster families post 18. There are also young looked after people who move into independent living at the age of 16/17/18 and they are supported to ensure that they have the necessary skills. There is currently a bit of a lack of independent living support, however, officers are working to address that;
- Officers were asked if there is a continued connection with young people who leave the Local Authority and the Service Manager (Corporate Parenting) explained that the Authority has a responsibility to continue to support our looked after children up to the age of 25 whether they reside within the Authority's area or not. These young people are tracked, monitored and supported

RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive Board that the report be endorsed.

7. WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)

[NOTE: Councillor D. Price had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Committee considered the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (including pupils transferring from Welsh medium primary to Welsh medium secondary schools).

The Committee was reminded that producing and implementing a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority. The Carmarthenshire WESP was endorsed by the Welsh Government in early March

2018, without the need for further amendments and it was encouraging that the Carmarthenshire WESP has been praised by senior civil servants.

The WESP provided an outline of the following:-

- policy and legislative background;
- chronology of the iterative process;
- underlying principles and rationale;
- challenges and opportunities;
- objectives of the WESP;
- 7 WESP outcomes;
- implementation;
- support to schools;
- next steps

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

- Reference was made to the target of achieving 1m Welsh speakers by 2050 and officers were asked how many schools offer Welsh lessons to parents as it was felt that this would help with that target. The Welsh Language Development Manager stated that it is very important for parents to feel that they are a part of their child's education and added that the department has been successful in securing a grant to work with parents in this regard;
- Reference was made to the fact that under the aims and objectives section, no objectives are listed and no dates by which progress can be measure. The Head of Curriculum & Wellbeing explained that the aims and objectives are listed directly from the WESP itself. He added that the Welsh in Education Forum agreed at its last meeting to monitor the progress of the WESP. The Head of Education Services added that with regard to measurable targets, the department holds a suite of Performance Indicators and many of those underpin the objectives as well.

RESOLVED

7.1 that the report be received;

7.3 that the Committee receive an update report on case studies involving the transfer of pupils from primary to secondary schools.

8. DRAFT NEW CORPORATE STRATEGY 2018-23

[NOTE: Councillor G. Jones had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

Members considered sections of the draft new Corporate Strategy 2018-23 relevant to the remit of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee.

The draft new Corporate Strategy will replace the current one published in 2015 and will consolidate the following plans into one document:-

- the 2015-20 Corporate Strategy;
- the Improvement Objectives, as required by the Local Government Measure 2009;

- The Wellbeing Objectives as required by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board key projects and Programmes for the next 5 years, as set out in "Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years".

It was noted that our Wellbeing Objectives do not have to change every year, or be deliverable within one year and that it is perfectly legitimate to set objectives which span more than one year.

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

- Reference was made to the fact that the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment only on those areas of the strategy within its remit, however, it was pointed out that there are other areas whose actions and measures affect its remit too. The Director of Education & Children agreed that his department contributes to many objectives which are led by other departments and suggested that in future the entire strategy be brought to Committee with the Education & Children elements highlighted. The Committee was informed that any cross-cutting issues are included in the Action Plan;
- With regard to children who need specific help, officers were asked how they will ensure that the statements are carried out early in the child's education. The Director of Education & Children explained that the Authority has a duty towards these children. Schools with over 100 pupil will get money for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and those schools with under 100 pupils approach the Authority for additional resources required to help with children with SEN. The money is allocated in this way because the formula used does not work for schools with less than 100 pupils;
- Reference was made to the European funding currently being received and officers were asked what will happen to that money in the future. The Director of Education & Children informed the Committee that confirmation has been received that the money will be available until 2020;
- Concern was expressed with regard to the statement in the report that "We aim to keep the percentage of looked after children who have experienced one or more changes of school during a period or periods of being looked after which were not due to transitional arrangements to a minimum" as it was felt that this should say "We will continue to reduce...". The Committee was informed that the wording was taken from a statutory Performance Indicator which forms part of the Social Services & Wellbeing Act. Officers agreed to check and to change the wording if possible.
- Reference was made to the statement about children carrying too much weight and concern was expressed about the lack of play areas and the fact that the Authority is closing playgrounds or transferring them or building on them and concern was expressed that there appears to be no joined up thinking.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive Board that the draft new Corporate Strategy 2018-23 be endorsed.

9. FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered a report providing information on the performance and quality of care provided in relation to the fostering service within Carmarthenshire, which was a requirement under statutory regulations of the Fostering Services in Wales.

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

- Reference was made to the fact that the department has recruited 9 foster carers this year and officers were asked if this number is high in relation to other areas. The Committee was informed that the Authority is performing quite well in the region and in Wales in this regard and the importance of quality over quantity was stressed;
- Concern was expressed over the fact that neighbouring Authorities pay more and that this is hampering recruitment. The Committee was informed that officers are working towards bringing the payments to a par and to this end our payments were increased this year and it was hoped to continue to review and increase the payments going forward. There is a variation in the fees paid across Wales and the National Fostering Framework is looking to harmonise these fees;
- Acknowledging that there is quite a difference in the payments made between Authorities, officers were asked if the support provided also differs from Authority to Authority. The Committee was advised that Carmarthenshire offers a lot of emotional support so we retain our foster carers. We put in place a lot of bespoke packages to help our foster carers e.g. help for when children are not in school.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive Board that the report be endorsed.

10. 2017/18 WELLBEING OBJECTIVES PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 3

[NOTE: Councillor G. Jones had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

Members considered a report detailing progress against actions and measures in the 2017/18 Wellbeing Objectives delivery plan relevant to the Committee's remit, as at 31st December, 2017.

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

- Disappointment was expressed that over 50% of the objectives are not reported and concern was expressed that the not reported data appeared in the middle of the off target and on target data. The Children & Schools Information Officer explained that the quarter 4 data was late and was therefore showing as not reported while all quarter 3 data due to be reviewed was included in the report;
- Reference was made to the unforeseen capacity issues referred to in the report and officers were asked if this was to do with the Health Board or Council. The Children & Schools Information Officer advised that the capacity issues relate to both the Health Board and the Authority and officers from both sides are working closely on that.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

11. DIGITAL SCHOOLS STRATEGY 2018-2021

[NOTE: Councillor G. Jones had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Committee considered the Digital Schools Strategy 2018-2021, which was the first ever Digital Schools Strategy for Carmarthenshire which sets out the Authority's vision, underpinned by overarching principles and key priority areas for the provision of ICT Services to schools.

Carmarthenshire's ICT Services Division provides extensive support and services to all schools across the Authority. Schools' use of technology promotes innovative learning by digitally confident students, inspired by skilled and creative teaching. The three year Digital Schools Strategy outlines where the Authority intends to take the ICT provision within schools over the coming years, to ensure that schools have the appropriate technology to deliver the Digital Competence Framework.

The strategy provided clarity on the following areas:-

- why we need a Digital Schools Strategy;
- our digital vision for Carmarthenshire schools;
- our overarching principles for delivering the strategy;
- Carmarthenshire Schools Digital Estate;
- key priority areas:
 - HWB First
 - security of data and online services
 - efficient and effective networks
 - digital schools ad classrooms
- key projects to be delivered

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

- Reference was made to problems being experienced with school children being unable to do their school work online at home any longer. The Strategic Technical Manager explained that children used to click a link to access online modules, however, there were security risks so we had to stop using that system. Officers are currently working on a new system;
- Concern was expressed that a lot of children are being disadvantaged because they do not have ipads and the apps used in schools are not transferrable to android systems and officers were asked whether there are any plans to migrate the two systems. The Committee was advised that officers are working on this issue and it was intended that all apps distributed to the new system, HWB, will be available on multiple platforms;
- Reference was made to the fact that we do not have the same standard of provision with the Welsh and English systems and officers were asked how confident they are that this can be achieved. The Head of ICT conceded that it is a challenge as the big companies who provide systems like Office 365 only do so in English;
- Reference was made to the fact that the strategy refers only to infrastructure and it was felt that an opportunity has been lost in relation to ensuring that staff have the appropriate skills required. The Head of ICT explained that his division is responsible for ensuring that the infrastructure

required to provide the service is there and it is the Education Department which is responsible for the delivery of IT skills to teachers. He added that there is a lot of work being done alongside the strategy to deliver digital competency.

RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive Board that the report be approved.

12. SCHOOL VISITS FEEDBACK REPORT - SPRING 2018

The Committee considered a report providing an overview of the school visits undertaken during the Spring Term 2018.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

13. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Committee noted the reason for the non-submission of the following report:-

- ALN Reform including SEN

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

14. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

Reference was made to the high number of reports to be considered at the meeting to held on 7th June and in view of the fact that an additional meeting has been arranged for 14th May, it was suggested that some items could be considered at that meeting.

RESOLVED

14.1 that the TIC Programme Update and Task & Finish Review 2015/16 Action Plan Monitoring be placed on the agenda of the meeting to be held on 14th March, 2018;

14.2 that the remaining items to be considered at the meeting to be held on 7th June, 2018 be noted.

15. MINUTES - 14TH MARCH, 2018

Reference was made to a question asked at the last meeting under minute number 5 in relation to the £500k allocated for schools and the request for a report on this matter. The Chair advised that officers would prepare a report accordingly which would be included in the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14th March, 2018 be signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the above-mentioned amendment.

CHAIR

DATE