

# Document Pack



Wendy Walters  
Prif Weithredwr,  
Chief Executive,  
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP  
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

**THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2019**

**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,  
SA31 1JP AT 2.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER,  
2019 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED  
ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.**

*Wendy Walters*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**PLEASE RECYCLE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Llinos Jenkins</b>
<b>Telephone (Direct Line):</b>	<b>01267 224088</b>
<b>E-Mail:</b>	<b>LISJenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</b>
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>AD016-001</b>

# 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 – 3 MEMBERS**

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

## **INDEPENDENT GROUP – 2 MEMBERS**

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

## **NEW INDEPENDENT GROUP – 1 MEMBER**

- |    |            |               |
|----|------------|---------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Shahana Najmi |
|----|------------|---------------|

## **UNAFFILIATED – 1 MEMBER**

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

## **NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)**

- |    |                  |                                      |
|----|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs V. Kenny     | Roman Catholic Church Representative |
| 2. | Rev. D. Richards | 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. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19 5 - 92
6. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y DDWYLAN, YSGOL GRIFFITH JONES, YSGOL LLANGYNNWR AND YSGOL LLYS HYWEL 93 - 216
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# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 4 September 2019

### DRAFT - CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19

The Council's draft Annual Report together with the relevant Well-being Objective detailed reports for this Scrutiny.

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

The Council's draft Annual Report

#### Reasons:

1. Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 we must publish an Annual Report on past performance by the end of October each year.
2. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives
3. This will be our second year of reporting on our Well-being Objectives

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES - 23 September 2019**

#### Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:

- Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Aeron Rees	Head of Curriculum and Well-being	01267 246532 <a href="mailto:JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Aneirin Thomas	Head of Education Services and Inclusion	01267 246645 <a href="mailto:ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Stefan Smith	Head of Children's Services	01267 246530 <a href="mailto:SJSmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SJSmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Simon Davies	Head of Access to Education	01267 246471 <a href="mailto:SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> John Buck	Performance and Information Officer	01267 246428 <a href="mailto:JGBuck@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JGBuck@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN

### SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### 4 July 2019

#### Draft Annual Report for 2018/19

- The Council's Annual Report together with the relevant Well-being Objective (WBO) detailed reports for this Scrutiny
- The following sections within the document are relevant to Education and Children's Services Scrutiny:
  - Introduction
  - **WBO 1.** Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences
  - **WBO 2.** Help children live healthy lifestyles
  - **WBO 3.** Continue to Improve learner attainment for all
  - **WBO 4.** Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training
  - Appendices
- *Please Note: The detailed commitment progress updates for **all** the WBOs are available as links within the document at the bottom of each Well-being Objective.*

The report:-

1. Provides an overview of 2018/19 Performance
2. Provides two page progress reports for all 15 Well-being Objectives
3. A link to track detailed progress on every specific action and target set for each Well-being Objective.

#### **Note**

- The statutory publication deadline for this report is the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

# IMPLICATIONS

We 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:**

Aeron Rees	Head of Learner Programmes
Andi Morgan	Head of School Effectiveness
Stefan Smith	Head of Children's Services
Simon Davies	Head of Access to Education

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	No	No	No	No

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

To comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (WbFG) Act 2015, we must (in carrying out sustainable development) :-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set and publish well-being objectives</li> <li>Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives</li> <li>Publish a statement about well-being objectives</li> </ul>	Corporate Strategy update published – June 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish an annual report of progress</li> </ul>	This will be accomplished by the enclosed Annual Report

Only when a public body can demonstrate it has taken into account the sustainable development principle in the setting, taking steps and meeting of its well-being objectives will it be compliant with the Act. Public bodies may take other matters into account when making their decisions, but in order to comply with the Act they **must** take into account the 5 ways of working.

1. Long term
2. Integrated
3. Involving
4. Collaborative
5. Preventative

## 2. Legal

We have to publish our Annual Report by the 31<sup>st</sup> October to comply with the Local Government Measure 2009

## 3. Finance

Well-being Objective 15 - Building a Better Council and Making Better use of Resources covers financial matters.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

**Signed:**

Aeron Rees	Head of Learner Programmes
Andi Morgan	Head of School Effectiveness
Stefan Smith	Head of Children's Services
Simon Davies	Head of Access to Education

## 1. Local Member(s)

## 2. Community / Town Council

## 3. Relevant Partners

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - All Departments have been consulted and have had the opportunity to provide comments on their performance and progress.

Public Consultation:

As in previous years we consulted with the public on the set of Well-being Objectives as part of budget consultation.

Analysis of the results showed agreement for the objectives.

## 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
The Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009		<a href="#">Welsh Government\Final part 1 guidance</a>
Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. SPSF2:Individual Public Body Role		<a href="#">SPSF2:Individual Public Body Role</a>
Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next five years		<a href="#">Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next five years.</a>
The Council's New Corporate Strategy June 2018-2023		<a href="#">The Council's New Corporate Strategy June 2018-2023</a>

# Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire

## The Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2023

# Annual Report 2018/19



The following sections within the document are relevant to this Scrutiny:

- **Introduction**
- **WBO 1.** Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences
- **WBO 2.** Help children live healthy lifestyles
- **WBO 3.** Continue to Improve learner attainment for all
- **WBO 4.** Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training
- **Appendices**

## Welcome from the Leader of the Council

To follow ...

**Councillor Emlyn Dole**  
**Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council**

We welcome constructive comments on our strategies and services. Feedback from customers and service users is essential in identifying opportunities for improvement and we hope that if you have any comments or suggestions that you believe would help that you will share them with us. Please contact us at:

**Listening to You**, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall,  
Carmarthen SA31 1JP or email at [ListeningToYou@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ListeningToYou@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**Cllr Emlyn Dole**  
Leader



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<b>Appendix 5</b>	<b>Regulatory Reports</b>	<b>Enclosed</b>



# Introduction

In June 2018, we published a New Corporate Strategy for 2018-23. This document is an Annual Report that examines our progress in the first year 2018/19 of the strategy.

It is produced by the Council because we believe we should provide comprehensive and balanced information to the public about our services, so that they can see how we are performing and the challenges we are facing. It is also a statutory duty under the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

## Working with Partners

As a Council we are not alone in working to improve the lives of Carmarthenshire's citizens. We are collaborating with other public bodies. We have set up a Public Sector Board and this partnership has published a [Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan](#). All the separate public bodies in the partnership published their own Well-being Objectives last year and we will be working to meet many common objectives.

## Equality and Diversity

**Strategic Equality Plans** (SEPs) are important documents that set out how public bodies will consider the needs of groups with protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010. This is intended to ensure that all individuals receive just and equitable treatment in respect of service delivery and strategy/policy formulation. Carmarthenshire County Council's SEP includes three key themes which look at our role as an employer, a service provider and a community leader. Under those three themes are six strategic objectives. A detailed [Action Plan](#) has been prepared to demonstrate how we will meet those Objectives.

During the year, our work with external protected groups has continued to grow and our partnership with community groups has strengthened. The Carmarthenshire Disability Partnership, chaired by the Executive Board Disability Champion has continued to develop, with a key aim of making sure that services delivered by the Council meet the needs of disabled people throughout the county. During the year, we have also worked closely with other public sector organisations to present and discuss key consultations such as the Transforming Clinical Services Programme.



**Welsh Language** (also, please see *Well-being Objective 14*)



We are continuing to implement the Welsh Language Standards across the Council. A great deal of internal communication has been done across the organisation and key messages were conveyed to staff at various opportunities, including the internal staff roadshows. Meeting staff face to face and discussing any issues that arise in their daily work is key in the success of the Standards. The opportunity was also taken to promote the online audio clips, glossaries, videos and new templates as well as promoting the variety of courses available to learn or improve Welsh.
















During the year, we have developed a positive working relationship with the National Centre for Learning Welsh and staff have been able to access various opportunities such as Intensive and Residential Courses. Our Learning and Development Advisor (Welsh language) leads on this work and close liaison is maintained with the Policy and Partnership team, Managers, Heads of Service and our learners. The officer has increased the opportunities available to staff by researching and delivering a variety of courses that meet the different needs of our staff.











The County Strategic Forum, which is led by the Council and includes representation from the county's language promotion organisations, as well as public bodies with language policy officers, has also continued its role in developing a programme of promoting the Welsh language in the county and has contributed extensively to the preparation of the Promotion Strategy for Carmarthenshire, in line with the Promotion Standard.

# A summary of our Key Success Measures

See *Appendix 2* for comparative ranking of performance

The Council is working with local, regional and national partners to improve the following measures.  
Key -  Better result than previously /  Worse result than previously

Start Well	1. <i>Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.</i> <i>More detail on page 14</i>	<b>10.4%</b> of children in care who had to <b>move 3 or more times</b> 	
	 <b>26.6%</b> of children are <b>overweight or obese</b> <i>More detail on page 16</i>	2. <i>Help children live healthy lifestyles.</i> <i>More detail on page 16</i>	
	3. <i>Continue to improve learner attainment for all.</i> <i>More detail on page 18</i>	 <b>363.1</b> is the <b>average score (best 9 exam results)</b> for Year 11 pupils	
	<b>1.8%</b> year 11 pupils are <b>Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</b> 	4. <i>Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training.</i> <i>More detail on page 20</i>	
	5. <i>Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work &amp; improve the lives of those living in poverty.</i> <i>More detail on page 24</i>	<b>35.5%</b> of households living in poverty 	
Live Well	<b>419</b> Jobs created 	6. <i>Create more jobs and growth throughout the county.</i> <i>More detail on page 26</i>	
	7. <i>Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.</i> <i>More detail on page 28</i>	 <b>247</b> Additional Affordable Homes	
	<b>TBC%</b> of Adults who say their <b>general health is Good or Very Good</b> 	8. <i>Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity).</i> <i>More detail on page 30</i>	

Age Well	<p>9. <i>Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities.</i></p> <p><i>More detail on page 34</i></p>	<p><b>TBC%</b></p> <p>Of adults felt they had a <b>sense of community</b></p> 	
	 <p><b>TBC%</b></p> <p>Agree there's a <b>good social care service available</b> in their area</p>	<p>10. <i>Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years.</i></p> <p><i>More detail on page 36</i></p>	
	<p>11. <i>A Council wide approach to support Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire.</i></p> <p><i>More detail on page 38</i></p>	<p><b>16.6%</b> of people are <b>lonely</b></p>	
In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	<p>Our recycle rate is <b>58.94%</b></p> 	<p>12. <i>Look after the environment now and for the future.</i></p> <p><i>More detail on page 42</i></p>	
	<p>13. <i>Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.</i></p> <p><i>More detail on page 44</i></p>	<p><b>Roads that are in poor condition:</b></p>  <p><b>5.2%</b> of our A Class</p> <p><b>4.2%</b> of our B Class</p> <p><b>12.5%</b> of our C Class</p>	
	 <p>We have <b>TBC%</b> of people who can speak Welsh</p>	<p>14. <i>Promote Welsh Language and Culture.</i></p> <p><i>More detail on page 46</i></p>	
	<p>15. <i>Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources.</i></p> <p><i>More detail on page 50</i></p>	 <p><b>9.8</b> staff sick days per year</p>	

### Citizen Satisfaction



#### [National Survey for Wales](#)

The 2018/19 National Survey for Wales data will be published in June/July 2019



[Link to Welsh Government's National Survey for Wales](#)

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## Public Accountability Measures

There is also a **National suite of measures** that all councils in Wales have to collect - [See Appendix 4](#)




There are two main ways of measuring improvement:-

- Year on year improvement
- How we compare with other Authorities in Wales

### Year on Year Improvement

During 2018/19, **36%** of our measures improved while **61%** have declined. It has been increasingly difficult to sustain improvement as measured by these PI due to sustained budget reductions and increased demand and expectations.

The table below shows year on year results

Year	 Improved	 Constant	 Declined	Net Difference (Improved - Declined)
2018/19	36% (12 measures)	3% (1 measure)	61% (20 measures)	-25%
2017/18	64% (16 measures)	0% (0 measures)	36% (9 measures)	28%
2016/17	65% (17 measures)	4% (1 measure)	31% (8 measures)	34%
2015/16	57.5% (23 measures)	17.5% (7 measures)	25% (10 measures)	32.5%
2014/15	56% (24 measures)	14% (6 measures)	30% (13 measures)	26%
2013/14	59% (26 measures)	11% (5 measures)	30% (13 measures)	29%

### How we compare with other Authorities in Wales

This data will be available in September 2019



WALES AUDIT OFFICE  
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

**The 2018/19 Annual Improvement Report is expected in June 2019.**

During the year the Wales Audit Office issued a number of reports on Council Services and these are listed in **Appendix 5**

During the year there was also a report on one of our Well-being Objectives. It found:-

***'The Council has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle in setting the 'step' and has effectively taken account of the five ways of working in the actions it is taking to deliver it'***

*Wales Audit Office – Feb. 2019*

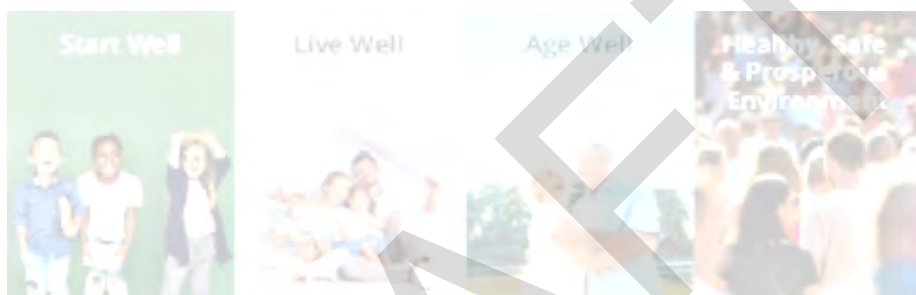
Well-being of Future Generations An examination of 'Start Well-Help children to live healthy lifestyles'



TBC



TBC



# Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment

## Start Well



## Live Well



## Age Well



## Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment



## Well-being Objectives

**1.** Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.

**2.** Help children live healthy lifestyles.

**3.** Continue to improve learner attainment for all.

**4.** Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training.

**5.** Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work & improving the lives of those living in poverty.

**6.** Creating more jobs and growth throughout the county.

**7.** Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.

**8.** Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity).

**9.** Supporting good connections with friends, family and safer communities.

**10.** Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity & independence in their later years.

**11.** A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire.

**12.** Looking after the environment now and for the future.

**13.** Improving the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.

**14.** Promoting Welsh language and culture.

**15.** Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources



# Start Well





## Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

### The number of children Looked After has continued to reduce

We have one of the lowest number of Looked After Children in Wales. Preventative teams such as Family Support service and Edge of Care Team have been re-designed to focus on working intensively with families and children to try and avoid the need for statutory intervention whenever possible. Systemic practice incorporating Signs of Safety model is embedding in our child care teams. The revised Families First programme, comprising 13 projects, has been delivering a range of activities in partnership with other agencies with an aim of preventing, and mitigating the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Full roll-out of the 30 hours of free childcare offer commenced in January 2019.

### Why it is important

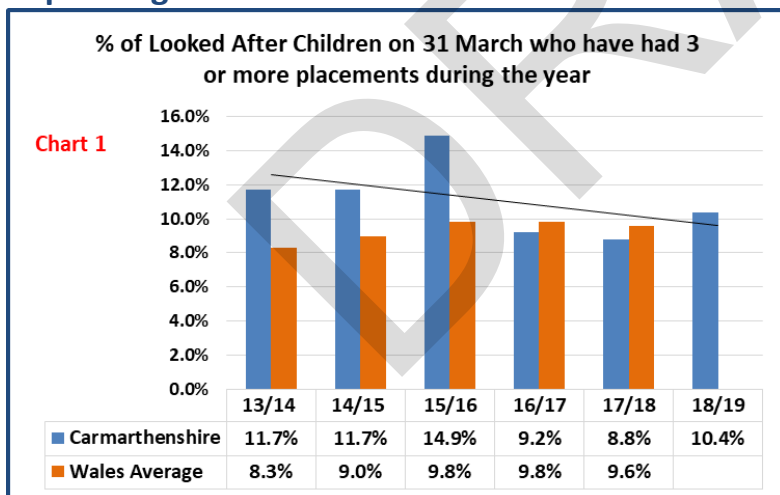
- Because giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing inequalities across the life course
- Early intervention is key to long term health and well-being. What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status
- Because Looked After Children (LAC) are more likely to have been exposed to multiple risks associated with poor long term outcomes before entering care

### Success Measure

**10.4%** of children in care who had to move 3 or more times

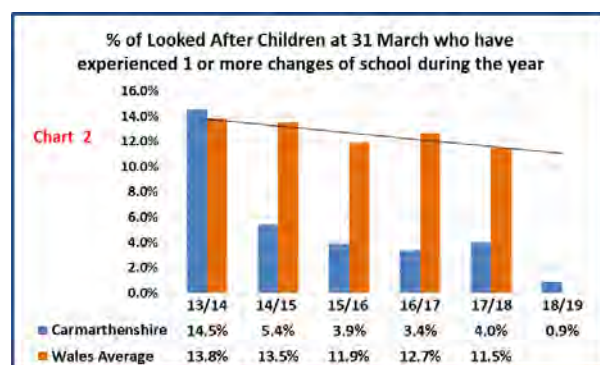


### Explaining the Results



We have seen a slight dip in performance this year with 19 children having moved 3 or more times compared to 17 during 2017/18. However, it shows an overall improvement of 4.5% since 15/16. *(See Chart 1)*

School stability is also an important factor in improving outcomes, and it is important to note that Looked After children in Carmarthenshire experience significantly fewer school moves than anywhere else in Wales – 0.9% during 2018/19 (better than Wales average 11.5% 2017/18) *(See Chart 2)*



In the **long-term** our focus is on prevention and maintaining children at home with families and out of the care system wherever possible, as well as providing extra resources for foster carers to support the children in their care to avoid the need to move wherever possible.



## Progress Made

- ⦿ **30 hours free childcare offer** will be a significant savings for many Carmarthenshire families. To date **557** applications received from Carmarthenshire parents/carers, **180** Carmarthenshire Childcare providers have signed contracts, and **£172,640.25** in payments has been administered to local childcare providers since implementation.
- ⦿ We are continuing to implement the **Team Around the Family (TAF)** approach across the county for 0-25 year olds. The Eligibility document regarding thresholds and access to TAF services has been completed. The new JAFF, and the new TAF-in-Schools project have also commenced implementation since April 2019.
- ⦿ **9291 individuals** received support from **Families First (FF)** projects during 2018-19. From April 2019 FF programme will be included with 6 other funding streams under the Children & Communities Grant (CCG).
- ⦿ **Flying Start** service is being fully delivered across 18 areas, covering 768 postcodes within Carmarthenshire. FS Health Visitors are delivering the healthy child Wales Programme (HCWP) through a multi-disciplinary approach.
- ⦿ **Attachment awareness** training has been provided to all 73 schools that have looked after children, and is being embedded as part of the core training within the 'behaviour transformation programme' in schools.
- ⦿ An active consultation group for care experienced children called ECHOES, run jointly with Voices from Care and Children's Services have developed the 2019 Corporate Parenting Strategy.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS FESTIVAL OF CELEBRATION

In the company of council officers, a number of children and young people received an award for their academic success, artwork, sporting and volunteering contributions. A young person compered the event very effectively and a special talk was given.



Executive Board Member  
For Education & Children  
Cllr Glynog Davies



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective



## Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2018/19

Last Year's Commitments		Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<b>A - Supporting families</b>			
We will ensure the Council fully responds and delivers key childcare and play requirements moving towards delivering 30 hours of free education and care for working parents. (Ref 13091) MF5-41	✓	The roll-out of the <b>childcare offer</b> has commenced in Carmarthenshire since January 2019. The families of 2,735 - 3 and 4 year olds in Carmarthenshire will be eligible, which is excellent news for eligible working parents and carers throughout the County. Family Information, Childcare and Play Team are monitoring registration and offering additional support where necessary to encourage providers. Promotion work is on-going.	E&CS
We will continue to develop the Flying Start programme, promoting early intervention for disadvantaged families with children (0-3) living in specific deprived communities, ensuring good multi agency support to families across the spectrum of need by developing clear pathways with internal and external partners. (Ref 13092) MF5-82	✓	Flying Start service is now being fully delivered across 18 areas, covering 768 postcodes within Carmarthenshire. The FS health visitors are delivering the Healthy child Wales Programme (HCWP) through a multi-disciplinary approach. A range of engagement groups are being delivered in the community to promote positive parenting and children's language development.	E&CS
We will continue to provide attachment awareness training in schools to ensure they are able to meet the emotional needs of vulnerable children. (Ref 13093)	✓	<b>Attachment awareness</b> training has been provided to all 73 schools that have looked after children, and an authority wide training programme is in place and is being embedded as part of the core training within phase one of the 'behaviour transformation programme' in schools.	E&CS
We will continue to transform children's social work practice by embedding and developing the systemic model of working (within Pod's), combining cohesively with Signs of Safety, including Disability and Fostering Services. (Ref 13094)	✓	Changes to forms and processes have been made to support the development of systemic practice. 6 week development sessions and Pod leader forums take place regularly and provide opportunities to share learning, skills and knowledge. A working group has also been formed to help ensure systemic practice is integrated with Signs of Safety to be as effective and consistent as possible. Regular training takes place.	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<p>We will implement the re-commissioned Families First (FF) programme (0-25yrs) incorporating the changes in response to Welsh Government Guidance, in delivering early intervention support services for disadvantaged children, young people and families across the county. (Ref 13095)</p>	<p>✓ 9291 individuals received support from FF projects during the year. The revised programme consists of 13 projects, under three key areas: Parenting support, support for young people and disability support. There has also been a number of changes including the Family Support Worker project being replaced by the new Family Support &amp; Schools project. Families First has been working in partnership with Supporting People to develop a joint specification for Domestic Abuse. From April 2019 FF programme will be included with 6 other funding streams under the Children &amp; Communities Grant (CCG) which will help improve and integrate service delivery.</p>	<p>E&amp;CS</p>
<p>We will continue to implement and consolidate the 'MACSE' (Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation) model, and ensure we are conforming to regional thresholds and multi-agency arrangements. (Ref 13096)</p>	<p>✓ Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) remains a key priority issue both locally and regionally and a number of events have continued throughout the year. Carmarthenshire ensures CSE is on the agenda of local meetings internally and multi-agency. Specific MACSE meetings are continuing to consider children and young people who are at moderate and significant risk of CSE. CSE is included in all basic safeguarding training to ensure all staff have a broad understanding of the issues. Carmarthenshire is part of a Barnardo's pilot in respect of CSE, and in regards to the regional action plan.</p>	<p>E&amp;CS</p>
<p>We will continue to extend the Team Around the Family (TAF) approach across the county for 0-25 year olds, clarifying thresholds to help inform families and other agencies to ensure they are able to access the right help at the right time. (Ref 13097)</p>	<p>✓ This year has seen a number of developments come to fruition. The threshold document continues to be embedded. The new JAFF is operational from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The new TAF-in-Schools project has a co-ordinator and three full-time workers and induction underway. Links are maintained with children's services teams along with Education and Flying Start to ensure families receive the right support at the right time. A Task and Finish group is developing the school Behaviour Support Plan for the future.</p>	<p>E&amp;CS</p>
<p>We will review our Corporate parenting strategy taking into account new guidance on the responsibility of the whole council as corporate parents. (Ref 13098) MF5-40</p>	<p>✓ A group of care experienced young people are developing the new strategy with the support of the Corporate Parenting Team and Voices From Care. They have met with a range of senior leaders and been part of Welsh Government Consultation. The new strategy is 70% complete and young people hope to have the strategy finalised over the summer holidays.</p>	<p>E&amp;CS</p>



Last Year's Commitments		Progress Comment	Scrutiny
We will increase the % attendance of eligible 2-3 year olds at an allocated Flying Start free childcare placement to prepare for school readiness. (9.1.8.1) (2017/18 Result - 77% / 2018/19 Target - 80%)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result - 79.2%.</b> Disappointing as extremely close to reaching the target but it has improved on the 2017/18 result of 77%. We have recently reviewed our attendance policy and de-registration processes and we will continue to work alongside childcare providers and health visitors to increase the attendance rates in the settings.	E&CS
We will reduce the % of unauthorised absence of eligible 2-3 year olds at an allocated Flying Start free childcare placement to prepare for school readiness. (9.1.8.8) (2017/18 Result - 3.60% / 2018/19 Target - 3.55%)	✓	<b>2018/19 Result – 2.59%.</b> This has exceeded our target and shows an improvement on our previous year's result of 3.6%.	E&CS
As part of the new Social Services and Well-Being Act, children are asked whether they are satisfied with the care and support they've received. (PAM/027) (2017/18 Result - 80.7% were satisfied with 2.4% saying they were not / 2018/19 Target - 81.9% or above)	✓	<b>2018/19 Result – 84.6% were satisfied.</b> A total of 461 questionnaires were sent out to children between the ages of 7-17 years who are in receipt of social care services. 71 were returned (15.4%). 84.6% of children reported being satisfied with their 'care and support'. Just 4.6% (3 children) were not satisfied with their care and support). We are pleased to have exceeded our target (81.9%) and last year's result (80.7%).	E&CS
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. (SCC/32) (2017/18 result - 4.0%/2018/19 Target - 4.0%)	✓	<b>2018/19 Result - 0.9%.</b> We continue to perform well in this measure. Efforts are made to maintain stability wherever possible by ensuring a child remains in the same school, however, this is not always in the best interest of a child e.g. distance to travel or child's academic needs not being met Please note that the % result will fluctuate depending on the number of compulsory school aged Looked After Children at the end of each period – lower the number the higher the % result.	E&CS
We aim to reduce the % of children in care who had to move 3 or more times (PAM/029) (2017/18 result - 8.8% / 2018/19 Target - 8.3%)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result - 10.4%.</b> It's disappointing that target of 8.3% has not been met and the result is higher than previous year. However the number of looked after children has decreased in Carmarthenshire to 183 and is one of the best in Wales. The reduction in the number of Looked After Children has affected and impacted on our baseline figures. Some reasons for placement moves include:- emergency/alternative placements for unaccompanied asylum seekers all having different and cultural needs, siblings requiring emergency/more experienced placements due to high level of need requiring support from Child & Adolescent	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments		Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		Mental Health Service, a baby with great medical needs etc. The department will continue to review and improve placement stability through the accommodation panel. Robust placement support meetings will ensure carers are well supported and the children placed in their care can be maintained safely with additional resources.	
We shall increase the percentage of child assessments completed in time (PAM/028) (2017/18 Result - 89.7%/2018/19 Target - 90%)	x	<b>2018/19 Result 87.2%.</b> This is off target and showing a decline compared to the previous year. Staffing issues have existed in one of the assessment teams which have influenced the completion of assessments within timescales but these have now been resolved. Service Managers take regular monthly audits with feedback being given to respective managers and personnel. Any themes or trends highlighted by the audits are incorporated into practice development sessions with managers and workforce.	E&CS
We shall ensure that supported children remain living within their family wherever possible (SCC/25) (2017/18 Result - 81.5% / 2018/19 Target - 82.0%)	✓	<b>82.3%</b> of children were supported to remain living with their family during 2018/19. This is on target and improved on the previous year.	E&CS
We shall ensure that looked after children are returned home from care as quickly and safely as possible (SCC/26) (2017/18 Result - 22.7% / 2018/19 Target - 23.0%)	x	<b>19.8%</b> of looked after children returned home from care during 2018/19, this is less than we were hoping for and below the previous year, but is well above the Wales Average for 2017/18 of 10.5%. On a positive note, the number of young people who have been able to remain with their foster carers under the <i>When I Am Ready</i> arrangements after turning 18 has increased from 7 (17/18) to 13 this year. Adoptions of children have also risen from 4 (17/18) to 13 (18/19).	E&CS
We shall keep the % of re-registrations of children on local authority Child Protection Registers (CPR) to a minimum (SCC/27) (2017/18 Result - 0.7% / 2018/19 Target - 6.0%)	x	<b>2018/19 Result 6.3%.</b> This is off target and has increased on the previous year. Past performance has proved quite extreme with End of Year results 16/17 = 10.4% and 17/18 = 0.7, therefore, predictions for performance and target setting have been difficult to gauge. All Wales 17/18 result = 5.4% The number of registrations during 2018/19 have decreased from 138 (17/18) to 126. We have been working with families to reduce risk and ensure safety plans are being managed effectively across the signs of safety model of working together with systemic practice and family network meetings at an early stage. Preventative work with families and involvement of resources such as the	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments		Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		Intensive Family Support and Edge of Care Teams may also have attributed to this Re-registration reasons were deterioration in parental mental health; domestic abuse/parental mental health; parent involved in drug culture relapse of parental substance misuse and an on-going investigation regarding possible non accidental injury, child in care of relative. We will continue to work with children and families under the Signs of Safety model of working together with systemic practice and holding family network meetings at an early stage. Preventative work with families and involvement of resources such as the Intensive Family Support and Edge of Care Teams will also carry on.	
We shall reduce the average length of time for all children who were on the Child Protection Register during the year (SCC/28) (2017/18 Result - 213.1 days / 2018/19 Target - 211.2 days)	x	<b>2018/19 Result 262.4 days.</b> This is off target and has increased on the previous year. This measure looks at those children removed from the Child Protection Register during the year. The number of children removed from the child protection register has increased from 108 (2017/18) to 143 (2018/19) which is positive. However, this has also impacted on the number of registration days as 35 extra children are included in the cohort compared to the same period last year We have been and will continue to work with families to reduce risk and ensure safety plans are being managed effectively across the signs of safety model of working together with systemic practice and family network meetings. We will also continue on preventative work with families and the involvement of Intensive Family Support and Edge of Care Teams. Figures are very small and fluctuations can significantly influence the end result.	E&CS
<b>B – Additional Learning Needs</b>			
We shall ensure the Council fully responds and complies with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs transformation programme which aims to transform expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people by developing a unified system for supporting learners with additional needs from 0 to 25 years of age. (Ref 13099) MF5-39	✓	In response to the Regional Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Transformation Plan we have created a Local ALN Transformation Implementation Plan. This Plan is monitored by the Strategic ALN Transformation Plan Group.	E&CS
We will continue to delegate Additional Learning Needs (ALN) funding to schools and support them to map provision and meet all needs at a local level. We will consider future	✓	An electronic provision mapping tool has been developed and training for roll out to schools is planned. The LA consulted with primary schools on a revised ALN Formula	E&CS



Last Year's Commitments		Progress Comment	Scrutiny
moves to develop a national needs-based school funding formula for ALN. (Ref 13100)		Funding model which has been agreed and adopted.	
We will continue to support schools to develop their person centred planning approaches to identify need, deliver personalised additional learning provision and provide holistic integrated responses through multi-agency working. (Ref 13101)	✓	A new cohort of 20 school-based Person Centred Planning (PCP) Coaches have been selected for training and will be mentored in PCP practice. A programme of training for PCP Champions and Coaches, including a range of school staff, has ensured schools use PCP approaches to identify ALN early, deliver personalised Additional Learning Provision and through the use of One Page Profiles and Individual Development Plans provide holistic integrated responses through multi-agency working.	E&CS
We will continue to develop Individual Development Plans to meet all needs at all stages. (Ref 13102)	✓	We have developed Individual Development Plan (IDP) templates and guidance to meet all needs at all stages. Following joint working with IT, templates will be held as a document file on pupil files on Teacher Centre (Schools Information Management System). The Regional ALN task and finish group will continue to meet to develop IDPs to meet all needs at all stages.	E&CS
We will monitor, evaluate and celebrate achievements at key milestones of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) reform, especially the assessment and evaluation framework to provide schools with the confidence to innovate. (Ref 13103)	✓	We participated in the Welsh Government's (WG) Strategic Implementation Group on the mechanism for transfer of IDP to Local Authority's and also on developing the ALN Code. Participated in WG Innovation grant update. LA sharing WG's work around impact assessments for specific area of need with Head teachers and ALN Coordinator's. We have consulted with all stakeholders on the ALN Code which gives schools the confidence that the new ALN Code will support innovation.	E&CS
We will review workforce data in relation to a range of support services, e.g. Educational and Child Psychology, Sensory Impairment support and Advisory Teachers, to ensure support for low incidence high-complexity needs and high incidence low complexity needs. (Ref 13104)	✓	Workforce data has been reviewed. We have identified a Teacher of the Deaf and a Teacher of children and young people (CTP) with multi-sensory impairment to undertake training to gain a specialist advanced mandatory qualification to effectively meet the needs of sensory impairment CYP in the Authority. This is currently being undertaken. Support services are being strengthened by increasing key staff, e.g. a Family Liaison Officer. A Growth bid has provided additional resources to increase workforce capacity in the areas of ALN Transformation, family liaison and support for school-based capacity building.	E&CS



## Well-being Objective 2

### Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

#### Obesity in children in Carmarthenshire is reducing

The obesity rate in Carmarthenshire is at its lowest point for four years. This remains a long term invest to save objective ensuring the long term health of children.

#### Why it is important

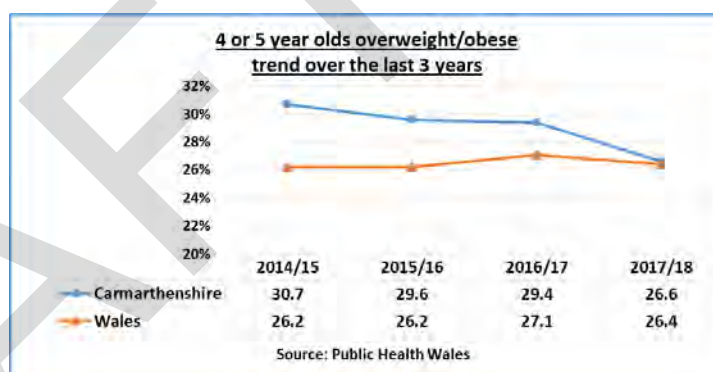
- The [Play Sufficiency Assessment](#) identified playing outside as the most popular setting for children but also found that 32% of parents worried about their child's safety.
- Assessment engagement activity with primary school children showed being physically active to be the second most important factor for the positive well-being of children.
- Living healthy lives allows children to fulfil their potential and meet education aspirations.
- Habits established early in life remain with people to allow them to play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.

#### Success Measure

**26.6%** of children are overweight or obese



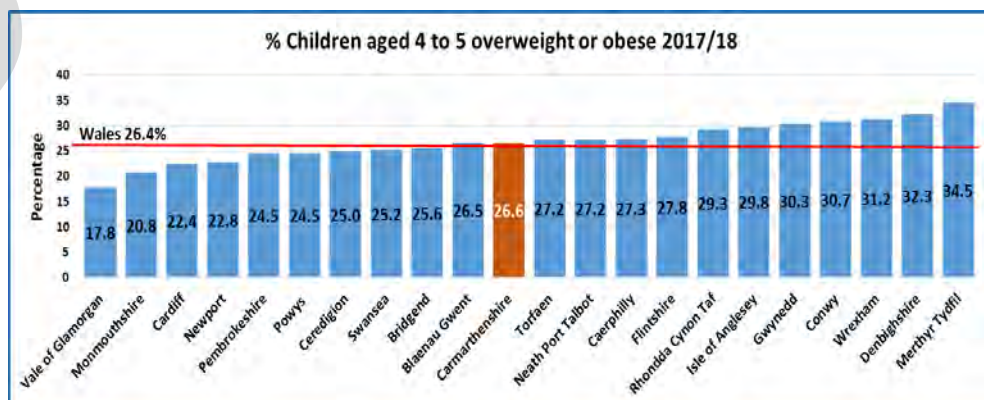
(An improvement on the previous year)



#### Explaining the Results

[Public Health Wales](#) (PHW) NHS Trust published its data on the 2017/18 Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales which contains findings of the programme of child measurements carried out with children attending reception class in schools in Wales. 93.2% of eligible children participated in the programme in Carmarthenshire with 94.1% in Wales.

- There has been a downward trend in the **% of overweight or obese** children aged 4 to 5 in Carmarthenshire over the last 4 years. From **30.7%** in 2014/15 to **26.6%** in 2017/18 and moved from 3<sup>rd</sup> highest to 11<sup>th</sup> highest in Wales. The gap between us and the Welsh average has closed and currently just above the figure of 26.6%.



- The proportion of children who are **obese** has reduced slightly from 14% in 2016/17 to **13%** in 2017/18.
- Obesity in childhood often persists into adult life, leading to related health problems like type 2 diabetes, liver disease, higher rates of heart disease, and some cancers.

## Progress Made

- ⦿ The **Healthy Schools Scheme** is now in its 15th year with 100% of schools now on board with the scheme. During this academic year a total of 9 schools were successful in completing another phase of the scheme and were presented with their awards at the Annual Healthy Schools Award Ceremony. 109 schools have achieved phase 1; 106 schools have achieved phase 2; 101 schools have achieved phase 3; 72 schools have achieved phase 4; 37 schools have achieved phase 5; 2 school, Parc y Tywyn and Nantgaredig, has achieve Phase 6; 2 schools, Nantgaredig and Peniel, have achieved the National Quality Award.
- ⦿ Training delivered to pupils includes; 70 Year 12 pupils attended the 2 day Sexual Health and Relationships Educator training course which is delivered annually by the Healthy Schools team in partnership with the Local Senior Sexual Health Nurse; 145 Year 5 and Year 6 pupils were trained as Playground buddies during this academic year by the Healthy Schools Team. As a result 2 schools within the Authority were commended by ESTYN in their inspection reports for implementing the scheme due to its positive impact on the well-being of its pupils. The Playground Buddy Scheme continues to work very well in schools by reducing levels of loneliness, low level conflict and increased levels of feeling safe amongst pupils.
- ⦿ 104 delegates attended a Well-being Conference delivered by the Healthy Schools Team in order to raise awareness on the importance of **Mental & Emotional Health** of both pupils and staff and its impact on performance.
- ⦿ Actif Sport & Leisure view the Sports Ambassador programme as key way of developing **physical activity** opportunities in schools and the community investing time to encourage young people to be 'Hooked on Sport for Life'. Offering the full ambassador pathway from bronze to platinum, Actif Sport & Leisure increased the number of participants from 75000 in 2016/17 to 107615, with 2000 active hours increasing to 3045 active hours in 2017/18. 95 Primary schools out of 98 and all 12 secondary schools are currently delivering the ambassador programme and each year the success of the programme is celebrated with all volunteers

### Carmarthenshire's Outdoor School Scheme



Executive Board Member  
For Education & Children  
Cllr Glynog Davies



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective





## Well-being Objective 2

### Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2018/19.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<b>A - Increase physical activities for children</b>			
We will work with Town & Community Councils and other community organisations to look at ways to invest in upgrading Local leisure provisions (Ref 13105) Part of MF5-71	✓	Service continues to work closely with Town and Community Council and community groups to access potential funding for improved community facilities. A number of S106 receipts have been utilised to improve local facilities e.g. new playground at Burry Port Harbour; new playground at Llyn Llech Owain Country	COMM
Through the Healthy Schools Scheme we will continue to increase the level of physical activity by developing the Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Project, continue to hold our annual Pedometer Challenge and continue to embed the Food & Fitness Health topic within Schools. (Ref 13106)	✓	The Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Award Ceremony was held on the 27th of June 2018 at the National Botanical Garden of Wales. A further 12 schools are now on board the Carmarthenshire Outdoor Schools Scheme (CODS) for 2018-2019. A CODS Steering Group meeting was held in December and a Presentation regarding CODS was delivered to Key Stage 2 Co-ordinators during a KS2 Co-ordinators training day which was held during the Autumn Term. 25 schools have taken part on the Pedometer Challenge and submitted their results on the 20th of July, 2018. The winning school received 2 physical activity packs, in which the school council must decide how to use the equipment effectively in order to increase Physical Activity levels. The latest Healthy Eating Regulations and exemplar Food and Fitness Policy has been given to schools during Cluster Meetings through the Spring and Summer terms.	E&CS
We will continue to work towards addressing the gaps identified in our most recent Play Sufficiency Assessment (2016-2019) in order to ensure that local children and young people have access to wide and varied play opportunities and experiences including the potential of utilising school grounds, outside of teaching hours. (Ref 13107)	✓	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Play Sufficiency Assessment was submitted to Welsh Government on 31/3/19. Carmarthenshire has been allocated £162,250 via the All Wales Play Opportunities Grant most of which to be used to address the gaps identified within the last Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan. All new schools are designed to enable access to school outside of teaching hours.	E&CS
We shall increase the % of children who can swim 25m aged 11 (3.4.2.1) (2017/18 Result 77.3% / 2018/19 Target - 80%)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result- 63.3%</b> The charge applied to school swimming is having more of a detrimental effect than we anticipated. Schools are finding it difficult to	COMM

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		find money within their budget to pay for school swimming so are being more selective in who they are bringing to the pool and for how long. The impact of this is that children have less time during their primary school years attending school swimming lessons. The costs of transporting children from the school to the pool also plays a significant part in affordability of the lessons. We are making a concerted effort to identify children that are not on our after school programme and have not met the criteria to contact these parents and offer structured swimming sessions during holidays. We use the free swim funding allocated from Welsh Government via Sport Wales to fund these	
We shall maintain the number of young people (0-16) accessing free swim sessions (3.4.2.2) (2017/18 Result 9,351 /2017/18 Target 9,819)	✓	20,373 less people (0-16) accessed free swim sessions during 2018/19. This is mainly due to improved data collection. Which was done by training staff and introducing an awareness programme as to how important it is to collect this data and the implications of better recording.	COMM
We shall increase the number of attendances at Sporting Opportunities facilitated by Sport & Leisure Officers (3.4.2.8) (2017/18 Result - 235,457 / 2018/19 Target 247,230)	✗	233,747 attended Sporting Opportunities facilitated by Sport & Leisure Officers during 2018/19. This is below our target and a less than the previous year. This is due to reduction in available officer time due to unplanned long term sick (both now back in post), however there an increase in voluntary delivery via the ambassador programme has shown increased participation in schools.	COMM
<b>B – Address mental health</b>			
Through the Healthy School Scheme we will continue to support schools in their implementation of the Mental & Emotional Health and Well-being Health topic including Anti-bullying strategies and healthy coping mechanisms such as mindfulness and Speakr. (Ref 13108)	✓	The scheme continues to update its Network on HWB, where useful resources and exemplar policies regarding issues such as 'Bullying' have been placed. Schools are provided with termly Health Calendars informing them of which Mental Health Campaigns will occur during that particular term etc. This is done during termly cluster meetings. A Healthy Schools Co-ordinators Training Day was delivered on the 7.3.19. The focus of the training day was placed on Mental & Emotional Health and Well-being. Several specialist providers within this area delivered workshops during the training day. These specialist included the Samaritans who delivered a workshop regarding the support services they can provide to schools, to staff, pupils and their	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		families regarding issues such as suicide and suicide prevention. Gwylan UK LTD delivered a workshop emphasising the importance and effectiveness of the 'Pause Points' programme within schools as well as the '5 Ways of Well-being'. Emyr Brown from Browns IT Consultancy also delivered a workshop regarding the 'Speakr' tool and its benefits on improving pupil well-being. Schools who are currently implementing effective Well-being practices such as 'Speakr' and Pause Points also shared their good practice with other schools. Evaluations regarding the event were very positive.	
<b>C – Promote healthy eating</b>			
We will seek to further develop healthy eating in schools, beyond statutory Welsh Government regulations. (Ref 13109)	✓	We continue to work on the menu, to ensure better, more nutritious choices, whilst remaining within budget. We continue to work with Secondary schools to get the balance right, food pupils wish to purchase while remaining healthy and nutritional. With Primary schools we have completely eliminated bought in puddings and all are home-made, except ice cream and yoghurt.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
We will seek to increase take-up of school meals (including free school meals). (Ref 13110)	✓	As we continue to implement online payments in schools, we are using this tool to promote school meals along with our current methods. Theme days are promoted, and parents can see an actual photo of the meal we produce for each day. A new menu will be implemented after Summer half term. We use the authority's media wherever possible. The price of a school meal is to remain the same.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
We shall continue to ensure that schools are abiding by the Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards & Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013, during cluster meetings, schools visits and assessments. (Ref 13111)	✓	Schools were reminded of the Healthy Eating Regulations again during the Spring Term Cluster Meetings. The Regulations and Guidance were also addressed during the Hygiene and E-bug Course which was held on the 15.2.19 and the Healthy Schools Co-ordinators Training day which was held on the 7.3.19. The Scheme worked in partnership with the Designed 2 Smile Scheme, School Nursing Team and School Meals Catering Service by monitoring the Food & Drink that is being provided to pupils by the school.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
We will increase the % of schools achieving phase 4 of the Healthy Schools Initiative (8.3.1.5) (2017/18 Result -63%/ 2018/19 Target -65%)	✓	All 111 schools in Carmarthenshire have joined the Healthy Schools Scheme now in its 15th year. Each school is working through phases 1 – 6 with <b>65% having achieved phase 4</b> . Peniel and Nantgaredig	<b>E&amp;CS</b>

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		schools have achieved the National Quality Award which is the highest possible achievement.	
We shall increase the percentage of children seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after (SCC/30) (2017/18 Result -69.6%/2018/19 Target - 70.5%)	✓	<b>2018/19 result - 75.8%.</b> This is well above target and showing a good improvement.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
We shall increase the percentage of children looked after at 31 March who were registered with a GP within 10 working days of the start of their placement (SCC/31) (2017/18 Result - 94.6%/ 2018/19Target -94.6%)	✓	<b>2018/19 result - 96.2%.</b> This is well above target and showing a good improvement.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
<b>D – Increase awareness</b>			
We shall continue to work in partnership with the Sustainable Pre-School Healthy Schools Scheme in promoting the '10 steps to a Healthy Weight' (Ref 13112)	✓	We have continued to promote and raise awareness to campaigns specific to healthy eating, physical activity and mental health such as 'Walk to school Week', the 'Daily Mile', National Obesity Awareness Week and Mental Health Awareness Week and promote the School Health Research Network.  The Pre-School Healthy Schools Scheme Officers had a promotional stand at the annual Healthy Schools Award Ceremony in July 2018 raising awareness to the '10 steps to a Healthy Weight'.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
We will continue to promote and raise awareness to campaigns specific to healthy eating, physical activity and mental health such as 'Walk to school Week', the 'Daily Mile', National Obesity Awareness Week and Mental Health Awareness Week and promote the School Health Research Network. (Ref 13113)	✓	Schools who attended the Autumn Term Cluster meetings received their National Health Campaigns Calendar for Spring 2019. Emphasis was placed on National Obesity Awareness Week which take place between the 14th & 20th of January, 2019. The Scheme created a playlist of relevant resources for schools as well as signposting schools to useful websites and resources in order to raise awareness to the effects of Obesity, Healthy Eating and Regular Physical Activity. Schools were again reminded of relevant Health Campaigns during the Spring Term Cluster meetings, the Hygiene and E-bug Course which was delivered on the 15.2.19 and the Healthy Schools Training Day which was delivered on the 7.3.19. The Healthy School Network on HWB was updated to include an education resource regarding the NSPCC's sexual safety 'PANTS' Campaign and Online Safety.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>



## Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Continue to improve learner attainment for all

### Examination outcomes continue to Improve

Carmarthenshire's performance at GCSE continued to improve with 58.2% of our learners achieving the Level 2 Inclusive indicator (at least 5 number GCSE passes at grade A\* to C including mathematics and language). This result places us comfortably above the Wales average of 55.1%.

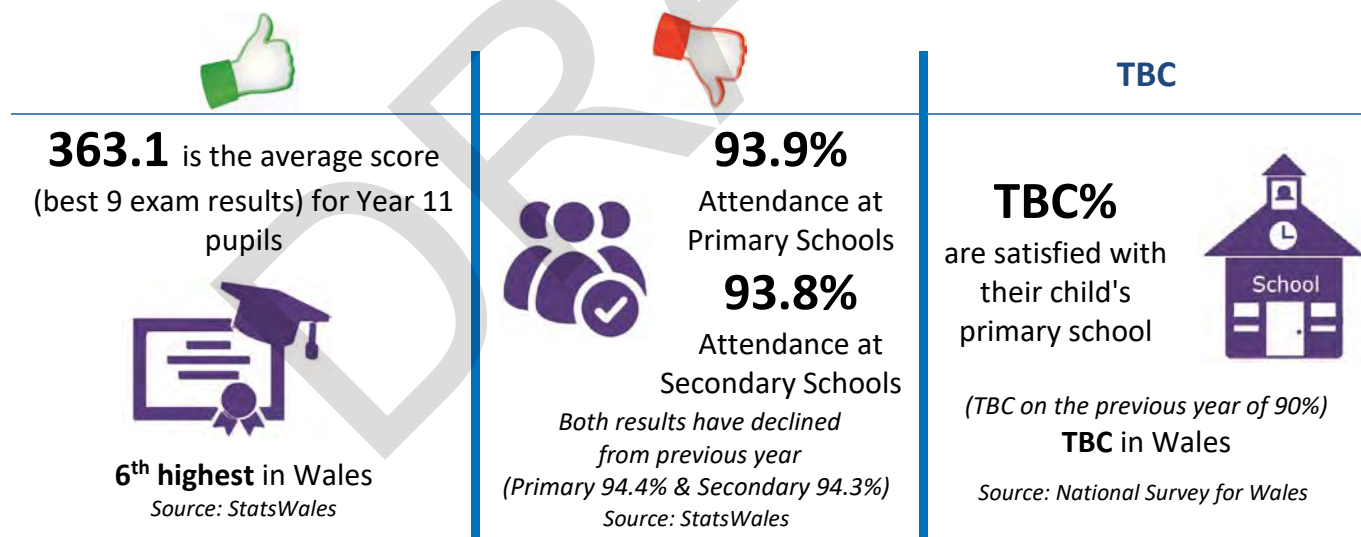
At a national level, this year's GCSE results have hit the headlines with the impact of issues such as revised examination specifications triggering levels of variance in outcomes across Wales. We have to be cautious when considering any comparisons with the performance trends from previous years' data.

Within Carmarthenshire, we continue to emphasise and focus on the progress our learners achieve from their individual starting point and firmly believe that this is the true measure of success and celebration.

### Why it is important

- We all want all of our children and young people to have the best possible start in life by supporting them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.
- We want to improve outcomes for all ages through lifelong learning, to enable them to thrive in 21<sup>st</sup> Century living and the world of work.
- Research by *The Institute of Education* suggests that attending a good pre-school and primary school can have more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background (Taggart, 2015)
- Our service remains committed to both the principles and priorities as outlined in the Welsh Government's most recent strategic document '[Education in Wales: Our National Mission.](#)'

### Success Measures



### Explaining the Results

- The average score based on the **best 9 exam results** for Year 11 pupils during 2018/19 (2017/18 Academic Year) is 363.1 where girls had an average score of 375.2 and boys 352.5. This is an improvement on the previous year and well above the Welsh average of 349.5.
- **School attendance** in both Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire *declined* during 2018/19 (2017/18 Academic Year). Primary school attendance reduced from 94.4% to 93.9% and from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> position and worst in Wales. Secondary school attendance reduced from 94.3% to 93.8% and from 9<sup>th</sup> position to 11<sup>th</sup> position. There will be robust consultation with Governors, Headteachers, Educational Welfare Service and related professionals to develop an action plan to improve school attendance moving forward.
- The [National Survey for Wales](#) data will be published **late June/July.**



## Progress Made

- ⦿ An impressive 72.1% of our Carmarthenshire GCSE entries were graded A\* to C, remaining well above the Wales average of 61.6%. In addition, performance at the highest end of awarded grades witnessed an encouraging 18.1% of our pupils achieving grades A\* to A compared to 18.5% across Wales.
- ⦿ Further success has also been gained by our pupils within the National Welsh Baccalaureate with 62.9% of pupils achieving this award, compared with 57.6% achieving nationally.
- ⦿ At Key Stage 5, the commitment and dedication shown by our students and their schools resulted in nearly 78% of students achieving A\*-C grades (an increase of 1.8% in comparison to results in 2017) which witnessed Carmarthenshire remaining comfortably above the Welsh national average of 73.8%. Almost a quarter of the grades awarded (24.8%) were at the A\*- A level. Improved outcomes were also reflected in the AS Level grades with 91.8% of entries being awarded an A - E grade. An increasingly effective range of learning opportunities on offer to our AS students has ensured a 4.6% increase in the A - E pass rate over the last three years.
- ⦿ During the academic year 2017-18, Estyn inspected 16 primary schools and one Pupil Referral Unit. These schools were inspected under the new inspection framework. Most schools inspected received 'Good' or better in all 5 inspection areas. An encouraging number of our schools received judgements of 'Excellent' against specific areas within the Framework and were invited to provide 'Good Practice Case Studies' to support the work of other schools. This is cause for much recognition and celebration and builds well on our previous year's performance. Indeed, our schools and services have continued to work hard through effective partnership to achieve such pleasing and encouraging outcomes.
- ⦿ The Modernising Education Programme continued apace benefitting thousands of our learners with the completion of major projects, valued at over £20 million, at Ysgol St. John Lloyd, Ysgol Parc y Tywyn, Ysgol Pontyberem and the completion of the phase 1 at Ysgol Llangadog.

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF YSGOL GYMRAEG PARC Y TYWYN

To commemorate the occasion local bard and national Chair winner Rev. Meirion Evans wrote an *englyn* (a traditional Welsh short poem form)



*This is our garden, this is our old language's oasis  
between the barren dunes;  
and after sowing from this grows  
the green shoots of our scholars.*



Executive Board Member  
For Education & Children  
Cllr Glynog Davies



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



## Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Continue to improve learner attainment for all

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2018/19.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<b>A – Improve Education Outcomes</b>			
<p>We will enhance outcomes for More Able and Talented pupils. (Ref 13114)</p>	✓	<p>A Carmarthenshire MAT/ Seren Foundation Coordinators group has been established ensuring that MAT pupils are identified correctly and that their learning opportunities extend their skills and talents throughout the secondary school. Activities are collaboratively planned to ensure maximum impact from grant funding. Launch events supported by Professor Matthew Williams from Jesus College Oxford, involved approximately 700 pupils from our year 9 and 10 cohorts who gained a useful and inspiring insight into entry requirements for a range of leading universities.</p> <p>The Further Maths Support Programme worked in collaboration with LA officers and secondary school maths teachers in delivering a Math's Challenge event to year 10 students from all of Carmarthenshire's secondary schools. The event prepared the pupils well for their forthcoming maths challenge competition whilst also providing meaningful professional development for teaching staff in relation to problem solving pedagogy.</p> <p>✓ MAT pupils working within The Seren Foundation and Academy programmes have experienced a range of enrichment activities during the academic year. These include an engineering day at Swansea University, workshops at Bath University, Engineering and Chemistry taster days at Swansea University and drama and music workshops at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. Feedback has been extremely positive from all events inspiring our pupils and ensuring that their expectations remain high.</p> <p>Post 16 Seren (Seren Academy) have had talks on Oxbridge applications by Jonathan Padley and this year we have had 10 students who have received offers from Oxbridge. Two students from Carmarthenshire have achieved places at the Harvard Summer School for July this year.</p> <p>Teachers and advisors from Carmarthenshire have visited School 21 in London focussing on how the school uses oracy, coaching and Project Based Learning to challenge all learners. This research visit will inform our leadership and MAT strategy for 2019 / 2020. For example, coaching for leaders and</p>	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>a coaching mindset for teaching staff is being explored within some pilot schools aiming to cascade the coaching approach to independent learning across to our pupils.</p> <p>In addition, an inspiring conference led by James Nottingham has been held for our small and rural schools, challenging pedagogical methodology and encouraging aspirational learning opportunities underpinned by challenging, meaningful tasks and experiences for all learners. The success of this conference has ensured a repeat in order to engage all schools during the summer term.</p>	
<p>We will continue to increase the percentage of schools designated with a 'Green or Yellow' support category within the National School Categorisation System. (Ref 13115) MF5-29</p>	✓	<p>Challenge advisers have worked alongside headteachers and representatives from governing bodies throughout the autumn term to ensure that the bespoke support package arranged for all schools on an individual basis robustly aligns to their individual developmental plans.</p> <p>Pupil progress and the quality and impact of self-evaluation processes have been reviewed to ensure accuracy in the identification of developmental priorities.</p> <p>This information has informed the categorisation of the schools in line with Welsh government policy. The overall picture for Carmarthenshire reflects that the number of 'green' schools within the primary sector continues to increase. Our number of 'yellow' schools remains fairly static overtime. We have 2 schools categorised as 'red' during the 2018 / 2019 academic year.</p> <p>Within the secondary sector we have 7 schools categorised as 'Green' and 5 as 'yellow'.</p> <p>Within our special schools and PRU's categories range from Green to red.</p> <p>When reflecting on this data it must be noted that the most important element of this process is the support package provided, routinely monitoring the impact of the support and ensuring that the school is enabled and has the capacity to achieve timely progress.</p>	E&CS
<p>We will support schools, in tandem with ERW (Education through Regional Learning), to further improve outcomes for all pupils outcomes at the end of the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 but with a particular emphasis on raising the achievements of pupils entitled to free school meals and looked after children. (Ref 13116) MF5-28</p>	✓	<p>During the academic year Challenge Advisers and Associate Challenge advisers have worked alongside headteachers, senior leaders and governors supporting and reviewing progress in line with the school's developmental priorities. The bespoke package of support is ensuring rigorous focus on key priorities whilst also providing guidance in relation to the National mission and related changes that are currently being implemented across the education sector.</p> <p>Challenge advisers are increasingly encouraging schools to work in partnership with each other aiming to develop schools as learning organisations,</p>	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<p>sharing best practice and developing self- evaluation and monitoring processes in a collaborative manner. Research visits to Ceredigion to review Foundation Phase standards, to School 21 and to Pembroke Doc school to review challenge and inspirational teaching have been undertaken in order to inform the school improvement strategy.</p> <p>Impact of support to schools is routinely reviewed, capturing progress within the ERW reports. This information is used well to tailor support for the forthcoming term ensuring that the focus remains on the progress of all learners.</p> <p>Summative pupil outcomes will be reviewed during the summer and autumn terms. Analysis of this information, along with progress reported through ERW reports is informing the school improvement teams developmental and training programmes for 2019 / 2020.</p> <p>In addition, there has been specific emphasis on pupil progress in the foundation phase, including a range of training focussed on understanding the outcomes of the Foundation Phase Plan; improving oracy and emergent writing for Nursery and Reception age pupils; raising standards of teaching mathematics and numeracy; and improving the impact of monitoring processes within schools.</p>	
<p>We will continue to hold all schools and ERW (Education through Regional Learning) to account for further improving standards and outcomes for learners, intervening in schools where performance is not satisfactory. (Ref 13117)</p>	✓	<p>ERW Challenge Advisers and Associate Challenge Advisers have undertaken a wide range of activities to ensure successful implementation and outcomes from this action. A relentless focus has been maintained on supporting schools to improve leadership, provision and progress through appropriate and agreed bespoke improvement programmes for each school following its ERW Core Support Visit (including 'National Categorisation' as a key element of the work) during the Autumn Term 2018. The Head of Education Services and Head of School Effectiveness have monitored and evaluated the impact of this work closely. This included review, evaluation and scrutiny of progress made by all 'Schools Causing Concern.'</p> <p>Activities have been supported effectively by the LA Education Scrutiny Panel School Visit Programme along with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Estyn LALI (Local Authority Link Inspector) discussions</li> <li>- Intervention &amp; support work of individual School Improvement Panels</li> <li>- Undertaking of specific elements of training and focused provision / support in specific school settings (focused on leadership and curriculum provision)</li> <li>- Additional focused scrutiny through local 'SCIT' meetings (Support, Challenge and Intervention Team)</li> </ul>	E&CS



Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		- Officers presenting a range of analytical reports to the ECS Scrutiny Panel (ensuring an opportunity to discuss and analyse performance and the impact of ERW work in our schools, including areas for improvement and increased resources). Such accountability and support processes have witnessed great success during the year. They will continue to be delivered and enhanced in an appropriate manner and according to the needs of individual schools.	
We will improve the Average Capped 9 score (best 9 exam results) for pupils in Year 11 (PAM/032) (2017/18 Result – 360.8 – 16/17 Academic Yr) (2018/19 Target – 361.1 – 17/18 Academic Yr)	✓	<b>2018/19 Result 363.1 (17/18 Academic Year).</b> The result is on target and an improvement on the previous year of 360.8. This is above the Welsh average of 349.5 and the 6th best result in Wales. A very good result which reflects the impact of collaborative working between our School Improvement Team and senior school leaders and staff.	E&CS
We will increase the % of pupils achieving the Level 3 threshold (2 A Levels grade A-E) (5.0.2.3) (2017/18 Result - 97.8% - 16/17 Academic Yr) (2018/19 Target - 98.0% - 17/18 Academic Yr)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result 97.9% (17/18 Academic Year).</b> This is just off target but there is a slight improvement on the previous year. The Authority's relative ranking in Wales has declined from 5th to 11th. Additional challenge and support to schools continues to impact effectively on performance in general with each cohort's individual profile taken into context. Annual fluctuations are to be expected at such a high level of performance. It is important to note that we have remained above the Wales average for the past six years	E&CS
<b>B - Improving School Attendance - Making every day count</b>			
We will continue to promote regular school attendance to maximise educational opportunities and child welfare, robustly challenging poor attendance and persistent absenteeism. (Ref 13118)	✓	The Education Welfare Service continues to promote positive school attendance in line with the all Wales guidance. As school attendance continues to be of concern consideration is being given to how the local authority could improve the service.	E&CS
We will implement the Attendance Forward Working Plan following consultation with Headteachers. (Ref 13119)	✓	The service improvement plan is in place and a steering group established to monitor progress. Aspects of the plan have been completed and recorded and will feed into proposed changes in managing school attendance moving forward.	E&CS
We will increase the % of <b>pupil attendance</b> in primary schools (PAM/007) (2017/18 Result - 94.4% - 16/17 Academic Yr) (2018/19 Target - 94.5% - 17/18 Academic Yr)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result - 93.9% - 16/17 Academic Year.</b> Disappointingly this is off target and declined on the previous year's result of 94.4%. Our Welsh comparative ranking has declined to 22nd from 21st the previous year. Both Authorised and Unauthorised absence have increased slightly.	E&CS
We will reduce the % of <b>authorised absence</b> in primary schools (4.1.2.3) (2016/17 Result - 4.4%- 15/16 Academic Yr) (2017/18 Target - 4.2% - 16/17 Academic Yr)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result – 5.1% - 16/17 Academic Year.</b> Disappointingly this is off target and declined on the previous year's result of 4.1%. There were a slight increase in the following authorised absence reasons: of 1) Other authorised circumstances; 2) Agreed Family Holiday and 3) Illness. Continued improvements will be sought through increased	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		support and monitoring of schools. We will consult with Headteachers to consider how the potential improved and more consistent use of codes within the highlighted areas can support this measure.	
We will increase the % of <b>pupil attendance</b> in secondary schools (PAM/008) (2017/18 Result - 94.3% - 16/17 Academic Yr) (2018/19 Target - 94.4% - 17/18 Academic Yr)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result - 93.8% - 16/17 Academic Year.</b> This is off target and has declined compared to the previous year of 94.3%. Authorised absence has remained constant at 4.8% but Unauthorised absence has increase and specifically in the use of 'Other' absence code. The comprehensive Educational Welfare Service (EWS) improvement plan outlines collaborative strategies across the department which will further support our schools to improve rates of pupil attendance. They will also contact those schools with a high percentage of 'O' codes to address any coding issues.	E&CS
We will reduce the % of <b>authorised absence</b> in secondary schools (4.1.2.2) (2017/18 Result - 4.8%- 16/17 Academic Yr) (2018/18 Target - 4.7% - 17/18 Academic Yr)	✗	<b>2018/19 Result - 4.8% - 16/17 Academic Year.</b> This is off Target but has remained constant with the previous year's result. Illness remained the most common reason for absence accounting for 62.7% of all absences.	E&CS
<b>C - An excellent school in the right place</b>			
We will deliver all Band A commitments identified in the Modernising Education Programme by 2019 therefore supporting our children and young people to receive a world class education in safe and stimulating environments. This includes the delivery of new campuses for Ysgol Penrhos and Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant. (Ref 13120) MF5-25	✓	Band A commitments are continually being delivered with construction complete or progressing well at a number of schools, ensuring that our children and young people are receiving world class education in safe and stimulating environments fit for the 21st Century. Construction works are complete at Burry Port, Carreg Hirfaen, Coedcae, Parc y Tywyn, Pen Rhos, Pontyberem, St John Lloyd, Strade and Trimsaran. Works are progressing at Llangadog. Whilst a scheme is being progressed to provide Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant with a new campus, planning issues are currently being addressed.	E&CS
We shall deliver a further £129million Modernising Education Programme investment between 2019-24. (Ref 13121) MF5-26	✓	5 Band B projects have been accelerated in the MEP and development/design works are proceeding at pace. 1 has received Strategic Outline Case (SOC) approval and 2 have received Full Business Case approval by the WG. Strategic reviews and development work on the majority of Band B projects is well advanced.	E&CS
We shall consider the delivery of primary education provision in the Ammanford, Llandeilo and Llandovery areas. (Ref 13122) MF5-27	✓	The delivery of primary education in the Ammanford, Llandeilo and Llandovery areas are currently being progressed, with investment schemes planned for Ysgol Rhys Prichard and the Ammanford and Llandeilo areas.	E&CS
We shall consider options to utilise the Welsh Government Mutual Investment Model (MIM) to further develop the education infrastructure through capital investment. (Ref 13123) MF5-33	✓	Discussions are ongoing with WG colleagues and seminars attended. WG undertaking a national procurement for 1 strategic partner to facilitate the delivery of the MIM model.	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		Carmarthenshire has reinstated its interest to be a strategic partner. Progress with any projects subject to Executive Board approval.	
We shall ensure the Council fully responds and complies with the requirements of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code to support the attainment of better educational outcomes with specific reference to requirements for rural schools. (Ref 13124) MF5-32	✓	The revised process incorporating the requirements for rural schools of the presumption against closure has received formal sign off by the Executive Board Member for Education and Children's Services.	E&CS
We will analyse and forecast capacity and pupil data for the planning of school places (POSP) and future school organisation. (Ref 13125)	✓	Capacity calculation review of all schools and pupil projections completed and submitted to Welsh Government by deadline date.	E&CS
We will manage school estate affairs including building maintenance, asset verification, governor property initiatives and responsibilities under disability access (DDA) legislation. (Ref 13126)	✓	Estate management - requests for school development proposals and support for risk management bids considered and approved as required. Building Maintenance - Urgent capital works authorised for 2018/19. DDA - Adaptation Projects to facilitate pupil admission to school completed during School Holidays.	E&CS
We will undertake statutory procedures associated with federation, school organisation and/or improvement projects. (Ref 13127)	✓	The statutory procedures to increase the capacity of Ysgol Gynradd Gorslas and to change the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn to 3-11 are complete. The statutory procedures to discontinue Tremoilet VC and Maesybont Primary Schools have been completed. Five change in nature of provision proposals are being progressed to committees. Further school reorganisation and federation proposals are being reviewed and developed.	E&CS
We will invest over £20 million in major school construction and modernisation projects at Pen Rhos, St John Lloyd, Parc Y Tywyn, Pontyberem, Rhys Pritchard and Llangadog. (Ref 13128)	✓	Construction works are complete at Burry Port, Carreg Hirfaen, Coedcae, Parc y Tywyn, Pen Rhos, Pontyberem, St John Lloyd, Strade and Trimsaran. Works are progressing at Llangadog. A Business Justification Case has been approved for Ysgol Rhys Prichard and the scheme is currently waiting for approval of planning permission before on site commencement.	E&CS
We will develop and submit business cases for MEP school reorganisation and investment projects to the national 21st Century Schools Programme. (Ref 13129)	✓	Business case submissions are on target and in line with the Modernising Education Programme's business case submission timeline. A Business Justification Case for Ysgol Rhys Prichard has been approved and a Strategic Outline Case for Ysgol y Castell has been approved.	E&CS
We will decommission premises following the closure or amalgamation of schools. (Ref 13130)	✓	Following approval to discontinue, Tremoilet VC and Maesybont Primary Schools are in the process of being decommissioned.	E&CS
We will continue to improve the condition, suitability and ICT resources within schools and ensure that all newly built schools have the latest digital technologies and infrastructures	✓	ICT provision at Ysgol Penrhos new build completed May 2018. ICT provision Parc y Tywyn refurb completed July 2018. ICT provision Pontyberem refurb completed January 2019. Llangadog ICT provision refurb/extension completed March 2019.	P&R

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
in place to deliver 21st century education. (Ref 13131) MF5-89		Zimbra to Hwb email system migration completed March 19. Schools TIC Initiatives (Printing, Phone Systems & Lines/Calls) continuing to make efficiency savings. LiDW2/PSBA Upgrade – 43 schools complete, 1 awaiting BT. 10mbps to 100mbps regrading – awaiting date from PSBA. Cloud hosting of Schools Web Filtering proceeding as planned.	
We will retain the % of schools graded as "Good" (Category A) or "Satisfactory" (Category B) for school building condition (4.3.1.8) (2017/18 Result - 57% / 2018/19 Target - 63% )	✓	<b>63%</b> of our schools were graded as "Good" (Category A) or "Satisfactory" (Category B) for school building condition during 2018/19.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
<b>D - Workforce development and succession planning</b>			
We will continue to support, challenge and improve the quality of leadership and its impact on improving provision and outcomes in collaboration with senior school leaders e.g. provision of Leadership Seminars and Networks. (Ref 13132)	✓	<p>We have continued to implement a wide range of effective activities to support the bespoke nature of this crucial action, continuing to maintain a tight focus on the individual nature and content of schools' `bespoke support packages`. This has included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation and evaluation of ERW Support Core Visits 1 &amp; 2 / agreeing National Categorisation within each individual school setting and focusing on: a) the school's Leadership / Teaching and Learning performance and capacity to self-improve); b) progress reviews and evaluations of each school's recommendations from the previous ERW visit c) review of progress against agreed actions within a cyclical programme;</li> <li>2. Commissioning of Senior Leaders to support ERW Challenge Adviser work (as `Commissioned Challenge Advisers`) continues to contribute effectively to the sharing of `good leadership practice` across many of our schools and support commissioned colleagues with valuable professional development training. This work is supported by regular in-house Team development meetings.</li> <li>3. Ongoing opportunities for Middle, Aspiring and Executive HT Leaders development through participation in the ERW leadership development programme</li> <li>4. Informative and developmental `Leadership Seminars and Briefings for Senior Leaders and Governors` providing a focus on specific areas of strategic leadership and improvement in support of improving outcomes within our schools.</li> <li>5. Ongoing commissioning of senior leaders in support of WG Grant funded packages e.g. Small and Rural Schools.</li> <li>6. Implementation of ECS Scrutiny Panel School Visits</li> <li>7. HT Seminar Presentations - `sharing effective practice` across all schools</li> <li>8. Implementation of revised Newly Appt. HT Programme</li> </ol>	<b>E&amp;CS</b>



Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		9. Participation for nominated HTs to share strategic roles within our four Strategic Forums (Access to Education, Curriculum and Wellbeing, Education Services and School Budget Forum)	
We will support Governors in their strategic leadership role through focused training and briefing activities, including the mandatory governor training programme. (Ref 13133)	✓	A training programme was formulated for the Autumn term in response to Governors' identified needs. This training programme has been fully implemented and well received by Governors. We continue to monitor training needs and evaluate the programme on an on-going basis.	E&CS
We will further develop systems to support school improvement, including ongoing Professional Development and Performance Management provision for school staff. (Ref 13134)	✓	Schools CPD (Continuous Professional Development) staff continue to support Challenge Advisers and school staff in facilitating Professional Development opportunities. During the year additional grant funding for professional development was received and devolved to schools. Support continues to be provided to schools through financial year end to ensure specifically correct and full utilisation of grants.	E&CS
Through the Swansea Bay City Deal we will ensure the Council aligns its educational curriculum with a menu of vocational opportunities to address local skills for work and routes to employability as well as developing learning pathways with Coleg Sir Gâr and University of Wales Trinity Saint David. (Ref 13135) MF5-34	✓	Discussions have continued between the Regeneration team and Secondary Head Teachers to align the City Deal with school learning pathways. Productive discussions with Coleg Sir Gar/UWTSD are continuing. We will continue to progress this action to align with further anticipated developments in the City Deal Skills and talent initiative.	E&CS
We will review and encourage participation in governorship of schools. (Ref 13136) MF5-35	✓	Governor Support staff working with Challenge Advisers and Heads of Service continue to work with schools to promote, encourage and provide support and to new governors.	E&CS
We will review all school pupil admission dates and age-ranges across the County. (Ref 13137) MF5-36		A review of school admission dates and age ranges formed part of the Early Years Education & Play Scrutiny Task & Finish Group. Recommendations from the Group's work will be available and considered in 2019/20.	E&CS
We will review current specialist behaviour support services in the County with a view to decentralise and support bringing support services into mainstream provision by 2021. (Ref 13138) MF5-42	✓	From June 2018 plans were developed to transform current behaviour support services providing a model for Carmarthenshire that enhances Wellbeing and Behaviour Support. A Four Phase Model was proposed and developed through Strategic Groups, Departmental Management Team and to the Executive Committee. The Four Phase Model was agreed and will be taken forward.	E&CS
We will continue to support partnership working with other providers of adult community learning through the Carmarthenshire Adult Community Learning Group. (Ref 13139)	✓	The Adult Community Learning (ACL) Service continues to support the wider work of the ACL partnership. Regular meetings of the Carmarthenshire ACL partnership have taken place. New partners have joined and a new chair and secretariat appointed. A joint Self Assessment Report has been produced and a Partnership Improvement plan is reviewed at CACL meetings.	E&CS



## Well-being Objective 4

Start Well - Reduce the number of young people that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

### The number of NEET has risen for the first time in 3 years

The number of Year 11 NEET young people in Carmarthenshire has risen slightly for the first time in three years. The figure of 1.8% however remains below that of 2016/17. Disappointingly we have also seen an increase in Year 13 NEET young people. We will continue to work to ensure that all our young people will remain in Education, Employment and Work Based Training

### Why it is important

- Reducing the number of NEET young people reduces the effects of poverty and the wider cost to society of support services, reliance on benefits and offending.
- It is essential to maximise the life opportunities of children, ensuring that as many young people as possible are able to progress to school 6<sup>th</sup> forms, Further Education Colleges, apprenticeships, training provision or work.
- It enables young people to contribute positively to their local communities.

### Success Measures



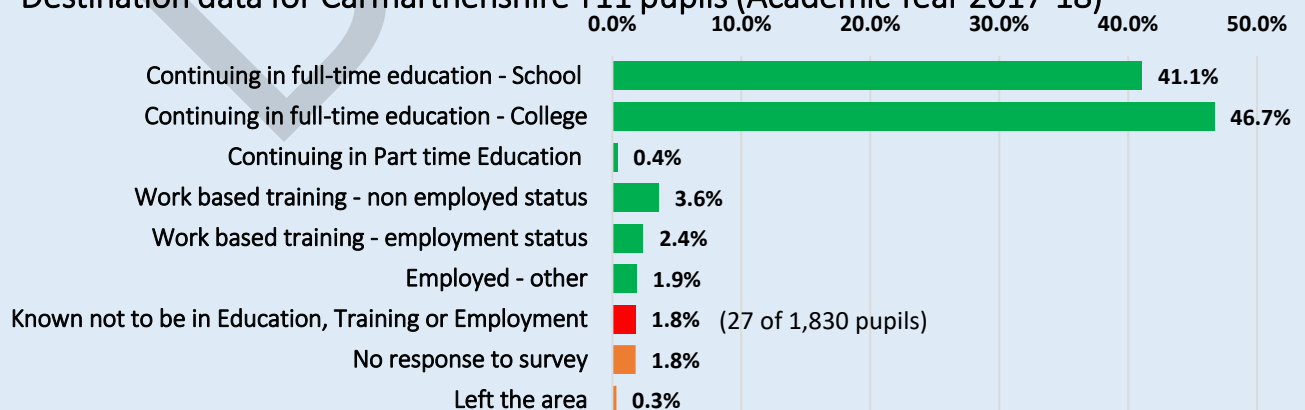
**1.8%** year 11 pupils &  
**4.9%** year 13 pupils  
are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)  
(Previous year - Yr 11: **1.4%** & Yr 13: **3.0%**)



### Explaining the Results

- 1.8%, or 32 of **Year 11** pupils becoming NEET equated to 96.1%, or 1,743 pupils remaining in Education, Employment or Training. A small number of pupils (38), either did not respond to contact or were known to have left Carmarthenshire. The result ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in Wales and above the Welsh average of 1.6%.

#### Destination data for Carmarthenshire Y11 pupils (Academic Year 2017-18)



- 4.9%, or 33 out of 673, **Year 13** pupils were known to become NEET, with 41 pupils either not responding to contact or being known to have left the area. Factors previously affecting the result include the rising cost of higher education, young people's awareness of training and employment opportunities and limited identification of this group of young people by schools following the A Level results. We will seek qualitative data to improve on this situation.

## Progress Made

- ⦿ We have continued to deliver the local elements of the Cam Nesa and Cynnydd European Social Fund (ESF) projects, providing support services for young people at risk of becoming NEET. Funding for Cynnydd has been confirmed until 2022 while we await an announcement about continuing Cam Nesa funding. In seeking alternatives beyond ESF Funding we have used the Alternative Learning Company to deliver provision for 33 Key Stage 4 learners. This initiative is now being evaluated.
- ⦿ We are working in collaboration with the Regeneration department and Secondary Head Teachers to align learning pathways with the City Deal. The soon to be launched local curriculum will help to embed these pathways.
- ⦿ We have continued to discuss opportunities for apprenticeships within the county with Coleg Sir Gar including a heightened vocational offer for young people in the Llanelli area.
- ⦿ We have increased participation with young people, such as involving them in recruitment off staff and gathering their views and opinions to influence business planning and setting of priorities within our Youth Support Service, in order to effectively engage with those children and young people who are NEET. As a Council we employed 15 Apprentices 2017-19 and 18 Graduates.
- ⦿ Carmarthenshire's delivery of the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework includes identification of young people most at risk of disengagement, brokerage and co-ordination of support, tracking and transition of young people through the education system, provision to meet identified needs and developing the employability skills and opportunities for employment. This work is delivered primarily by the County Council's Youth Support Service, together with schools, Coleg Sir Gar, training providers, voluntary organisations and Careers Wales.

**A group of young people volunteering to transform the area around the reservoir in Tanerdy**

**This will support their job prospects in the future, have a huge impact on their own skills development, self-esteem and confidence**



Executive Board Member  
For Education & Children  
Cllr Glynog Davies



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective





## Well-being Objective 4

Start Well - Reduce the number of young people that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

The following are our commitments and end of year progress comments for this Well-being Objective during 2018/19.

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
A - Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Actions			
We will continue to deliver the six elements of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. (Ref 13140)	✓	<p>The Department for Education and Children continues to deliver a range of actions to support local delivery of the Youth Engagement &amp; Progression Framework. Employment of the Youth Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator (EPC) role and additional support staff has been ongoing during the year.</p> <p>The Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) continues to be in place in all Carmarthenshire Secondary Schools and EOTAS settings. Meetings run termly with schools having the opportunity to refer more urgent cases direct to the YEPP and Cynnydd project teams. Youth Support Service and Cynnydd project staff continue to undertake ongoing targeted support for young people 11 -18 at school, EOTAS and community settings.</p> <p>There is a strong interface between key workers (EPC; Cynnydd and Cam Nesa) which provides for good opportunities for the identification and targeting of children and young people who are NEET/at risk of becoming NEET.</p> <p>Young people across Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 4 status aged 16-18 who are NEET are identified via the SEET (Support into Education, Employment and Training) function and interventions are put in place to offer support where young people consent for this.</p>	E&CS
We will implement the Actions identified in the self-assessment of the Youth Support Services against the National Participation Standards to Increase participation which will contribute to improved service outcomes in terms of more effectively engaging those children and young people that are NEET. (Ref 13141)	✓	<p>The YSS has had a productive year in terms of Participation and Engagement. This has meant that identified tasks have been completed in line with the self-assessment against National Participation Standards.</p> <p>Actions completed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involving young people in recruitment of staff;</li> <li>Producing a Young Person's Summary of the YSS Business Plan in consultation with members of the Youth Council;</li> </ul>	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with children and young people in relation to planning of programmes and activities for term time and holiday periods;</li> <li>Involving children and young people in the YSS Service Development Day in March 2019. From this, their views and opinions will be gathered in order to influence future business planning and setting of priorities.</li> </ul> <p>This work is critical to delivery of services under the YSS, and will be on-going.</p>	
<b>B – European Social Fund Projects</b>			
We will deliver the local elements of the Cam Nesa and Cynnydd European Social Fund (ESF) projects. <i>(Ref 13142)</i>	✓	All local elements of ESF projects for the 2018/19 financial year have been delivered successfully. Both projects are on track and both operational managers involved have successfully undertaken additional duties - which is adding value to the project.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
We will work together with secondary schools to support vulnerable young people and alternative curriculum provision from January 2019 to replace the services offered through the Cynnydd Project. <i>(Ref 13143)</i>	✓	Arrangements have been operational for some time now and some volatility in the quality of provision has stabilised satisfactorily. The Alternative Learning Company has been delivering alternative provision for 33 KS4 learners. This initiative is now being evaluated. In addition, support for vulnerable learners is being consolidated in a departmental restructure, the planning of which nears completion.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>
We will develop core services to support young people (15 – 25 yrs) who experience barriers to learning and employment due to a chronic condition. <i>(Ref 12535)</i>	✓	During this year the Cynnydd Transition to adulthood (TAC) team have implemented Vulnerability assessment profile (VAP) meetings in all the Canolfan units. Raising awareness of the new transition process into adulthood which aims to develop individual pathways for students leaving school based on their skills and aspirations. 94 individuals have been supported so far this year with approx. 1% actually becoming NEET. Work has also begun developing a pathway for those with complex needs where the team are currently mapping all those from year 7 onwards in order to develop a future service development plan. Staff have been trained in new skill sets such as solution focussed approaches, adapted Cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) and coaching. The team are also informing the development of a through age service taking part in various working groups.	<b>E&amp;CS</b>

Last Year's Commitments	✓ ✗	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<b>C - Carmarthenshire 11-19 Education Strategic Review</b>			
We will implement the 20 recommendations of the Carmarthenshire 11-19 Education Strategic Review. <i>(Ref 13144)</i>	✗	Actions recommended in the 11-19 review have been subsumed into other work streams, in lieu of the of the Learning Transformation Manager's departure from the service. Most actions are now closed. Others will be pursued to reasonable conclusion and will be reported in a curriculum paper about to go through the corporate process.	E&CS
We will deliver literacy, numeracy, digital literacy and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses for Carmarthenshire residents and in-comers to the County. <i>(Ref 13145)</i>	✓	Classes have recruited well in all areas and subjects. Learner numbers on Coleg Sir Gar franchise have exceeded the contract amount.	E&CS
<b>D - Carmarthenshire Curriculum Review</b>			
We will work with partners to develop further opportunities for apprenticeships within the County. <i>(Ref 13146) MF5-38</i>	✓	Apprenticeships continue to be discussed with Coleg Sir Gar. Recent discussions have ranged around a heightened vocational offer for young people in the Llanelli area. Further related activity will be subject to a newly focussed action in 2019/20.	E&CS
We will ensure that Community resilience will be a key objective of the Learning Disability day service transformation plan. This will include new models for service delivery. <i>(Ref 12540)</i>	✓	This year has seen the development of the forward work plan in relation to transforming day services. The project group meets on a monthly basis. Individuals have started accessing more activities in the community. New activities have included, daily living skills, 6 walking groups established across the county, swimming, outdoor craft, sensory storytelling, dance, cycle maintenance and cycling to name a few. We have provided accessible cycles at Pembrey country park along with a changing place and adapted ski's making that venue truly accessible to all. We have also seen a new partnership with Heol Goffa school in Llanelli who regularly use our craft shop in Llanelli to develop students' skills and support their enterprise activities. New training this year has included TEACCH, solution focussed training, sensory processing and run leader. Our service at Maes Lledi is now recognised as the preferred provider for those who find things challenging.	E&CS

Last Year's Commitments	✓ x	Progress Comment	Scrutiny
<b>E – Overarching Performance Measures</b>			
<p>We will reduce the % of Year 11 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) (PAM/009) (2017/18 Result – 1.4% / 2018/19 target – 1.3%)</p>	x	<p><b>2018/19 Result - 1.8% (32/1813).</b> This is off target and has increased from the previous year of 1.4% (27/1875). However this result remains below the 2016-17 result of 2.1%. There has also been an increase from 10 to 33 young people not responding to the survey, some of whom could also be NEET. Partnership work by schools, Youth Support Service staff and external agencies including Careers Wales to deliver the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework in Carmarthenshire.</p>	E&CS
<p>We will reduce the % of Year 13 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) (5.1.0.2) (2017/18 Result – 3.0% / 2017/18 target – 2.8%)</p>	x	<p><b>2018/19 Result - 4.9% (33/673).</b> This is off target and has increased from the previous year of 3.0% (20/663). Factors affecting the rise in Year 13 6th Form leavers becoming NEET include the rising cost of higher education, young people's awareness of training and employment opportunities and limited identification of this group of young people by schools following the A Level results.</p>	E&CS
<p>We shall support care leavers where possible to ensure that they are in education, training or employment at 12 months after leaving care (SCC/34a) (2017/18 Result -72.2%/2018/19 target - 64.3%)</p>	✓	<p><b>2018/19 Result 64.7% (11 out of 17).</b> This is on target but is showing a decline on the previous year. The Corporate Parenting Team endeavour to help care leavers fulfill their potential. However, various factors can influence the lives of young people e.g. mental health, learning difficulties and being full time young parents. Numbers in the cohort are also very small which can significantly influence the end result year on year.</p>	E&CS
<p>We shall support care leavers where possible to ensure that they are in education, training or employment at 24 months after leaving care (SCC/34b) (2017/18 Result - 64.3%/2018/19 target- 57.2%)</p>	✓	<p><b>2018/19 Result 61.1% (11 out of 18).</b> This is on target but is showing a decline on the previous year. The Corporate Parenting Team endeavour to help care leavers fulfill their potential. However, various factors can influence the lives of young people e.g. mental health, learning difficulties and being full time young parents. Numbers in the cohort are also very small which can significantly influence the end result year on year.</p>	E&CS





# Live Well





## Well-being Objective 5

Start Well/Live Well - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work & improve the lives of those living in poverty

### 650 more households living in poverty (up from 35% to 35.5%)

Welsh Government defines poverty as when a "household income is less than 60% of the GB median income". This means a household where income is less than £18,868 a year (i.e. 60% of £31,446).

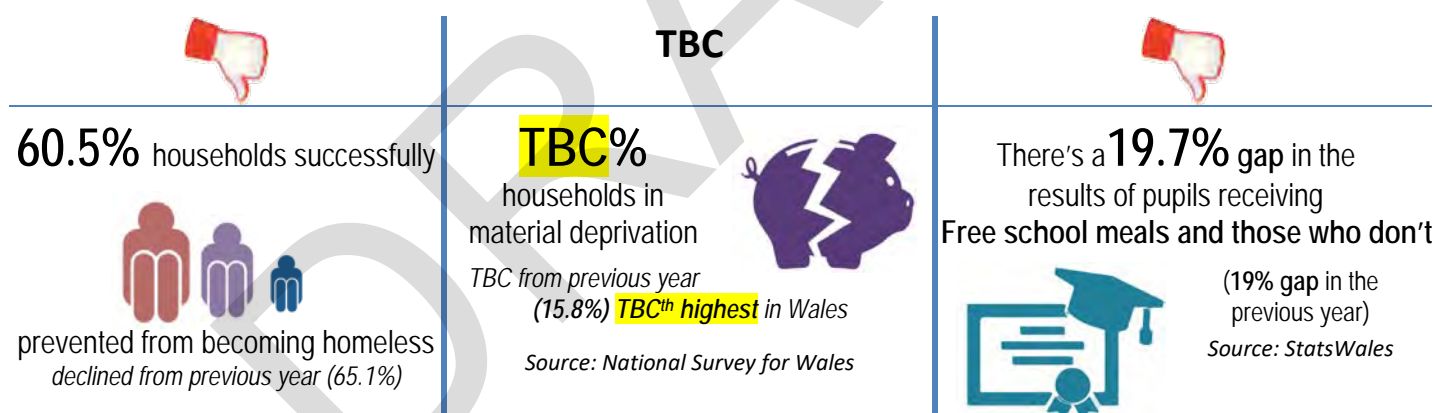
Therefore, 35.5% can be defined as living in poverty in Carmarthenshire which is above the Welsh average of 33.6% and has moved from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> worst in Wales.

Household Income Figures Source: CACI's 'PayCheck' data										
Households Living in Poverty	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Carms	Wales	Carms	Wales	Carms	Wales	Carms	Wales	Carms	Wales
	29,956 (37.1%)	446,586 (33.6%)	29,086 (36.3%)	459,283 (35%)	29,020 (35.9%)	460,322 (34%)	28,223 (35.0%)	450,616 (33%)	28,881 (35.5%)	456,971 (33.6%)

### Why it is important

- Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects across all aspects of well-being. It limits the opportunities and prospects for children and young people, damages the quality of life for families and communities
- Poverty can be a barrier to full participation in society and is too often an intergenerational experience which poses a significant threat to experiencing positive well-being both now and in the future
- Two Carmarthenshire wards (Tyisha and Glanymor) were in the top 20 worst wards for childhood poverty in Wales (both at 41.3%) Source: End Child Poverty, Loughborough University, 2019 - commissioned by the End Child Poverty Network

### Success Measures



### Explaining the Results

- Of the 413 households **threatened with homelessness** during 2018/19, **250 were successfully prevented from becoming homeless – 60.5%**. There were 120 unsuccessful preventions. The introduction of Universal Credit is beginning to have an impact with some private landlords being reluctant to continue with benefit claiming tenants. We have also identified that private sector tenants tend to approach the service at the point of eviction rather than at the point of receiving notice, this then reduces the time to engage with the landlord to prevent or relieve the situation.
- According to the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#) ..... **Data will be published June/July 2019**
- There's a **19.7%** gap between the average score based on the best 9 **exam results** for Year 11 pupils receiving **Free School Meals (FSM)** and **those who don't (Non-FSM)**, this has increased slightly from a 19% gap in the previous year. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> smallest gap in Wales (previously 6<sup>th</sup>). However the FSM score has increased from 307.6 to 308.1 (but the score for Non-FSM has also increased by more, from 360.8 to 375.5).

## Progress Made

- ⦿ We have developed a new homelessness action plan that will provide more focus on prevention and making people aware of the need to contact us at an earlier stage should they be experiencing housing problems.
- ⦿ A newly formed team also provides a package of advice and support to all prospective tenants to discuss their responsibilities as part of the tenancy agreement. This includes: how to pay their rent and make a benefit claim. Training sessions have been initiated where prospective tenants on our Housing Choice Register undertake a 1 day course which provides information on tenancy issues in far more detail.
- ⦿ After receiving Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes,
  - 589 adults received employability support - 100% felt more confident about seeking work.
  - 418 received digital inclusion support with 100% feeling more confident in using the computer.
  - 402 residents gained accredited qualifications in employment related courses.
- ⦿ We now pay our staff the equivalent of the Foundation Living Wage (a voluntary living wage level). This impacts the lowest paid staff who will receive the equivalent of £8.75 per hour (April 2018) which is higher than the National Living Wage (statutory requirement) of £7.83 (April 2018).
- ⦿ The Community Bureau has helped community, voluntary and charitable groups and social enterprises in Carmarthenshire to access support, advice and grants quickly. . During the year 5 enterprises have been created, 25 jobs have been created, 50 jobs safeguarded and 350 individuals have gone into training/education and we have supported, working with CAVS, 450 people into volunteering.
- ⦿ We have carried out extensive engagement in the Tyshia ward to listen to the needs and concerns of its residents. We are in the process of implementing an ambitious master plan that will address the areas needs in terms of housing mix, the environment and general community safety and facilities as well as specific issues such as antisocial behaviour, fly tipping and litter.

### Customer service Hwb in Ammanford gets the thumbs up!



**People can make payments, get job and training support, access digital facilities, find out about volunteering opportunities and more**



Executive Board Member  
For Communities and Rural Affairs  
**Cllr Cefin Campbell**



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective





## Well-being Objective 6

### Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

#### Regeneration is the Councils' number one priority - during 2018/19 we created 419 jobs

These jobs were created through:-

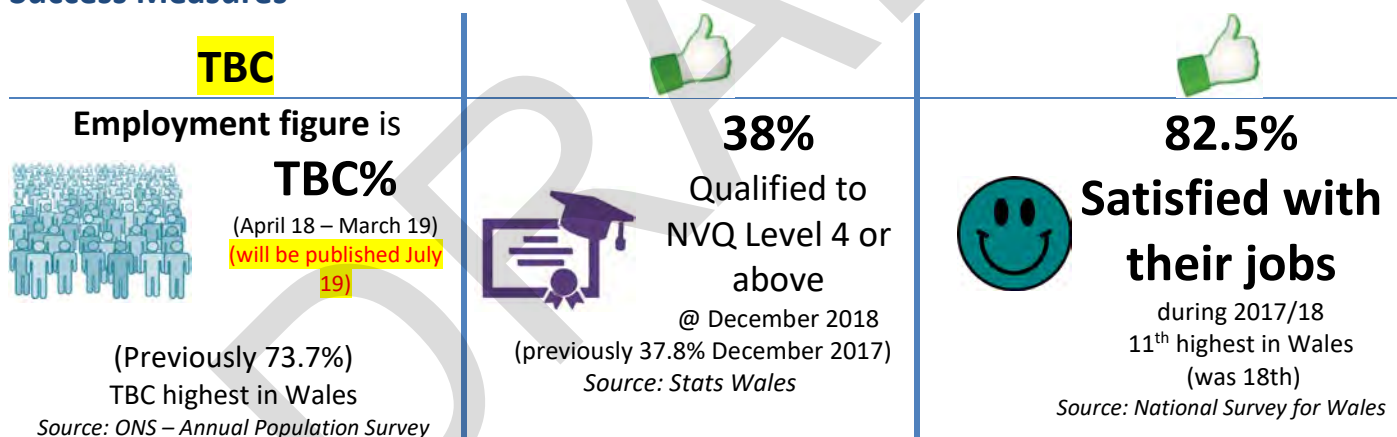
***Business Development and Engagement; Beacon Bursary and Incubation; Llanelli Town Centre Schemes; Carmarthenshire Rural Enterprise Fund and Community Bureau***

In addition through specific world of work schemes, **951** people were supported to volunteer and **137** were supported into jobs. We secured **£16.2m** private sector and external funding investment. We accommodated **111** Jobs as a result of 5 Transformational Commercial property development fund projects.

#### Why it is important

- Increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty, reducing inequalities and has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.
- We must tackle a GVA (gross value added) gap that is widening between UK GVA & Wales GVA; *GVA is the measure of the value of the wages and profits from goods and services produced in an area.*

#### Success Measures



#### Explaining the Results

- ....Comment to follow when employment figure is published in July 19.
- 38%** of working age adults living in Carmarthenshire are **qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above** in 2018, this is up slightly on the previous year of 37.8% and just above the Welsh average of 37.8%. We are 9<sup>th</sup> highest in Wales moving up from 10<sup>th</sup> the previous year.
- According to the [National Survey for Wales](#), **82.5%** of those participated were moderately or very **satisfied with their jobs**, this is above previous year's result of 80%. We have moved up from 18<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> position in Wales
- Median Gross Weekly Pay has reduced by 1.2% (from £517.8 to £511.4) Carmarthenshire has gone down from 5<sup>th</sup> highest wage in Wales for 2017, to the 11<sup>th</sup> highest in 2018. This is below the Welsh average of £518.6

## Progress Made

- ⦿ Delivery of the project plan for the **Llanelli Wellness and Life Science Village**:-
  - Continued with the development of the detail for phase 1 plus energy and infrastructure. Works are now completed to the end of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 2 requirements and a tender for ground investigation works has also been undertaken.
  - The Outline Planning application for the Wellness Village has been approved and the Natural Resources Wales flood risk requirements have been met.
- ⦿ **Carmarthenshire Business Fund** was launched in July 2018, to support the set-up of local businesses. It has proved popular with the business community.
- ⦿ Development continues for many of the initiatives and projects which are helping to deliver and support the **Carmarthen, Ammanford & Rural transformational** plan, for example :-
  - The third party led Yr Egin project successfully opened its doors in late summer which has facilitated the relocation of S4C's headquarters in Carmarthen along with a number of related businesses
  - Pendine Attractor Project - work has commenced on the £7m Pendine Attractor project which will see on completion in summer 2020 a new sands of speed museum, 42 eco hostel, external exhibition area, events area, beach sports area, adventure playground, museum gardens and improved parking facilities.
- ⦿ To date, from the initial £2m allocation from the **Rural Enterprise Fund**, 16 businesses have benefited and fourteen of those businesses are now operating in their new or improved premises. This has resulted in an investment in excess of £3m and the creation of 64 jobs in rural Carmarthenshire.
- ⦿ We have continued to deliver the Countywide **Tourism** Destination Management Plan 2015-2020 to support the promotion of Carmarthenshire as an attractive and quality place to visit and stay.
  - 41 major articles on Carmarthenshire were generated by the Council in the media with an equivalent advertising value of £186,000
  - New campaigns of 'Set Jetters' taking advantage of the TV series Keeping Faith and 'Antiques and Brocante' Trail have both gained significant media traction.

## Film Set – Carmarthenshire *Country File* being filmed in Llansteffan



Executive Board Member  
For Economic Development  
Cllr Emlyn Dole (Leader)



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



## Well-being Objective 7

### Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

#### On track to meet the affordable homes target of 1,000 additional affordable homes between 2016 - 2021

Good quality, affordable homes are the bed rock of healthy and sustainable communities. We have delivered over 650 additional affordable homes since 2016 as part of the affordable homes plan

#### Why it is important

- Good quality affordable homes promote *health and well-being*, meeting the individual needs of the residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live.
- Good quality energy efficient affordable homes are good for the *People and the Environment* - as the energy use within the home will be reduced, having a significant effect on reducing the fuel costs for the occupying residents. It will also have a significant effect on reducing pollutants in the atmosphere and mitigating fuel poverty in our communities.
- It's good for the *Social Structure* - well-placed affordable housing developments allow communities to welcome a wide range of families and to create a vibrant, diverse, group of residents.
- It's good for the *Economy* - in order to thrive, new businesses need easy access to its workforce. Affordable housing developments ensure that working families will remain in their community.

#### Success Measure

**+ 247**

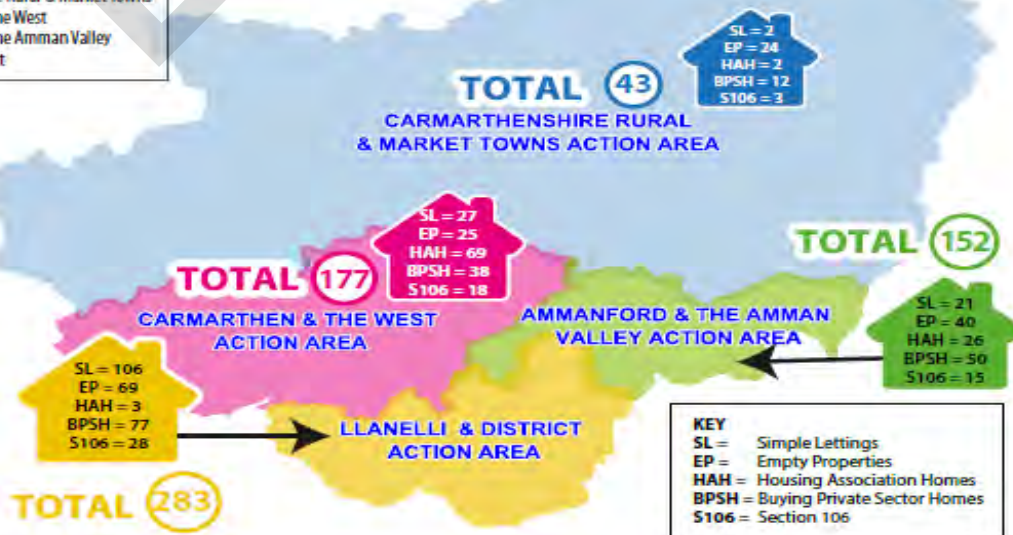
Additional Affordable Homes  
during 2018/19



#### Explaining the Results

##### Affordable Homes Performance – Overall Performance from April 2016 655 Affordable Homes Delivered

Action Areas as a % of County Population  
19% = Carmarthenshire Rural & Market Towns  
22% = Carmarthen & the West  
17% = Ammanford & the Amman Valley  
42% = Llanelli & District





## Progress Made

- As part of the 2016 - 2021 Affordable Homes Plan to date we have provided **655** additional affordable homes made up of the following:-

**156:** Simple lettings agency  
(32: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 61: 18/19)

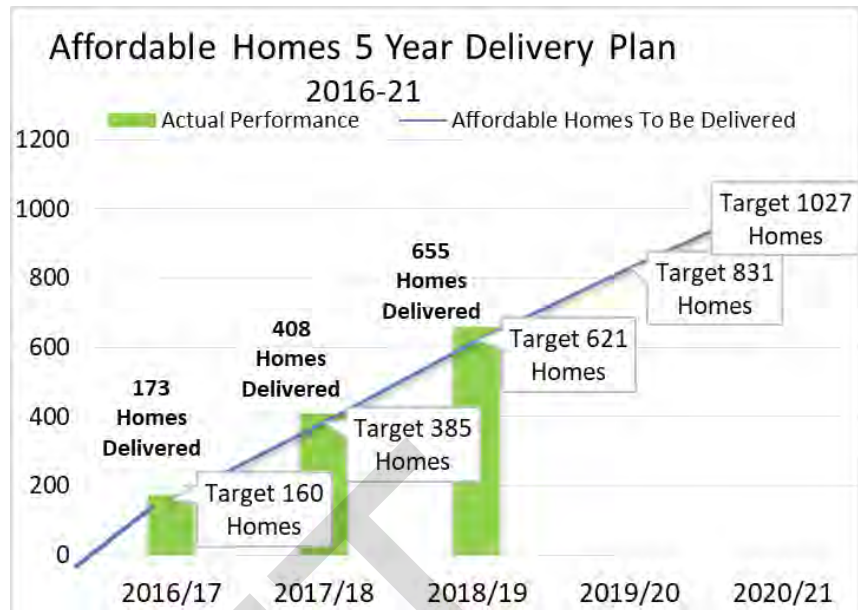
**158:** Empty homes brought back into use  
(28: 16/17; 63: 17/18; 67: 18/19)

**195:** Buying private sector homes  
(45: 16/17; 69: 17/18; 81: 18/19)

**82:** Housing Association new build development (45: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 17: 18/19)

**64:** Contribution by development (section 106) (23: 16/17; 20: 17/18; 21: 18/19)

- We have bought **173** private sector homes to increase the council's own housing stock. **22** homes have also been bought directly by Bro Myrddin Housing Association.
- Both our first two Council new build developments at Dylan and Garreglwyd are now on site building 48 new homes.
- Through the planning system (Section 106) **64** homes have been provided for [Low Cost Home Ownership](#) and nominated to local people who needed help to buy their own home.
- Carmarthenshire County Council is already making excellent progress on its promises to deliver 1,000 more affordable homes by 2021 and further plans are in place to build nearly 1,000 additional Council homes.



Executive Board Member  
For Housing  
Cllr Linda Evans



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



## Well-being Objective 8

### Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

**Almost 1.6 million visits to our Sport & Leisure Facilities, generating a Social Value Return of £5.9 million during 2018/19**






We want Carmarthenshire to be a place:

- That is the most active and healthy in the UK
- Where every person is an active participant at a *Community Club or Leisure / Cultural Facility*
- Where every child is hooked on Leisure / Cultural activity for life.

### Why it is important

- Because our way of life is changing, people are living longer with a higher quality of life.
- Because the challenge is to prevent ill health.
- Because living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.
- Because many of the preventive services and interventions required to maintain health, independence and well-being lie outside health and social care.

### Success Measures

 <p><b>TBC%</b> of Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good</p> <p>Source: National Survey for Wales</p>	 <p><b>TBC%</b> of Adults who say they have a longstanding illness</p>  <p>Source: National Survey for Wales</p>	<p>No year on year comparison available</p> <p>Adult mental well-being score of <b>TBC</b> (Out of a maximum of 70)</p>  <p>Source: National Survey for Wales</p>	<p>No year on year comparison available</p> <p><b>TBC%</b> of Adults who have &lt;2 healthy lifestyle behaviours</p>  <p><b>TBC<sup>th</sup> best in Wales</b></p> <p>Source: National Survey for Wales</p>
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### Explaining the Results

The following [National Survey for Wales](#) shows that:-

- Comment on **general health is Good or Very Good** will follow once the results are received June/July 2019.
- Comment on participating adults with **longstanding illness** will follow once the results are received June/July 2019.
- **Mental well-being score** is based on 14 positively worded statements asked as part of the survey which represents positive attributes of wellbeing and covers both feeling and functioning as opposed to mental illness or disorder and is suitable for use in the general population. Comments will follow once the results are received June/July 2019.
- Comments on **fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours** will follow once the results are received June/July 2019.



## Progress Made

- ⦿ In September 2018 Carmarthenshire played host to the start of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain. It was the first time that the Tour had started in South Wales and Pembrey Country Park was the fantastic start venue for the race. Pembrey Country Park and town and villages throughout the county welcomed 120 of the world's top professional cyclists in what is considered Britain's biggest professional cycle race. The Tour provided the county with a fantastic opportunity to showcase its unique and beautiful landscape both nationally and internationally with the race being broadcast live to 125 countries. Many communities held fun-filled days of activities with refreshments, and opportunities for children and adults alike to get involved and come together as a community to help celebrate this fantastic event as it made its way through the county. Kidwelly leg of stage: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltm6aTl0Kd4>
- ⦿ We have continued to monitor *air quality* (nitrogen dioxide) for the residents of and visitors to the County implementing a sampling programme. This supports a consultation for Air Quality Management Area's action plans for Llanelli and Carmarthen as well as the current action plans for Llandeilo. Data has been captured across all sites and results assessed and reported.
- ⦿ Following over £1m of investment in 2016/17 to enhance the fitness facilities at our leisure centres, creating more space and bringing in brand new state of the art fitness equipment, the number of visits has increased by 23% (from almost 1.3 million prior to the investment, to almost 1.6 million in 2018/19). This has also resulted in an increase in fitness income of 33%/£320k (from £975k prior to almost £1.3m in 2018/19).
- ⦿ A further 1,446 people were referred to the *National Exercise Referrals* (NERS) scheme during 2018/19, with 58.7% engaging with the scheme, an increase on 53.8% in 2017/18. Over 55% completed the 16 week programme, far exceeding the 50% target set.
- ⦿ Our mental health teams, leisure colleagues and Run Wales collaborated to pilot a project that trained a group of individuals with mental health issues from Llanelli to compete in the Swansea half marathon and also in local park runs. This innovative project saw the average wellbeing score of participants rise from 36 to 51 (an increase of 41%). The successful collaboration has since been extended to include the Homes & Safer Communities Division and additional sport national governing bodies, drawing in £22k to offer a programme to Ammanford and Carmarthen areas in 2019/20.
- ⦿ Pembrey Country Park has a new all-inclusive cycle hire scheme, namely 'Cycle For All'. There are 38 new cycles ranging from hybrid bicycles, wheelchair transporters, twin bikes, adult and child size tricycles, 4 seater family bikes and recliner bikes.



Executive Board Member  
For Culture, Sport & Tourism  
Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



# Age Well







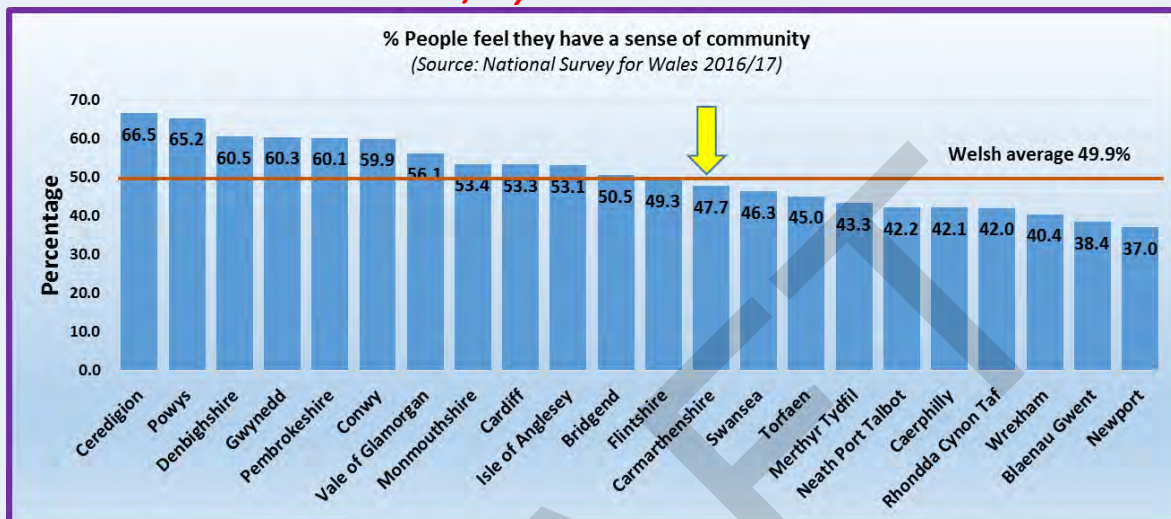
## Well-being Objective 9

Live Well/Age Well - Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities

### Sense of Community survey results have declined by 26% in Carmarthenshire Overall in Wales the results declined by 12%

The 'Sense of Community' is derived from three questions; *People feel they belong to their local area; People in the area from different backgrounds get on and People in the area treat each other with respect*.

**Updated data will become available June/July 2019**



Carmarthenshire has the 4th highest year on year % change having reduced from 73% in 2014/15 to 47.7% and moved down from 5th to 13th position.

### Why it is important

- Social isolation puts individuals at greater risk of cognitive decline with one study concluding that lonely people have a 64% increased chance of developing clinical dementia
- Loneliness amongst young people has been shown to increase the likelihood of poor physical & mental health, the risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and reduce future employment opportunities
- Social networks and friendships not only have an impact on reducing the risk of early death and illness, but they also help individuals to recover when they do fall ill

### Success Measure

**Updated data will become available June/July 2019**

**79%** People who feel safe

7<sup>th</sup> Highest in Wales

Source: National Survey for Wales



### Explaining the Results

- Comment to follow once the updated result has been received June/July 2019.

## Progress Made

- ⦿ We have continued to develop and improve how Children's Services provide information, advice and assistance (IAA) to support families, such as the new [Family Information Service \(FIS\)](#) website and the Dewis Directory of services which continues to be promoted.
- ⦿ We have supported the Community Cohesion National Delivery Plans principles:-
  - Supported Llanelli Tenants Network with organising a multi-cultural event
  - Supported migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and settled communities in the integration process
  - Supporting communities in preventing hostility and extremism
- ⦿ Safeguarding arrangements in Carmarthenshire have been further developed to ensure meaningful conversations with adults at risk take place at the earliest opportunity and continue until the appropriate outcomes have been achieved.
- ⦿ In support of the Police Force's Rural Crime Strategy, a new Rural Crime Board was established. which encouraged improved information sharing and awareness between rural communities and partners
- ⦿ A new initiative "Ask for Angela" was launched in partnership with the Police and licensing department, which allows customers in licensed premises, who could be feeling threatened or unsafe on a date, to get help by approaching the bar and "Asking for Angela."
- ⦿ We continue to fund our proactive Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS) projects through proceeds of crime (POCA) confiscations resulting from their enforcement activity. This money has funded new No Cold Calling Zones, the installation of True Call units to vulnerable consumers and the launch of the Buy With Confidence Approved Trader scheme, ensuring the public feel safer in their homes and communities



***The Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS) project helps to refund some of the losses incurred by consumers***



Executive Board Member  
For Community Safety  
Cllr Cefin Campbell



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



## Well-being Objective 10

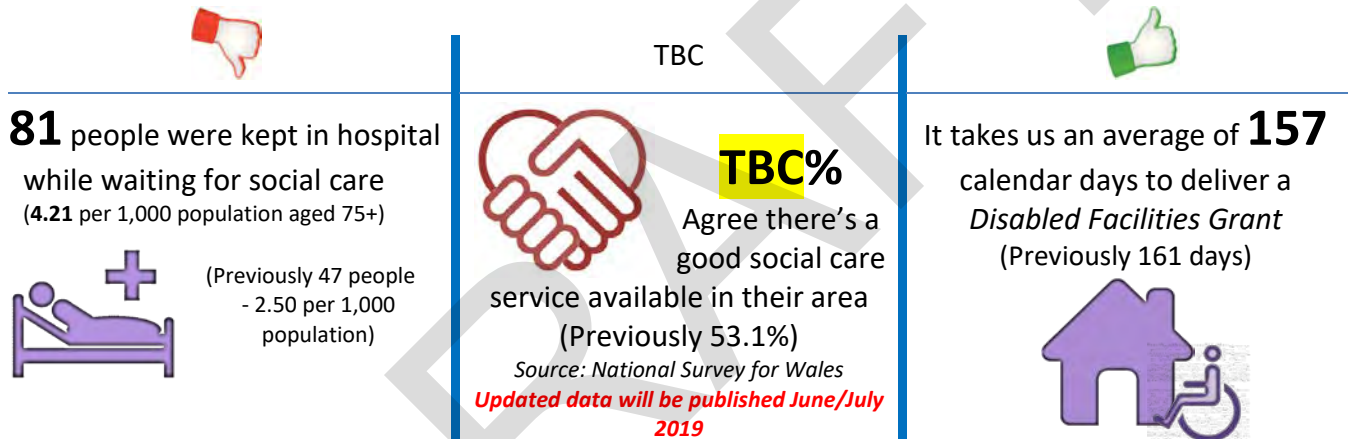
Age Well - Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years

Our Offer to the Population - 'Help to Help Yourself' (Prevent ill health or injury)  
Promote independence, well-being, community engagement and social inclusion.

### Why it is important

- Because consultations have demonstrated that 'what matters' to individuals is to be able to be as independent and well as possible for as long as possible.
- Because our frail population demographic is increasing and will require support to remain as independent as possible.
- Because it is essential that we lay robust foundations to future proof the availability of services that promote and support ongoing well-being and independence for our frail older adult population.

### Success Measures



### Explaining the Results

- 81 clients (75+) were **kept in hospital** during 2018/19 while waiting for social care, this is quite an increase on the previous year of 47. We have been developing new services to support hospital discharges and ensure that our citizens have the right care at the right time. Coupled with our therapy led reablement service, we have developed an Outcome Assessment Service ensuring that all people who require statutory delivered care have an opportunity for further assessment in their home environment to promote their independence. With increased numbers of people having co-morbidities resulting in complex needs and higher levels of care we are constantly monitoring and reviewing our services to meet this increasing demand.
- According to the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#) .... **Data will be published June/July 2019**
- The average number of days taken to deliver a *Disabled Facilities Grant* adaptation continues to reduce year on year and are currently TBC best in Wales. **Chart to follow once the comparative data is published, to show significant improvement over last few years.**



## Progress Made

- ⦿ We have developed an innovative **social prescription scheme** in partnership with GPs where patients are prescribed time credits so that they can attend events and community groups. Time Credits work very simply: for every hour that an individual contributes to their community or service, they earn one Time Credit. These Time Credits can be spent accessing an hour of activity provided by health & wellbeing venues such as leisure centres, gyms, yoga, theatres, craft groups and walking groups. Last year across the whole of the county there 1,941 members of the Carmarthenshire Time Bank.
- ⦿ According to the 2018/19 Social Care survey **84.6%** of clients were satisfied with their care and support.
- ⦿ The preventative work in Carmarthenshire based on the PEIPIL strategy (Prevention, Early Intervention and Promoting Independent Living) identified as good practice in Wales through the Bevan Exemplar scheme.
- ⦿ We have successfully delivered **Carmarthenshire's United Support Project (CUSP)** and has been identified as an Exemplar Initiative in Wales through the Bevan Commission. Third sector collaboration that supports people in the community to stay independent for as long as possible.
- ⦿ *Transfer of Care Advice and Liaison Service (TOCALs)* has expanded in the Glangwili General Hospital and Prince Phillip Hospital to include community based Occupational Therapists, Social workers, Nurses and Physios which ensures timely discharges from hospitals.
- ⦿ *Fulfilled Lives* is a long term service that supports people living with dementia, it provides individuals with a key worker that helps people to live their life as fully as possible as their dementia progresses. The focus is on the individual directing the support that they need to maximise their independence.



Executive Board Member  
For Social Care and Health  
Cllr Jane Tremlett



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



## Well-being Objective 11

### Age Well - A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire

#### 60% agree we live in an age friendly community

However, our 50+ Forum Survey shows a 5% fall from 65% to 60% for last year

### Why it is important

- Ageing well – ‘adding life to years, not just years to life’ – is important for each of us, and for our country as a whole. Older people should be seen as a vital part of society and should be able to have more opportunities to participate in and contribute to our economy and our communities. Older people are a significant asset to our community and economy.
- Wider services can make an important contribution in supporting and sustaining the independence of older people and reducing the demand on Social Services and Health Care.

### Success Measure

**16.6%** of people

are lonely

Source: National Survey for Wales  
Was 17.1%



### Explaining the Results

According to the 2017/18 [National Survey for Wales](#), **16.6%** of participating adults in Carmarthenshire **classed themselves as lonely**, this is slightly above the Welsh average of 16.3% but has reduced from previous year's result of 17.1% and we continue to be in 10<sup>th</sup> position.

In our 50+ Forum Survey 70% of respondents felt that we were doing sufficient work to address loneliness and isolation and made some suggestions for improvement.

### Progress Made – to take forward the 5 aims of the national and local Ageing Well Plan

#### 1. AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

- Our links with the 50+ Forum have been strengthened during the year and a bi-monthly email to all 50+ Forum members is now issued through Dotmailer, which has received a positive response from those receiving the message.
- The Carmarthenshire 50+ Forum have now established their own communications group in response to last year's 50+ Forum survey, where older people did not feel enough information is provided regarding services available, events and important information which impacts them.

#### 2. DEMENTIA SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

- Our 50+ Survey, undertaken during 2018, showed a very small increase in agreement that we have Dementia Supportive Communities
- In June 2018 the Council resolved a Notice of Motion to explore the feasibility of making Carmarthenshire a dementia friendly county.
- We now have over 6,000 (4,847 17/18) [dementia friends](#) across the county.





### 3. FALLS PREVENTION

- ⦿ Excellent progress has been made during the year to deliver staff training through the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) initiative. The initiative recognises that staff across health, local authority and voluntary sectors, have thousands of contacts every day, and staff are trained to give them the competence and confidence to deliver healthy lifestyle messages and to help encourage people to change their behaviour and to direct them to further support.

### 4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND NEW SKILLS

- ⦿ The availability of various Digital training resources for older clients has been complied and contact details distributed via partner organisations. Promotion events for the 50+ Forum have been held in Carmarthen, Pontyberem, Ammanford and Llanelli.

### 5. LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

- ⦿ We also organised the 50+ annual event held at the Botanic Garden with 600+ attendees. Carmarthenshire is Kind was the focus the event, which gave key messages and evidence about the positive effects of kindness on health and wellbeing.

## Strengthening local communities and alleviating the pressures on health & social care services.

Once again an example of how older people are a significant asset to Carmarthenshire



A Llanelli pensioner is honoured with British Empire Medal - William Henry Gerwyn Jenkins was recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the Samaritans



Executive Board Members For  
Housing: Cllr Linda Evans &  
Social Care & Health:  
Cllr Jane Tremlett



View our **detailed progress here**  
against this objective





# Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment

A large, diverse crowd of people is shown from a low angle, looking towards the background. The people are mostly seen from the back or side, creating a sense of being part of the crowd. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. In the top right corner, there is a graphic overlay of several stylized human figures in various colors (grey, blue, orange) arranged in a cluster.



## Well-being Objective 12

### Healthy & Safe Environment -

Look after the environment now and in the future

#### We are improving our environment through enhancing biodiversity and using renewable energy in our buildings

We have delivered sustainable projects that protect and enhance our environment. The managed habitat for the marsh fritillary butterfly and 300 ha of local nature reserves are both projects that contribute to sustainability and biodiversity. Renewable energy technology is being used more and more in our buildings and is intrinsically part of all our new builds, with the Authority aim to be 'Carbon Neutral' by 2030. Our Flood Management and Shoreline Management Plans will allow the Authority to deliver its obligations under the Well-being and Future Generations Act, by making Wales more *resilient* and in turn more *prosperous*. However, meeting recycling targets has been extremely challenging this year.

#### Why it is important

- The *Natural Environment* is a core component of sustainable development. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 expands the duty placed on public bodies, requiring them to *maintain & enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience*.
- A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience. Carmarthenshire's natural environment is the natural resource on which much of our economy is based – tourism, farming, forestry, and renewable energy. It is a major factor that attracts people, both young and older to live, work and visit the county, bringing inward investment with them.
- The Well-being Needs Assessment survey identified a strong relationship between residents' well-being and their surrounding environment from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture.

#### Success Measures



We generated **979,071**  
**kWh** (provisional) of  
renewable energy during  
2018/19  
(increased from 937,330 kWh  
in the previous year)



Our recycle rate is  
**58.94%**  
(This is less than the  
previous year's figure of  
63.64%, but we continue to  
meet our target)



#### Explaining the Results

- **Renewable energy** – We continue to invest in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on our non-domestic buildings with a total installed capacity of 1.15 MWp. This has generated over 979,071 kWh (provisional) of Electricity during 2018/19, a 4.5% increase on the previous year of 937,330 kWh.
- **Recycling** declined in 2018/19 to 58.94% from 63.64% the previous year. The decline is predominantly as a result of the difficulties with export markets for residual waste (refuse derived fuel outlets). However we have met the statutory target of 58%.



## Progress Made

- ⦿ The project continues to manage 24 sites that provide 40.46ha of habitat in suitable condition for the marsh fritillary butterfly. Surveys results in summer 2018 show that numbers of larval webs recorded were exceptionally high this year with 86 webs recorded on one site. Habitat surveys found new records of marsh fritillaries in 31 fields, across the area, expanding our knowledge of the butterfly in this part of the county, and this work will inform the new Local Development Plan and the revision of the Caeau Mynydd Mawr SPG. The project continues to ensure the appropriate grazing of the land in management's agreements, often assisting landowners in finding suitable grazing animals. It has also been making use of the Glas Tir small grants scheme, when it can, for hedgerow management.
- ⦿ The Council has a significant new build programme. All major new build projects incorporate renewable energy technologies where appropriate with solar PV installations incorporated into many recent Modernising Education Provision 21st Century school projects.
- ⦿ In addition, all non-domestic projects receiving an element of Welsh Government funding are required to achieve a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method) rating of 'Excellent', a part of which is linked to designing buildings to achieve reductions in energy use and carbon emissions.
- ⦿ We have completed our Flood Risk Management Plans to protect homes & properties in Carmarthenshire.

The **Caeau Mynydd Mawr Marsh Fritillary Project** received an award for '*Planning in the Natural Environment*' category at the National RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence.



Executive Board Member  
For Public Protection:  
**Cllr Philip Hughes**



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective





## Well-being Objective 13

### Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

#### We are improving the county's road infrastructure, rural transport and active travel

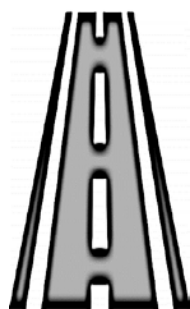
Our Transportation and Highway related services facilitate the safe movement of goods and People. Enabling access to raw commodities and markets as well as providing opportunities for People to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure and social activities. We have continued to develop Active travel by investing in shared paths and cycle paths, improved the road infrastructure to encourage economic activity in the county and maintained a rural bus service through our Bwcabus and country cars service.

#### Why it is important

- *Transportation and highways* play a key role in sustaining our community. A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods; providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure, social and retail services.
- *United and connected* is one of the four Welsh Governments' aims in its 'Taking Wales Forward' plan. Providing integrated and affordable access for businesses, for residents and visitors can stimulate economic development, reductions in deprivation and social exclusion and an increase in well-being.
- Sustaining access to services through Active Travel plans will deliver improvements in health and well-being for all sections of the community e.g. that includes: walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.
- By 2030 South West Wales will be a confident, ambitious and connected City Region.

#### Success Measures

##### Roads that are in poor condition:



**5.2%** of our A Class

(A decline on 4.1% in 17/18)

**4.2%** of our B Class

(A decline on 3.1% in 17/18)

**12.5%** of our C Class

(A decline on 11.9% in 17/18)



Our road casualty numbers **have reduced** with **TBC** people being killed or seriously injured on the roads (83 in 2017)



Source: Stats Wales

Data will be published June/July 2019

#### Explaining the Results

- **Road conditions in Carmarthenshire have deteriorated during 2018/19.** Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales. The % of A class, B and C class roads in Carmarthenshire in a poor condition (red zone) has increased; with A class roads increasing from 4.1% to 5.2%, B roads from 3.1% to 4.2% and C roads from 11.9% to 12.5%. The overall increase of poor condition (red zone) during last year equates to some 180km of road, this is a significant length of the network. Current levels of investment are not keeping pace with the rate of deterioration. Additional Road Refurbishment funding provided in 2018/19 and 2019/20 has included priority sections on our 'A' class roads and this will help to slow the deterioration in the network.
- **A total of TBC people were killed or seriously injured on Carmarthenshire's roads in 2018, Data to follow when published in June/July 2019**

## Progress Made

- ⦿ We have completed two of our three strategic transport infrastructure links at Carmarthen West and Ammanford
- ⦿ We continued with the construction of the *Tywi Valley Cycle way* and continue to develop the full scheme. We have built approximately 3.94 Km of cycling/ shared use paths this year throughout the county to support sustainable and active travel.
- ⦿ We have continued investment into *vehicle replacements* during the year in accordance with our strategic fleet replacement programme.
- ⦿ We have secured funding from the Welsh Government to install public charges units for electric vehicles that are now live.

## Carmarthen West opening



Executive Board Member  
For Environment:  
Cllr Hazel Evans



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



## Well-being Objective 14

### Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

#### Promotion of the Welsh Language and Culture continues to progress well

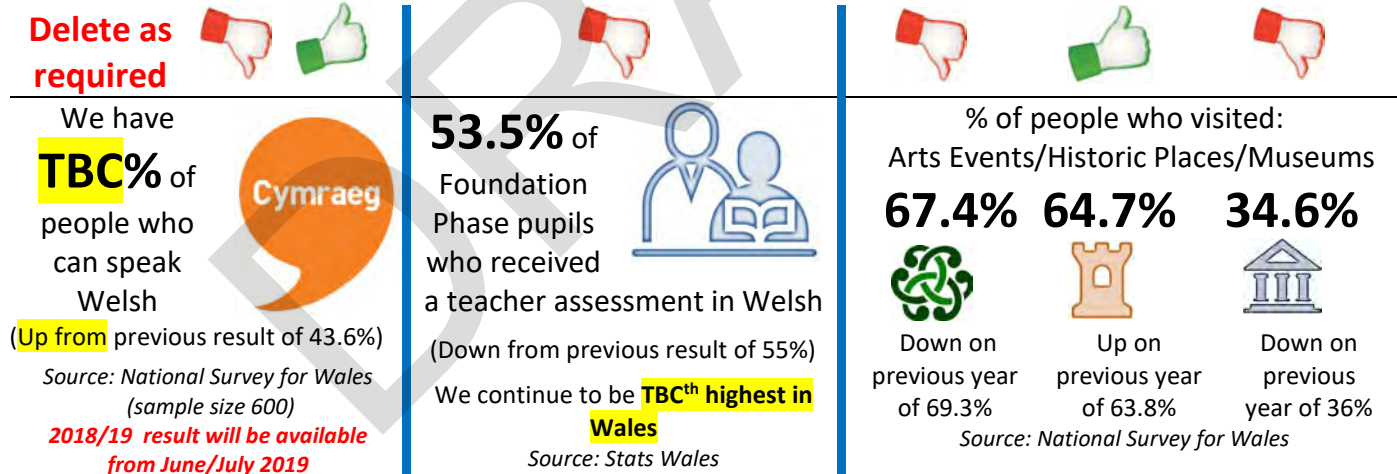
Our campaign to promote Welsh language services has been highlighted as *successful practice* by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

We have developed the 'Stordy Digidol' a digital project to widen access to our County's collections and cultural services. The website infrastructure is now complete with library content of some 770 images.

#### Why it is important

- Support and development in the use of the Welsh language has been identified as a key element in developing the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area in terms of tourism, business investment and addressing rural poverty.
- The decision by S4C to re-locate to Carmarthen will catapult the county into one of significance for the Creative Industries sector in Wales. 'Yr Egin – The Creative Exchange', a new media and culture hub at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Carmarthen campus will be developed with the Welsh broadcaster as the anchor tenant for the site. Yr Egin will also excel in promoting Carmarthen as a gateway to 'Y Fro Gymraeg', the Welsh-speaking heartland.
- We have a good track record of supporting the arts, and have been leading the way as one of the most culturally-committed local authorities in Wales, as we continue to value and invest in the arts despite the challenge of austerity and public funding cuts.

#### Success Measures



#### Explaining the Results

- Comments on the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#) results will be available in June/July 2019.
- All learners in their final year of Foundation Phase must be assessed through teacher assessments. 53.5% of our Foundation Phase pupils received a teacher's assessment in Welsh which is slightly down on the previous year. **Comparative data to follow.**
- According to the [National Survey for Wales](#) the number of survey participants attending an arts event and visiting a museum in Wales during 2017/18 reduced slightly at 67.4% and 34.6% respectively, this is below the Welsh average figures of 68% and 40.4%. The number visiting heritage sites increased slightly to 64.7% this is above the Welsh average of 63.4%. Please note that the questions asked whether they attended or visited these in Wales and not specifically in Carmarthenshire.



## Progress Made

- ⦿ Our action to promote the Strategy for Welsh Language is linked closely with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and projects such as Cymraeg i Blant, which is funded by the Welsh Government. We have prepared resources to explain the benefits of a bilingual education and will continue to support the implementation of the WESP across the county.
- ⦿ In July 2018 we published a [Carmarthenshire Arts Strategy](#) which sets out 4 Strategic Priorities with detailed action plans and Key Milestones to support it.
- ⦿ Carmarthenshire Theatres have seen a 39% increase in tickets sales and a 42% increase in income during 2018/19.
- ⦿ We have been invited to support Arts Council Wales in developing a new strategic initiative to address the lack of Welsh language theatre being developed, and address the disconnection between the Welsh language work that's been created and what audiences want to see.
- ⦿ To improve the Welsh language of staff, during 2018/19 - 223 staff undertook training courses, 91 completed e-learning courses. In the Annual Language Skills Audit, an improvement was seen at all levels – e.g. staff with no Welsh verbal skills reduced from 15% to 11%. See Welsh Language Report - (link to be added)

### Increasing our Staff CONFIDENCE to use Welsh



Members of staff attended a Welsh Language residential course to help improve their confidence in using the Welsh Language in the workplace



Executive Board Member  
For Welsh Language, Culture and Tourism:  
**Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths**



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective





# Building a Better Council & Better Use of Resources







## Well-being Objective 15a - Building a Better Council

### We published a new Corporate Strategy incorporating 4 plans into 1

The New Corporate Strategy was published on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. It consolidated the previous Corporate Strategy, our Improvement Plan, Well-being Objectives and the Executive Boards 5 year Plan -Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire.

### Why it is important

- It is important that our strategic plans are aligned and integrated
- In Building a Better Council we want to make every effort to secure a more efficient, ethical, transparent and accountable local government that supports and enhances public participation and democracy.
- The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires **7 areas** of corporate change, which are a key expectation of the Future Generations Commissioner in Annual Reporting.

[FGC - The journey so far: May 2018](#)

1 Corporate Planning  
2 Performance Management  
3 Workforce Planning

Covered by  
**Building a Better Council**

4 Financial Planning  
5 Assets  
6 Procurement  
7 Risk

Covered by  
**Making Better Use of Resources**

### Success Measures

*No year on year comparison available for these measures*



**TBC%** of people agree that they can access information about us in the way they would like to.

(previously 70.8%)  
(Welsh average **TBC%**)

Source: National Survey for Wales

**TBC%** of people know how to find what services we provide

(previously 71.9%)  
(Welsh average **TBC%**)

Source: National Survey for Wales

**TBC%** of people agree that they have

an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of our services

(previously 11.4%)  
(Welsh average **TBC%**)

Source: National Survey for Wales



Staff sickness is at a 4 year low  
**9.8** days per year



(with main cause of sickness being stress, mental health & fatigue)

### Explaining the Results

- According to the 2018/19 [National Survey for Wales](#)
  - Comments will follow when the data becomes available in June/July 2019.**
- Staff Sickness within the Authority has reduced from 10.1 days in 2017/18 to 9.8 days in 2018/19 (it was last at this level in 2014/15 with 9.6 days). Sickness data is regularly monitored and analysed to ensure the focus is on reducing absence, with a Challenge and Review forum which identifies where there are gaps as well examples of good practice. The main cause of sickness continues to be stress, mental health & fatigue.

## Progress Made

### Corporate Planning

- Since publication of the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan the Public Service Board (PSB) has approved a new partnership structure and a series of Delivery Groups have been established.
- We are further developing the Council's means of undertaking consultation and developing ways of engaging with communities such as the Disability Partnership and the 50+ Forum.

### Performance Management

- Wales Audit Office certified that our New Corporate Strategy (June 2018) and our Annual Report( October 2018) satisfied legislative requirements
- To ensure we take all reasonable steps to meet our Well-being Objectives, we reshaped our Performance Information Monitoring System (PIMS) and the business planning format

### Workforce Planning

- We have been awarded the *silver accreditation* against the Investors in People (IIP) Standard.
- In March 2018 we began paying the equivalent of the Foundation Living Wage to our staff (explained more fully in WBO5 – Tackling Poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work & improve the lives of those living in poverty)
- We have signed up to the '*Time to Change pledge*' which is a public declaration that an organisation wants to step up to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination.

**As part of the National Apprenticeship week we celebrated the achievements of staff who have completed their apprenticeships**



Executive Board Member For  
HR, Performance Mgt, ICT, TIC:  
**Cllr Mair Stephens**



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective



## Well-being Objective 15b - Making Better Use of Resources

**Over the last 5 years we have had to manage reductions in service budgets of around £50 million, with minimum impact on front line services.**

The financial position faced by local authorities has had a consistent theme with the level of resources available to public services seeing significant reductions. We have had to manage reductions in service budgets, whilst at the same time the pressures on the budget have been increasing in terms of demand and expectations. We strive to manage this situation by reducing our spending without any significant impact on the frontline services valued by our communities.

### Why it is important

- There are increasing demands and expectations yet less resources are available. Under these conditions we need to work even more efficiently and effectively to maintain services and improve where we can, delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.
- Further financial pressures are likely to arise from such things as rising energy costs, an increasing number of older people needing services from us, office, school buildings and highways that require significant investment, and this is in addition to the current uncertainty in the economic outlook as the UK embarks on the process of leaving the European Union.
- The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires **7 areas** of corporate change, **4** within Making Better Use of Resources which are a key expectation of the Future Generations Commissioner in Annual Reporting.

4 Financial Planning  
5 Assets  
6 Procurement  
7 Risk

### Making Better Use of Resources

[FGC - The journey so far: May 2018](#)

### Success Measures



**14%** increase of  
'Do it online' payments  
(From 34,494 to 39,321)



**£TBCm**  
current savings  
were made  
in 2018/19



No year on year comparison available

**TBC%** of people agree that we  
ask for their  
views before  
setting our  
budget



(previously 8%)  
(Welsh average **TBC%** and in **TBC<sup>th</sup>** place)  
(Source: National Survey for Wales)

### Explaining the Results

- More customers are **paying for services online** with the number of payments increasing by 5% from 34,494 in 2017/18 to **39,321 in 2018/19**.
- Addressing this well-being priority cuts across all service areas and is both about investment as well as efficiency savings. The Council is committed to financially sustainable delivery models - there are many examples of this across different departments, such as increased *Extra Care Provision* where it better meets service user needs, a move towards *agile working*, thus reducing the Council's estate costs in the future.
- **Comments will follow when the [National Survey for Wales](#) data becomes available in June/July 2019.**



## Progress Made

### Financial Planning:

- Our Well Being Objectives identified financial commitments to each objective and the Members Budget Seminars identified our Well Being Objectives when considering budget proposals. Impact assessments also ensured the impact of our Well Being Objectives were considered.
- We have improved our financial reporting by providing sufficient information on reserves and a clear audit trail for decisions regarding reserves and have strengthened our financial planning arrangements. Business Plans are presented to Scrutiny Committees at the same time of budget proposal consultations, 3 year savings proposals are prepared and detailed monitoring is in place.

### Assets:

- Work continued on the collation of data on all community based assets with a view to making better use of facilities. Community Asset transfer discussions are ongoing with various interested parties.

### Procurement:

- In June 2018 we published our [Procurement Strategy 2018-22](#) which sets out our strategic priorities and our commitment to ensuring that the economic, social and environmental well-being of Carmarthenshire is at the heart of our activities.

### Risks:

- Our Corporate, Departmental and Service Risk Registers were all updated in 2018/19 in line with the Risk Management & Contingency Planning Strategy 2018-22 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

**We are committed to delivering Community Benefits, an £8.8 Million scheme for Ysgol Penrhos in Llanelli reported that for every £1 spent £1.86 was reinvested back into the Welsh Economy**

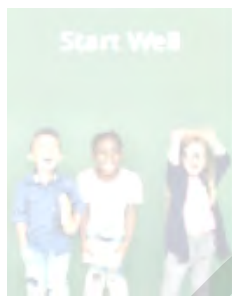


Executive Board Member  
For Resources: Cllr David Jenkins



View our [detailed progress here](#)  
against this objective





Live Well



Age Well



Healthy, Safe  
& Prosperous  
Environment



# APPENDICES

DRAFT

## Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are separate but interconnected legal obligations. Our Well-being Plan combined both requirements and this Annual Report does the same.

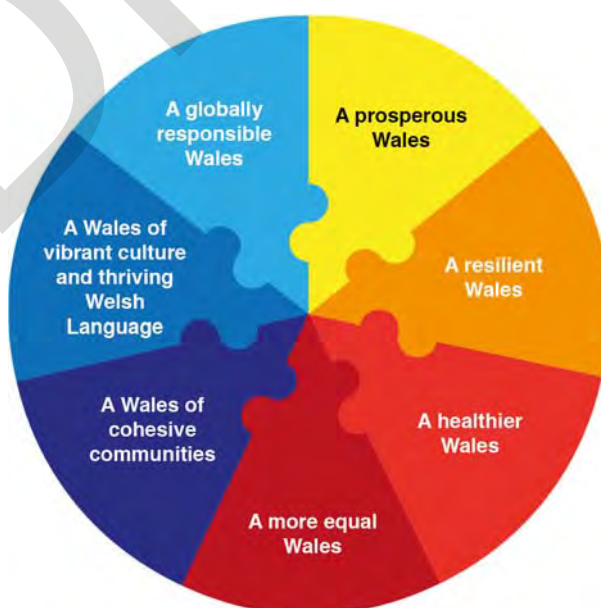
### The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Council to set Improvement Objectives every year. They do not have to change every year, or be deliverable within one year.
- Our Improvement Objectives are essentially the same as our Well-being Objectives as they are based on a thorough evidence-based understanding of the communities we serve and local needs. We compare our Service performance and satisfaction results with all Councils in Wales to make sure we improve where we most need to.
- We have a duty to improve, often delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.

### Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

This is an Act introduced by the Welsh Government which will change aspects of how we work. The general purpose of the Act, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the well-being of Wales, take the needs of future generations into account. The Act is designed to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales, in accordance with sustainable development principles. The new law states that:-

- We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is **'... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'**
- We must demonstrate 5 ways of working:  
Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative (see **Appendix 1**)
- We must work towards achieving all of the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.



For the first time in Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act, provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. As a public body subject to the Act we were required to set and publish Well-being Objectives that maximised our Contribution to the Well-being Goals.

## How our Well-being Objectives contribute to the 7 National Well-being Goals

Carmarthenshire's 2017/18 Well-being Objectives / KIOPs			7 National Well-being Goals						
			Prosperity	Resilience	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant culture & Welsh Language	Global responsibility
Start Well	1	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	2	Help children live healthy lifestyles	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	3	Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
	4	Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Live Well	5	Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	6	Create more jobs and growth throughout the county	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	7	Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	8	Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Age Well	9	Support good connections with friends, family & safer communities			✓	✓	✓		✓
	10	Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity & independence in their later years	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	11	A Council-wide approach to support Ageing Well in the county	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
In a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	12	Look after the environment now and for the future	✓	✓	✓				
	13	Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	14	Promote Welsh Language and Culture	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
	15	Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## Success measures for our Well-being Objectives

**Additional results and comparative data will become available later in the year**

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## National Survey for Wales Results

Data becomes available in phases from end of June.

DRAFT

## How our 2018/19 results for Public Accountability Measures compare to other Councils in Wales

Here are the key dates for the 2018-19 data collection and publication from DataCymru:

Activity	Date
Education and Planning data published	01/07/2019
Sign off form available (collected data only)	14/06/2019
Sign off deadline (collected data only)	21/06/2019
Data pre-released (collected data only)	05/07/2019
'Collected' data published: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Services;</li> <li>• Environmental Services;</li> <li>• Housing (including PAM/012);</li> <li>• Leisure and Culture (PAM/017);</li> <li>• Highways Services; and</li> <li>• Public Protection.</li> </ul>	29/07/2019
'Sourced' data published: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing (PAM036 / PAM038);</li> <li>• Leisure and Culture (PAM/040);</li> <li>• Waste Services</li> </ul>	04/11/2019 (Tbc)
Leisure and Culture (PAM041 / PAM042) data published	02/12/2019 (Tbc)
Social care data published	Tbc

## Our Regulatory Reports

The following list of regulatory reports were issued during the last twelve months:



### LOCAL REPORTS

<a href="#">Annual Improvement Report: 2017-18 (Aug 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Evaluation of the Council's Review of People Performance Management 2017 (April 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Scrutiny: Fit for the Future? Review (June 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Audit Committee Effectiveness (July 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Local Government Services to Rural Communities (Nov 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Provision of Local Government Services to Rural Communities: Community Asset Transfer (Nov 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Local Government Use of Data (Jan 2019)</a>
<a href="#">Well-being of Future Generations examination - WBO 2 (Feb 2019)</a>

### NATIONAL REPORTS

<a href="#">Speak My language: Overcoming Language &amp; Communication Barriers in Public Services (April 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Strategic Commissioning of Accommodation Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities (May 2018)</a>
<a href="#">National Fraud Initiative in Wales 2016-18 (Oct 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Procuring Residual and Food Waste Treatment Capacity (Oct 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Managing the Impact of Brexit on the Rural Development Programme in Wales (Nov 2018)</a>
<a href="#">Waste Management in Wales: Municipal Recycling (Nov 2018)</a>
<a href="#">The Maturity of Local Government in Use of Data (Dec 2018)</a>



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# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y DDWYLAN, YSGOL GRIFFITH JONES, YSGOL LLANGYNNWR AND YSGOL LLYS HYWEL

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

1. The observations received and the Local Authority's responses following the consultation period (Consultation Report attached) and the publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal at:
  - Ysgol Y Ddwylan;
  - Ysgol Griffith Jones;
  - Ysgol Llangynnwyr; and
  - Ysgol Llys Hywel.

#### Reasons:

- To support Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan launched on 25 June 2018 in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plans
- To formulate views for submission to Executive Board for consideration.

**To be referred to the Executive Board : YES 23/09/19**

**To be referred to County Council for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Simon Davies  <b>Report Author:</b> Sara Griffiths	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Access to Education  Modernisation Team Manager	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 246471 <a href="mailto:SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 246618 <a href="mailto:SMGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SMGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL Y DDWYLAN, YSGOL GRIFFITH JONES, YSGOL LLANGYNNWR AND YSGOL LLYS HYWEL

#### Background

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in accordance with WG Strategic Plans the Local Authority launched **Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan** and its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire. To achieve this, the authority would need to deliver significant growth in Welsh medium education to increase the number of children and young people who become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

With this in mind, the Local Authority has a responsibility to provide its communities with the best education and opportunities possible and believes that this can be achieved through set objectives. Carmarthenshire County Council are fully supportive of the aim that all pupils are able to speak, read and write in both Welsh and English fluently by the end of Key Stage 2 and will provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual nature of the County.

In order to support Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and national policies in moving the county's schools along the Welsh language continuum, the attached draft consultation document sets out proposals with regards to the change in nature of provision at **Ysgol Y Ddwyllan, Ysgol Griffith Jones, Ysgol Llangynnwyr and Ysgol Llys Hywel**.

#### The Proposal

The proposals are to change the nature of **Foundation Phase** provision at **Ysgol Y Ddwyllan, Ysgol Griffith Jones, Ysgol Llangynnwyr and Ysgol Llys Hywel** to Welsh medium with the choice of language medium being introduced at Key Stage 2. Each proposal should be considered separately.

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (link to the consultation document and report provided) a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 20 May 2019 to 30 June 2019. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report.

The E&C Scrutiny Committee are provided the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the Executive Board whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice. Should the Executive Board grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention is to publish on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

If approved, following the end of the Statutory Notice period, an objection report which summarises any objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to the E&C Scrutiny Committee; the Executive Board and ultimately County Council for determination.

### **Recommendation**

That the E&C Scrutiny Committee endorses the proposals and recommends to the Executive Board the publication of a Statutory Notice for **Ysgol Y Ddwylan, Ysgol Griffith Jones, Ysgol Llangynnwr and Ysgol Lllys Hywel.**

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED**

**YES: Consultation Report**



# 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: **S. Davies** Head of Access to Education

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

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Corporate Strategy and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme and WESP 2018.

## 2. Legal

Appropriate consultation was initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.

## 3. Finance

Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.

## 4. ICT

None

## 5. Risk Management Issues

The proposal may impact on the demand for school places at the school and surrounding catchment area schools. Admissions will be monitored and if required, appropriate action will be undertaken.

## 6. Staffing Implications

Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Policy and Procedures.

## 7. Physical Assets

None

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: S. Davies Head of Access to Education

**1. Scrutiny Committee** – Consulted on 24 April 2019.

**2. Local Member(s)** – The local members of each area are aware of the proposals and have been consulted with during the formal consultation period.

**3. Community / Town Council** – Consulted during the formal consultation period.

**4. Relevant Partners** – Consulted during the formal consultation period.

**5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Consulted during the formal consultation period.

## 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
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) – Executive Board Report	<a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&amp;MId=3025&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&amp;MId=3025&amp;Ver=4</a>
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) – ECS Scrutiny Committee Report	<a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&amp;MId=2235&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&amp;MId=2235&amp;Ver=4</a>
Consultation Document	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/y-ddwylan/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/y-ddwylan/</a> <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/griffith-jones/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/griffith-jones/</a> <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/llys-hywel/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/llys-hywel/</a> <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/llangunnor/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/llangunnor/</a>
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan/</a>
MEP Biennial Review	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> Executive Board 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Website	<a href="http://www.21stcenturyschools.org">www.21stcenturyschools.org</a>

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# DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

## CONSULTATION REPORT

For the proposal to change the nature of provision at

**Ysgol Y Ddwylan, Ysgol Griffith Jones, Ysgol**

**Llangynnwr and Ysgol Llys Hywel**

***Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are  
safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to  
achieve their full educational potential***

**September 2019**

**Gareth Morgans**

**Director of Education and Children's Services**



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## **School Modernisation Section**

**Sara Griffiths**, Modernisation Team Manager

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## 1. Introduction

Following approval from the Executive Board on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Carmarthenshire County Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at:

- Ysgol y Ddwylan;
- Ysgol Griffith Jones;
- Ysgol Llangynnwr; and
- Ysgol Llys Hywel.

The consultation period closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and this report summarises: the responses received during the consultation period; Carmarthenshire County Council's response to those observations; Estyn's response to the proposal and the pupils' response.

It must be noted that whilst this report summarises the responses for all proposals, the four proposals should be considered **separately**.

## 2. Executive Summary- Ysgol Y Ddwylan

### **The Consultation Period**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Y Ddwylan, within the community of Newcastle Emlyn. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 with a total of 61 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Email	Total
59	2	61

It must be noted that of the 61 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

### **Responses Received**

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Y Ddwylan along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

#### **Supportive**

- Theme 1 - Bilingualism
- Theme 2 – Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language



- Theme 3 – The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies
- Theme 4 – Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector
- Theme 5 – Immersion
- Theme 6 – No reason

## **Concerns**

- Theme 1- Removal of Choice
- Theme 2 – The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities
- Theme 3 - Consultation Process/Misrepresentation of Data
- Theme 4 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 5 - Forcing the Welsh Language
- Theme 6 – Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- Theme 7 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 8- The Community
- Theme 9 – Coping with the Welsh Language
- Theme 10 – Parents won't be able to help support their child
- Theme 11- Transport and Travel to Other Schools
- Theme 12 – Welsh Government/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money
- Theme 13 – Inside and Outside Catchment Pupils
- Theme 14 – Transfer to English Medium Schools
- Theme 15 - No Reason

Of the 61 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (39)
- Staff Member (5)
- School Governor (3)
- Grandparent (4)
- Other (10)

## **Overall Summary**

Supportive	41%	Not Supportive	59%
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## **Workshops**

Following the closure consultation period on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

## **Consultation Event**

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Y Ddwylan on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 10 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Y Ddwylan Staff	2
Secondary School Head Teacher	1
Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Parents	4
Councillor (Town and Local)	1

## **Next Steps**

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

## 2.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
<b>Supportive Comments Raised</b>				
1.	<p><b><u>Bilingualism</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the many advantages of being bilingual.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as: cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a bilingual education.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example,</p>	2	3%

		<p>all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
2.	<p><b><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the community and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	2	3%
3.	<p><b><u>The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies</u></b></p> <p>In line with the Local Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a</p>	2	3%

	<p>Government's "Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers" the proposal ensures that the Local Authority is adhering to Council and Welsh Government policies with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The proposal ensures that the Local Authority meet their aim of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p>	<p>responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p>		
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		<p>On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
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	<p><b><u>Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector</u></b></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal moves the school along the language continuum, however consideration needs to be given to further linguistic development along all areas of the education sector.</p>	<p>On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plan, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic plan with its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The Plan requires <b>all</b> schools within the county to move along the language continuum and notes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that every pupil is completely bilingual (and multilingual) when leaving school so that they have the skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide;</li> <li>• Provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, and thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual of the County;</li> <li>• Ensure progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to bilingual primary and secondary education;</li> </ul>	2	3%
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure linguistic progression across curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and promote linguistic progression from Key Stage 4 to lifelong learning; and</li> <li>• Work in partnership with all providers to improve the standard of Welsh within the learning environment.</li> </ul>		
5.	<p><b><u>Immersion</u></b></p> <p>It is clear that learning Welsh as a second language is ineffective in creating bilingual individuals. The best way to create bilingual young people who are confident in reading, writing and speaking in both Welsh and English languages is through immersion.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges the international evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirming that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	1	2%
6.	<p><b><u>No Reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		0.5	1%

## Concerns Raised

1.	<p><b><u>Removal of Choice</u></b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the removal of choice of English medium education at the school. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p>	13	21%
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The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:

- Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;
- Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;
- Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;
- Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal, with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority's proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move along the education sector. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people and the schools has been</p>		
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		identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.		
2.	<p><b><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and English language skills, and will disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils' understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and research and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who receive Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example,</p>	12	20%

		<p>all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
3.	<p><b><u>Consultation Process</u></b></p> <p><u>Consultation</u> Some respondents felt that the consultation had not been widely enough publicised and should have been more accessible.</p>	<p>The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018 and all required stakeholders have been notified and consulted with.</p> <p>Prior to formal consultation, an informal drop in session was held at the school and</p>	9	15%

	<p>during the consultation period a further drop in session was held for stakeholders to discuss the proposal. It must be noted that this practice is not a statutory requirement of the School Organisation Code but considered good practise by CCC.</p> <p>The consultation period was held from 20<sup>th</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and was widely publicised via Carmarthenshire County Council's website and social media and was reported by local media. Consultees were able to respond to the consultation via the online survey, e-mail or letter.</p> <p>All data and information contained within the Consultation Document is accurate and is based upon the Pupil Level Annual School Census Data (PLASC). Information regarding the current linguistic arrangements at the school was provided in the document and all data was represented accurately with regards to the proposal. All data contained within the Consultation Document is stipulated as a requirement within the School Organisation Code 2018.</p>		
	<p><u>Misrepresentation of Data</u> Some respondents felt that the data and information contained within the Consultation Document was incorrect and a deliberate misrepresentation to mislead stakeholders.</p>		

	<p><b><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></b></p> <p>The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was</p>	8	13%
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		<p>adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> </ul>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
5.	<b><u>Forcing the Welsh Language</u></b> The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the	The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of	6	10%

	<p>medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect. Implementing the proposal will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual</p>		
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		<p>children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p>		
6.	<p><b><u>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</u></b></p> <p>Children with special education needs or additional learning needs may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh and may require English medium education. It is unfair to assume that all children with SEN/ALN will be able to learn through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible.</p> <p>For this proposal, the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive support which is individually tailored to their needs.</p> <p>All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and</p>	6	10%

monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents.

Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and complex additional needs this is not always possible



and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.

In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialised school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Department for Education and Children provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible, this is not always practicable. It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council

		does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.		
7.	<p><b><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities</p>	4	7%

		who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.		
8.	<p><b><u>The Community</u></b></p> <p>The proposal is inconsistent with the make-up of community and will not cater for the needs of the whole community.</p> <p>It is felt that this proposal will have a negative effect on the community due to families moving out of the area to seek English medium education elsewhere. In addition, only providing Welsh medium education may result in less people moving to the area due to unsuitable education provision. This will result in a negative impact on the economy within the local area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that some children attending the school come from non-Welsh/English backgrounds. It is, therefore important for the Local Authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that</p>	4	7%

		<p>they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the nature of communities' changes over time and that social mobility continues to increase. The Local Authority considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p>		
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		<p>It is hard to estimate the effect the proposal will have on the number of families moving into the area. However, the Local Authority are hopeful that they will understand the benefits of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities and advantages that it can provide. This proposal will provide all future pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school and benefit from these advantages throughout their lives.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also hopeful that this proposal will have a positive effect on the local economy by providing community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p>		
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9.	<p><b><u>Coping with the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that not all children will be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh, especially pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds. In addition, there are concerns that non-Welsh speaking parents may find it hard to support and help their children with their school work and home work should the school the proposal be implemented.</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils in accordance with the needs of each individual. It is also important to note that staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to the schools around the county will also be supporting the school. Welsh Language Immersion Centres will also be available for those pupils who may need extra input linguistically.</p> <p>The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of individual families.</p> <p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have also offered their</p>	4	7%

		help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.		
10.	<p><b><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing increasingly as independent learners, parents may find that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>	4	7%
11.	<p><b><u>Transport and Travel to Other Schools</u></b></p> <p>It is unfair to expect parents to transport pupils to other schools to receive English medium education. This will have time and financial impact on families.</p>	<p>As there will be no change for current pupils attending the schools, there is consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that all future pupils will attend their local school.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part</p>	3	5%

		of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications. If any parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.		
12.	<p><b><u>Welsh Governemnt/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents do not feel that following County Council and Government policies such as WESP is a good enough reason to approve and implement the proposal as it will have no long term benefit. It is felt that these policies have no purpose or justification and are just pushing the Welsh language agenda and wasting money.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p>	3	5%

		<p>Every local authority in Wales, including Carmarthenshire County Council has a responsibility to respond to the Act and the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy and is accountable individually to the Welsh Government. Carmarthenshire County Council's WESP has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul>		
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		Should the Local Authority not seek to achieve the specific outcomes as detailed in WESP, then it would not meet its aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh as recommended by the Welsh Government.		
13.	<p><b><u>Inside and Outside Catchment Pupils</u></b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the number of pupils travelling from outside of the area/catchment to access education at the school. If the proposal is implemented, the pupils' access to preferred education provision will be limited.</p>	<p>The movement of pupils between school catchment areas is a common circumstance across the country in both urban and rural areas. Children living within catchment areas receive preference to attend their catchment schools before children living outside the catchment area. However, parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school and they do this for a number of reasons, e.g. access to extended family for working parents, ease of transporting children, proximity of the home to schools, reputation, provision, faith character, etc. When parents elect to place their children in a particular school they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the nature of provision.</p>	3	5%



		However, it is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.		
14.	<p><b><u>Transfer to English Medium schools</u></b></p> <p>It is unfair for pupils who desire/require an English medium education to have to transfer to another school outside of their catchment. In addition, it is felt that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will also have to transfer to another school.</p>	It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school. Sufficient support	1	2%

		<p>will be provided for all future pupils in accordance with each individual's needs.</p> <p>Please see <b>point 9</b> which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Please see <b>point 6</b> which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p>		
15.	<p><b><u>No Reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.</p>		0.5	1%

## 2.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

### **Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Y Ddwylan.**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

#### **Introduction**

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to:

- **change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Y Ddwylan.**

#### **Summary/Conclusion**

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'.

As a result, the proposer notes clearly that from 1st September 2020 the nature of Foundation Phase provision of Ysgol y Ddwylan changes to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

#### **Description and benefits**

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will

strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that the number of pupils attending the English stream Foundation Phase at Ysgol Y Ddwylan is considerably lower than those attending the Welsh stream Foundation Phase.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal. The proposer does identify important concerns such as the current decline in pupil number intake in both Ysgol y Ddwylan and Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn due to the influx of pupils selecting the neighbouring 3-19, Welsh medium school. However, the proposer states clearly that strengthening the Welsh medium provision in the foundation Phase at Y Ddwylan would support the developing Welsh medium culture at Ysgol Emlyn, in line with the aims of the WESP.

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

#### **Educational Aspects of the proposal:**

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that current performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be adequate at the time of the core inspection. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System which is currently in the 'amber' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that increasing the number of children and young people who become fluent in both Welsh and English would ensure

that they have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

## 2.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

### **Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn**

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standard of education and provision in the area.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

## 2.4 Consultation with the Pupils

**School:** Ysgol Y Ddwylan

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Consultation undertaken by:** Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

**Interviewed:** Cross section of 14 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and Welsh streams.

### Summary

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

### Pupils' Feedback

All pupils felt that learning Welsh in the Foundation Phase was a lot easier than learning Welsh at a later stage in their education. At this stage in education they felt that children absorb the language and are 'used to it', rather than having to 'learn' it.

The pupils felt that there are many advantages in learning Welsh as it is the language of the country in which we live. It was discussed that we are fortunate to have our own language and that other than England all other countries have their own language.

They felt that all schools should give pupils an opportunity to become fluent in both English and Welsh and realised that the best way to make pupils bilingual is to teach Welsh 'all the time' at school.

They felt that people living in Wales should '...make the effort' to speak the language of the country and to be proud that they can speak it.

They discussed the advantages of being able to speak Welsh when looking for a job in Wales and that being bilingual can improve your confidence generally.

Homework was discussed and they felt that parents perceive it to be a problem because they cannot speak Welsh. As pupils however said that they



were able to ask questions in English and do the work in Welsh if they needed any help. They can also refer to the teachers for help if needed also.

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.

### 3. Executive Summary- Ysgol Griffith Jones

#### **The Consultation Period**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Griffith Jones, within the community of St Clears. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 with a total of 9 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Letter	Total
8	1	9

It must be noted that of the 9 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

#### **Responses Received**

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Griffiths Jones along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

#### **Supportive**

- Theme 1 – Bilingualism

- Theme 2 – Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector

## **Concerns**

- Theme 1 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 2 – The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities
- Theme 3 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 4 – Issues with Other Schools
- Theme 5 – Parents won't be able to help support their child

Of the 9 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (6)
- Grandparent (1)
- Other (2)

## **Overall Summary**

Supportive	67%	Not Supportive	33%
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## **Workshops**

Following the closure consultation period on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

## **Consultation Event**

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Griffith Jones on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 7 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Griffith Jones Staff	2
Secondary School Head Teacher	1
Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Parent	2

## **Next Steps**

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

### 3.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
<b>Supportive Comments Raised</b>				
1.	<p><b><u>Bilingualism</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the many advantages of being bilingual.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as: cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a bilingual education.</p>	1	11%

		<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
2.	<p><b><u>Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector</u></b></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal moves the school along the language continuum, however consideration needs to be given to further linguistic development along all areas of the education sector.</p>	<p>On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plan, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic plan with its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The Plan requires <b>all</b> schools within the county to move along the language continuum and notes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that every pupil is completely bilingual (and multilingual) when leaving</li> </ul>	1	11%



		<p>school so that they have the skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, and thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual of the County;</li> <li>• Ensure progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to bilingual primary and secondary education;</li> <li>• Ensure linguistic progression across curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and promote linguistic progression from Key Stage 4 to lifelong learning; and</li> <li>• Work in partnership with all providers to improve the</li> </ul>		
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		standard of Welsh within the learning environment.		
<b>Concerns Raised</b>				
1.	<b><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></b> The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.	The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continuingly improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.	2	22%

		<p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh</p>		
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		<p>Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p>		
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		<p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
2.	<p><b><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and English language skills, and will disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and research and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of</p>	2	22%

	<p>for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils' understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who receive Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will</p>		
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		<p>increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
3.	<p><b><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p>	1	11%

		<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>		
	<p><b><u>Issues with Other Schools</u></b></p> <p>No alternative English medium schools are provided as part of the proposal. There are</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's preference that children attend their local school and believes that the school</p>	1	11%

	<p>concerns regarding capacity and/or standards at other English medium schools, should parents want to send their children to other schools.</p>	<p>will continue to offer high standards of education to children. It is the authority's desire that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposal, will not, therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. As a result, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools.</p> <p>The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions criteria, which favour children attending their local or "designated"</p>		
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		<p>school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published admissions policy. It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and it is upon this principle that school places are planned.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the standards at the alternative schools.</p>		
5.	<p><b><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing</p>	1	11%

		<p>increasingly as independent learners, parents may find that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>		
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## 3.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

### **Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Griffith Jones.**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

#### **Introduction**

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council. The proposal is to:

- **Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Griffith Jones.**

#### **Summary/Conclusion**

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'. As a result, the proposer notes clearly that from 1st September 2020 the nature of Foundation Phase provision of Ysgol Griffith Jones changes to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

#### **Description and benefits**

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will



strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that the number of pupils attending the English stream Foundation Phase at Ysgol Griffiths Jones is significantly lower than those attending the Welsh stream Foundation Phase.

It notes that in comparison with whole school pupil numbers (305 pupils), the number of children attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase in January 2018 equate to 5% of the whole school population.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal. .

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

#### **Educational Aspects of the proposal:**

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that current performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be good at the time of the core inspection. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System, which is currently in the 'yellow' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that the proposal will ensure that all pupils at the school will be able to access Welsh-medium education and ensure inclusion in terms of linguistic opportunities for pupils.

### 3.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

#### **Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn**

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

### 3.4 Consultation with the Pupils

**School:** Ysgol Griffith Jones

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019

**Consultation undertaken by:** Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

**Interviewed:** Cross section of 14 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and the Welsh streams.

#### **Summary**

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

#### **Pupils' Feedback**

It was easier to learn another language when young as this is the time when we aren't aware of learning languages. The older you become the harder it is to learn Welsh.

They would have a better chance of getting a job in the future if they wanted to live in Wales – when asked if any of them thought that they may live in Wales in the future they all replied ' Yes'.

They would have more friends by speaking both English and Welsh.

English does not suffer as you can speak that everywhere and it is all around you all the time.

Learning Welsh by immersion to the end of the Foundation Phase would allow pupils to be in a better position to decide which stream they would like to go into.

We hear a lot of Welsh in our school as all our teachers are able to speak Welsh.

This is good opportunity for those children who do not come from Welsh speaking homes to learn the language at an early age and then they can decide themselves whether or not to continue in the Welsh stream. We don't have many pupils in the English stream now.

It's a shame that we have to decide which secondary school to go as it can split up friends however it is also an opportunity to make new friends.

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.

## 4. Executive Summary- Ysgol Llangynnwr

### **The Consultation Period**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Llangynnwr, within the community of Llangunnor. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 with a total of 44 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

<b>Responses Received</b>		
Online Survey	Email	Total
28	16	44

It must be noted that of the 44 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

### **Responses Received**

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Llangynnwr along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

#### **Supportive**

- Theme 1 – Increases the number of Welsh speakers and help preserve the Welsh Language
- Theme 2 - Bilingualism

- Theme 3 – The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies
- Theme 4 – No Reason
- Theme 5 – Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector

## **Concerns**

- Theme 1 – Forcing the Welsh Language
- Theme 2 – Removal of Choice
- Theme 3 – Staffing
- Theme 4 – Opportunities for Parents
- Theme 5 – No Reason
- Theme 6 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 7 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 8 – Welsh Government/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money
- Theme 9 – Separation of Siblings
- Theme 10 – Parents won't be able to help support their child

Of the 44 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (15)
- School Governor (1)
- Grandparent (1)
- Other (27)

## **Overall Summary**

Supportive	86%	Not Supportive	14%
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## **Workshops**

Following the closure consultation period on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

## **Consultation Event**

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Llangynnwr on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.



The consultation drop in session was attended by 8 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Llangynnwr Staff	4
Governor	1
Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Prospective Parents	1

### **Next Steps**

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

## 4.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
<b>Supportive Comments Raised</b>				
1.	<p><b><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the community and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	14	32%
2.	<p><b><u>Bilingualism</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as: cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced</p>	13	30%

	<p>speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the many advantages of being bilingual.</p>	<p>powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a bilingual education.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
3.	<p><b><u>The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies</u></b></p> <p>In line with the Local Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh Government's "Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers" the proposal ensures that the Local Authority is adhering to Council and Welsh</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the</p>	5	11%

	<p>Government policies with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The proposal ensures that the Local Authority meet their aim of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p>	<p>explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> </ul>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
4.	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		3	7%
5.	<p><b><u>Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector</u></b></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal moves the school along the language continuum, however consideration needs to be given to further linguistic development along all areas of the education sector.</p>	<p>On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plan, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic plan with its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The Plan requires <b>all</b> schools within the county to move along the language continuum and notes the following objectives:</p>	1	2%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that every pupil is completely bilingual (and multilingual) when leaving school so that they have the skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide;</li> <li>• Provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, and thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual of the County;</li> <li>• Ensure progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to bilingual primary and secondary education;</li> <li>• Ensure linguistic progression across curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and promote linguistic progression from Key Stage 4 to lifelong learning; and</li> <li>• Work in partnership with all providers to improve the standard of Welsh within the learning environment.</li> </ul>		
Concerns Raised				



	<p><b><u>Forcing the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect. Implementing the proposal will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p>	4	9%
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2.	<p><b><u>Removal of Choice</u></b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the removal of choice of English medium education at the school. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory</p>	2	5%

		<p>requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal, with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority's proposal to</p>		
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		develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move along the education sector. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people and the schools has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.		
3.	<b><u>Staffing</u></b> Implementing the proposal will restrict opportunities to staff who do not speak the Welsh language and will restrict employment opportunities. In addition, concerns were raised on whether there are enough Welsh speaking staff employed at the school for the change to be effective.	The schools have been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum. Rather than restrict opportunities for staff who do not speak the Welsh language, this proposal will help staff to improve their Welsh language skills. "Athrawon Bro" will provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh language skills and the Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh language skills. Support will also be given through the National Sabbatical courses as well as Welsh for Adults. Courses have been designed specifically to meet the needs of staff at all linguistic levels. Subject specific, classroom and incidental language courses are now available.	2	5%
Page 173	<b><u>Opportunities for Parents</u></b> Some respondents felt that further support was required for	Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.	2	5%

	<p>parents to develop their linguistic skills, in order to help support their children.</p>	<p>Further support and guidance can be found by accessing the following links as noted in the Consultation Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go!</b>  <a href="http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf">http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf</a>  Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently.</li> <li>• <b>Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire</b>  <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf</a>  This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career, health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language.</li> <li>• <b>Welcome to Wales Welcome to Carmarthenshire Welcome to Welsh</b>  <a href="http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf">http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf</a></li> </ul>		
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		<p>This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Information by parents and pupils from non-Welsh speaking families is also available to watch on the County council website:  <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU</a></p>		
5.	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.</p>		2	5%
6.	<p><b><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></b></p> <p>The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School</p>	1	2%

Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.

In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.

The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.



		<p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been</p>		
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		identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.		
	<p><b><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>	1	2%

8.	<p><b><u>Welsh Government/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents do not feel that following County Council and Government policies such as WESP is a good enough reason to approve and implement the proposal as it will have no long term benefit. It is felt that these policies have no purpose or justification and are just pushing the Welsh language agenda and wasting money.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>Every local authority in Wales, including Carmarthenshire County Council has a responsibility to respond to the Act and the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy and is accountable individually to the Welsh Government. Carmarthenshire County Council's WESP has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> </ul>	1	2%
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>Should the Local Authority not seek to achieve the specific outcomes as detailed in WESP, then it would not meet its aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh as recommended by the Welsh Government.</p>		
9.	<p><b><u>Separation of Siblings</u></b></p> <p>If implemented, the proposal may separate some siblings who may not be able to attend the same school due to the desire for English medium education.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is not proposing alternative schools for the proposal.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school</p>	1	2%

		<p>where sufficient support will be provided in accordance with each individual's needs.</p> <p>Should parents elect to place siblings in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the separation of siblings and any transport implications. If parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.</p>		
10.	<p><b><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing increasingly as independent learners, parents may find that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>	1	2%

## 4.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

### **Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llangynnwr.**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

#### **Introduction**

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to:

- **change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llangynnwr.**

#### **Summary/Conclusion**

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training in Carmarthenshire and states that the need to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'. As a result, the proposer notes clearly it's intention that from 1st September 2020 the nature of Foundation Phase provision of Ysgol Llangynnwr changes to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

#### **Description and benefits**

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that

the number of pupils attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase at Ysgol Llangynnwr has generally been declining since 2014 and stand at 12 pupils in January 2018, in contrast with the number of pupils attending the Welsh stream.

It notes that in comparison with whole school pupil numbers (310 pupils), the number of children attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase in January 2018 equate to 4% of the whole school population.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2. In addition, it emphasises that these pupils would have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal.

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

#### **Educational Aspects of the proposal:**

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that all inspection areas were judged to be good at the time of the core inspection. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System, which is currently in the 'green' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that the proposal will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.



### 4.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

#### **Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn**

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

## 4.4 Consultation with the Pupils

**School:** Ysgol Llangynnwr

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Consultation undertaken by:** Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

**Interviewed:** Cross section of 14 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and Welsh streams.

### Summary

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

### Pupils' Feedback

Llangunnor school pupils understood a number of factors in terms of Welsh medium education and Welsh Government's vision of a million speakers by 2050.

They were adamant that this is a very important time for them as they will become part of those Welsh speakers for the future.

They were in no doubt that the extension of the opportunity to learn Welsh to the end of the Foundation Phase was a positive thing and an opportunity to gain a greater grasp of Welsh from an early age. They felt that it was easier to learn a language at an early age and also gave the pupils more power, being older, to choose which language of education they wanted in the future as opposed to their parents making that choice. They felt that by the end of year 2 all pupils will have gained a far better grounding in Welsh therefore allowing them to be part of that conversation with their parents.

They discussed the ease of learning any language at an early age and that it may be difficult for non- Welsh speakers to appreciate this.

Discussion followed on to the next stage in their education where they felt that continuing learning through the medium of Welsh would be more beneficial than continuing through the medium of English. They were very aware of the added opportunities that they would be able to have in the

workplace stating that they would not be able to get a job in Wales without being bilingual.

They also discussed speaking Welsh outside of Wales whilst on holiday when they would feel able to strike up a conversation with other Welsh speakers.

Also being able to speak more than one language meant that they were able to have more friends.

In addition, many of them had pride in the language and felt that it was important for them to use the language outside the classroom and that the Siarter Iaith was important in this.

Many of the pupils discussed the advantages linguistically of being bilingual in helping them to learn other languages.

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.

## 5. Executive Summary- Ysgol Llys Hywel

### **The Consultation Period**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Llys Hywel, within the community of Whitland. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 with a total of 25 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Letter	Total
24	1	25

It must be noted that of the 25 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

### **Responses Received**

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Llys Hywel along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

#### **Supportive**

- Theme 1 – Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language

- Theme 2 – Opportunities for Parents
- Theme 3 – No Reason

## **Concerns**

- Theme 1 – Parents won't be able to help support their child
- Theme 2 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 3 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 4 – Transfer to English Medium Schools
- Theme 5 – Removal of Choice
- Theme 6 – Transport and Travel to Other Schools
- Theme 7 – The Community
- Theme 8 – The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities
- Theme 9 – Issues with Other Schools
- Theme 10 – Coping with the Welsh Language
- Theme 11 – Forcing the Welsh Language

Of the 25 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (19)
- School Governor (1)
- Other (5)

## **Overall Summary**

Supportive	44%	Not Supportive	56%
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## **Workshops**

Following the closure consultation period on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

## **Consultation Event**

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Llys Hywel on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 6 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Llys Hywel Staff	1
Secondary School Head Teacher	1

Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Parent	2

## **Next Steps**

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

## 5.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
<b>Supportive Comments Raised</b>				
1.	<p><b><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the community and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	1	4%
2.	<p><b><u>Opportunities for Parents</u></b></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal provides parents and the community with the opportunity to develop their</p>	<p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p>	1	4%



	<p>Welsh language skills and consultees would be interested in any support available.</p>	<p>Further support and guidance can be found by accessing the following links as noted in the Consultation Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go!</b>  <a href="http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf">http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf</a>  Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently.</li> <li>• <b>Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire</b>  <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf</a>  This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career, health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language.</li> <li>• <b>Welcome to Wales Welcome to Carmarthenshire Welcome to Welsh</b>  <a href="http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf">http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf</a></li> </ul>		
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		<p>This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Information by parents and pupils from non-Welsh speaking families is also available to watch on the County council website:</p> <p><a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU</a></p>		
3.	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		1	4%
<b>Concerns Raised</b>				
1.	<p><b><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing increasingly as independent learners, parents may find</p>	8	32%

		<p>that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>		
2.	<p><b><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></b></p> <p>The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p>	5	20%

		<p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p>		
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		<p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
3.	<p><b><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's</p>	4	16%

		<p>desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>		
4.	<p><b><u>Transfer to English Medium schools</u></b></p> <p>It is unfair for pupils who desire/require an English medium education to have to transfer to another school outside of their catchment. In addition, it is felt that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will also have to transfer to another school.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school. Sufficient support will be provided for all future pupils in accordance with each individual's needs.</p> <p>Please see <b>point 10</b> which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be</p>	4	16%

		<p>provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Please see <b>point 12</b> which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p>		
5.	<p><b><u>Removal of Choice</u></b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the removal of choice of English medium education at the school. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018,</p>	3	12%



		<p>the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>he plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal, with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they</p>		
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		<p>progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority's proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move along the education sector. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people and the schools has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
6.	<p><b><u>Transport and Travel to Other Schools</u></b></p> <p>It is unfair to expect parents to transport pupils to other schools to receive English medium education. This will have time and financial impact on families.</p>	<p>As there will be no change for current pupils attending the schools, there is consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that all future pupils will attend their local school.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications. If any parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest</p>	3	12%

		school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.		
	<p><b><u>The Community</u></b></p> <p>The proposal is inconsistent with the make-up of community and will not cater for the needs of the whole community.</p> <p>It is felt that this proposal will have a negative effect on the community due to families moving out of the area to seek English medium education elsewhere. In addition, only providing Welsh medium education may result in less people moving to the area due to unsuitable education provision. This will result in a negative impact on the economy within the local area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that some children attending the school come from non-Welsh/English backgrounds. It is, therefore important for the Local Authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the nature of communities' changes over time and that social mobility continues to increase. The Local Authority considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.</p>	2	8%

		<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is hard to estimate the effect the proposal will have on the number of families moving into the area. However, the Local Authority are hopeful that they will understand the benefits of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities and advantages that it can provide. This proposal will provide all future pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school and benefit from these advantages throughout their lives.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also hopeful that this proposal will have a positive effect on the local economy by providing community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject</p>		
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		to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.		
8.	<p><b><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and English language skills, and will disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils' understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and research and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who receive Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to</p>	2	8%

		<p>recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
9.	<p><b><u>Issues with Other Schools</u></b></p> <p>No alternative English medium schools are provided as part of the proposal. There are concerns regarding capacity and/or standards at other English medium schools, should parents want to send their children to other schools.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's preference that children attend their local school and believes that the school will continue to offer high standards of education to children. It is the authority's desire that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposal, will not, therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. As a result, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools.</p> <p>The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the</p>	2	8%

		<p>effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions criteria, which favour children attending their local or "designated" school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published admissions policy. It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and it is upon this principle that school places are planned.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the standards at the alternative schools.</p>		
10.	<p><b><u>Coping with the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that not all children will be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh, especially pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds. In addition, there are concerns that non-Welsh speaking parents may</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils in accordance with the needs of each individual. It is also important to note that staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide</p>	1	4%



	find it hard to support and help their children with their school work and home work should the school the proposal be implemented.	<p>support to the schools around the county will also be supporting the school. Welsh Language Immersion Centres will also be available for those pupils who may need extra input linguistically.</p> <p>The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of individual families.</p> <p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have also offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p>		
11.	<p><b><u>Forcing the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect.</p>	<p>The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local</p>	1	4%

	<p>Implementing the proposal will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p>		
12.	<p><b><u>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</u></b></p> <p>Children with special education needs or additional learning needs may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh and may require English medium education. It is unfair to assume that all children with SEN/ALN will be able to learn through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible.</p> <p>For this proposal, the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be</p>	1	4%

	<p>implemented, all future pupils will receive support which is individually tailored to their needs.</p> <p>All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents.</p> <p>Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and</p>		
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complex additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.

In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialised school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Department for Education and Children provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible, this is not always practicable.

It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.

13.	<p><b><u>Consultation Process</u></b></p> <p><u>Consultation</u> Some respondents felt that the consultation had not been widely enough publicised and should have been more accessible.</p> <p><u>Misrepresentation of Data</u> Some respondents felt that the data and information contained within the Consultation Document was incorrect and a deliberate misrepresentation to mislead stakeholders.</p>	<p>The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018 and all required stakeholders have been notified and consulted with.</p> <p>Prior to formal consultation, an informal drop in session was held at the school and during the consultation period a further drop in session was held for stakeholders to discuss the proposal. It must be noted that this practice is not a statutory requirement of the School Organisation Code but considered good practise by CCC.</p> <p>The consultation period was held from 20<sup>th</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and was widely publicised via Carmarthenshire County Council's website and social media and was reported by local media. Consultees were able to respond to the consultation via the online survey, e-mail or letter.</p> <p>All data and information contained within the Consultation Document is accurate and is based upon the Pupil Level Annual School Census Data (PLASC). Information regarding the current linguistic arrangements at the school was provided in the document and all data was represented accurately with regards to the proposal. All data contained within</p>	1	4%
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		the Consultation Document is stipulated as a requirement within the School Organisation Code 2018.		
14.	<p><b><u>Opportunities for Parents</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents felt that further support was required for parents to develop their linguistic skills, in order to help support their children.</p>	<p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p> <p>Further support and guidance can be found by accessing the following links as noted in the Consultation Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go!</b></li> </ul> <p><a href="http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf">http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf</a></p> <p>Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire</b></li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf</a></p> <p>This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career,</p>	1	4%

		<p>health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome to Wales Welcome to Carmarthenshire Welcome to Welsh</b></li> </ul> <p><a href="http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf">http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf</a></p> <p>This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Information by parents and pupils from non-Welsh speaking families is also available to watch on the County council website:</p> <p><a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU</a></p>		
15.	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.</p>		1	4%



## 5.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

### **Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llys Hywel.**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

#### **Introduction**

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council. The proposal is to:

- **Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llys Hywel.**

#### **Summary/Conclusion**

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'. As a result, the proposer notes clearly that it's intention from from 1st September 2020 is to change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase of Ysgol Llys Hywel to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

#### **Description and benefits**

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm

foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that the number of pupils attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase at Ysgol Llys Hywel has been lower than those attending the Welsh stream. It notes that when considering the number of pupils attending the Foundation Phase as a whole, 80% attend the Welsh stream whilst only 20% attend the English stream (January 2018).

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language.

Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2. The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal. .

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

#### **Educational Aspects of the proposal:**

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that current performance and prospects for improvement at the school were judged adequate at the time of the core inspection. However, it also notes that the school has been removed from schools requiring Estyn monitoring. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System, which is currently in the 'green' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that the proposal of the implementation of the Welsh Medium Foundation phase will ensure that the community of Whitland continues to thrive as a bilingual one and that all pupils joining the school will be provided with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills from an earlier age.

## 5.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

### **Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn**

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development.

Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

## 5.4 Consultation with the Pupils

**School:** Ysgol Llys Hywel

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Consultation undertaken by:** Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

**Interviewed:** Cross section of 13 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and Welsh streams.

### Summary

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

### Pupils' Feedback

Pupils from Ysgol Llys Hywel had taken onboard the opportunity to look at both the advantages and disadvantages of immersing all children in the Foundation Phase in Welsh education in order to be able to respond to the consultation.

The advantages were:

It was easier to learn another language when young.

Playing games and singing songs is an easier way to learn Welsh which is done a lot more in the Foundation Phase.

The older you become the harder it is to learn Welsh or any language.

They would be able to gain more friends by speaking both English and Welsh.

They would have a better chance of getting a job in the future.

English does not suffer as you can speak that everywhere.

Learning Welsh by immersion to the end of the Foundation Phase would allow pupils to be in a better position to decide which stream they would like to go into.

Would be able to help English speaking families.

The disadvantages were:

Not all teachers are able to speak Welsh fluently.

Easier to speak in English at home.

More pupils speak only English in Dyffryn Taf.

Would like to stay in Whitland for secondary education.

Would be difficult to change from the English stream into the Welsh stream.  
(Clarification was needed here as there is no proposal to move pupils from English medium within the school. The proposal only affects the pupils from September 2020 onwards in the Foundation Phase.)

Parents feel that they cannot help with homework. ('But we can do it')

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL RHYS PRICHARD

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

1. The observations received and the Local Authority's responses following the consultation period (Consultation Report attached);
2. The publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal.

#### Reasons:

- To support Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan launched on 25 June 2018 in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plans
- To formulate views for submission to Executive Board for consideration.

**To be referred to the Executive Board : YES 23/09/19**

**To be referred to County Council for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Simon Davies  <b>Report Author:</b> Sara Griffiths	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Access to Education  Modernisation Team Manager	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 246471 <a href="mailto:SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 246618 <a href="mailto:SMGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SMGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

### PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL RHYS PRICHARD

#### Background

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in accordance with WG Strategic Plans the Local Authority launched **Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan** and its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire. To achieve this, the authority would need to deliver significant growth in Welsh medium education to increase the number of children and young people who become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

With this in mind, the Local Authority has a responsibility to provide its communities with the best education and opportunities possible and believes that this can be achieved through set objectives. Carmarthenshire County Council are fully supportive of the aim that all pupils are able to speak, read and write in both Welsh and English fluently by the end of Key Stage 2 and will provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual nature of the County.

In order to support Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and national policies in moving the county's schools along the Welsh language continuum, the attached draft consultation document sets out proposals with regards to the change in nature of provision at **Ysgol Rhys Prichard**.

#### The Proposal

The proposal is to change the nature of provision of Ysgol Rhys Prichard to Welsh medium.

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (link to the consultation document and report provided) a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 20 May 2019 to 30 June 2019. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report.

The E&C Scrutiny Committee are provided the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the Executive Board whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice.



Should the Executive Board grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention is to publish on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

If approved, following the end of the Statutory Notice period, an objection report which summarises any objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to the E&C Scrutiny Committee; the Executive Board and ultimately County Council for determination.

### **Recommendation**

That the E&C Scrutiny Committee endorses the proposal and recommends to the Executive Board the publication of a Statutory Notice.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED</b>	<b>YES: Consultation Report</b>
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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: **S. Davies** Head of Access to Education

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

### 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Corporate Strategy and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme and WESP 2018.

### 2. Legal

Appropriate consultation was initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.

### 3. Finance

Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.

### 4. ICT

None

### 5. Risk Management Issues

The proposal may impact on the demand for school places at the school and surrounding catchment area schools. Admissions will be monitored and if required, appropriate action will be undertaken.

### 6. Staffing Implications

Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Policy and Procedures.

### 7. Physical Assets

Ysgol Rhys Prichard will be re-locating to their new premises (the former Ysgol Pantycelyn) from Spring 2021.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:      S. Davies                      Head of Access to Education

- 1. Scrutiny Committee** – Consulted on 24 April 2019.
- 2. Local Member(s)** – The local member is aware of the proposal and has been consulted during the formal consultation period.
- 3. Community / Town Council** – Consulted during the formal consultation period.
- 4. Relevant Partners** – Consulted during the formal consultation period.
- 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Consulted during the formal consultation period.

### 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
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) – Executive Board Report	<a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&amp;MId=3025&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&amp;MId=3025&amp;Ver=4</a>
Stage 1 (Permission to Consult) – ECS Scrutiny Committee Report	<a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&amp;MId=2235&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&amp;MId=2235&amp;Ver=4</a>
Consultation Document	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/rhys-prichard/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/consultation/primary-school/rhys-prichard/</a>
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan/</a>
MEP Biennial Review	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> Executive Board 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Website	<a href="http://www.21stcenturyschools.org">www.21stcenturyschools.org</a>

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# DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

## CONSULTATION REPORT

For the proposal to change the nature of provision at

**Ysgol Rhys Prichard**

***Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are  
safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to  
achieve their full educational potential***

**September 2019**

**Gareth Morgans**

**Director of Education and Children's Services**



**EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani**  
[www.sirgar.llyw.cymru](http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru)  
**YOUR COUNCIL doitonline**  
[www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales)

## **School Modernisation Section**

**Sara Griffiths**, Modernisation Team Manager

## Content

No.	Subject	Page
1.	Executive Summary	4
2.	Summary of responses received and Local Authority related responses	7
3.	Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal	30
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4.	Consultation with the Pupils	34

## 1. Executive Summary

### **The Consultation Period**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Rhys Prichard within the community of Llandovery. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision of Ysgol Rhys Prichard to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 with a total of 54 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Email	Total
53	1	54

It must be noted that of the 54 observations received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

### **Responses Received**

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Rhys Prichard along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

#### **Supportive**

- Theme 1 – No reason
- Theme 2 - The change will be a progression for the school
- Theme 3 – The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies



- Theme 4 – Standards and Support
- Theme 5 – Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector

## Concerns

- Theme 1 - Removal of Choice
- Theme 2 - Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 3 - Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 4 - The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities
- Theme 5 - Parents won't be able to help support their children
- Theme 6 - No reason
- Theme 7 - The Community
- Theme 8 - Forcing the Welsh Language
- Theme 9 - Transport and Travel to Other Schools
- Theme 10 - Consultation Process / Misrepresentation of Data
- Theme 11 – Welsh Government / Carmarthenshire County Council Policies / Saving Money
- Theme 12 - Transfer to English Medium Schools
- Theme 13 - Coping with the Welsh Language
- Theme 14 – Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- Theme 15 - Staffing
- Theme 16 - Opportunities for Parents

Of the 54 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (20)
- Staff Member (3)
- School Governor (2)
- Grandparent (8)
- Other (21)

## Overall Summary

Supportive	<b>33%</b>	Not Supportive	<b>67%</b>
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## Workshops

Following the closure consultation period on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the observations received.

## **Consultation Event**

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Rhys Prichard on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 23 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Rhys Prichard Staff	1
Governors	3
Menter Bro Dinefwr	1
Parents	10
Grandparent	1
Councillor (Town & Local)	2
Resident	3
BBC	2

## **Next Steps**

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

## 2. Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
<b>Supportive Comments Raised</b>				
1.	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		11	20%
2.	<p><b><u>The change will be a progression for the school</u></b></p> <p>The number of pupils attending the English stream have been declining over recent years whilst the number of pupils attending the</p>	<p>The Local Authority notes that the school is progressing well linguistically and deems the proposal appropriate, due to the increase in demand for Welsh medium education in the area and the decline in the number of pupils attending the English stream.</p>	3	6%

	Welsh stream have been increasing. There is a clear increase in demand for Welsh medium education provision in the area.	The support was noted.		
3.	<p><b><u>The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies</u></b></p> <p>In line with the Local Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh Government's "Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers" the proposal ensures that the Local Authority is adhering to Council and Welsh Government policies with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the</p>	1	2%

	<p>improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The proposal ensures that the Local Authority meet their aim of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p>	<p>status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
4. Page 231	<p><b><u>Standards and Support</u></b></p> <p>It is recognised that learning bilingually does</p>	<p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on</p>	1	2%

	not have an impact on pupil standards (in particular in the English language) and that all pupils will receive support as required.	average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who attend Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.  The support was noted.		
5.	<p><b><u>Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector</u></b></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal moves the school along the language continuum, however consideration needs to be given to further linguistic development along all areas of the education sector.</p>	<p>On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plan, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic plan with its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The Plan requires <b>all</b> schools within the county to move along the language continuum and notes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that every pupil is completely bilingual (and multilingual) when leaving school so that they have the skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide;</li> <li>• Provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, and thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual of the County;</li> </ul>	1	2%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to bilingual primary and secondary education;</li> <li>• Ensure linguistic progression across curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and promote linguistic progression from Key Stage 4 to lifelong learning; and</li> <li>• Work in partnership with all providers to improve the standard of Welsh within the learning environment.</li> </ul>		
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## Concerns Raised

1.	<p><b><u>Removal of Choice</u></b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the removal of choice of English medium education at the school. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p>	14	26%
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The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:

- Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;
- Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;
- Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;
- Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and
- Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.

The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.

Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal, with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to



		<p>children as they progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority's proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move along the education sector. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people and the schools has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
2.	<p><b><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></b></p> <p>The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011</p>	10	19%

		<p>census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p>		
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		<p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
3.	<p><b><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p>	10	19%

	them from their local community.	There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.		
4.	<p><b><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and English language skills, and will disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh. It must also be noted that the</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and research and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who receive Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory</p>	6	11%

	<p>most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils' understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
5.	<p><b><u>Parents won't be able to help support their children</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing increasingly as independent learners, parents may find that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>	6	11%

	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their concern.</p>		6	11%
7.	<p><b><u>The Community</u></b></p> <p>The proposal is inconsistent with the make-up of community and will not cater for the needs of the whole community.</p> <p>It is felt that this proposal will have a negative effect on the community due to families moving out of the area to seek English medium education elsewhere. In addition, only providing Welsh medium education may result in less people moving to the area due to unsuitable education</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that some children attending the school come from non-Welsh/English backgrounds. It is, therefore important for the Local Authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the nature of communities' changes over time and that social mobility continues to increase. The Local Authority considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with</p>	5	9%

	<p>provision. This will result in a negative impact on the economy within the local area.</p>	<p>the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is hard to estimate the effect the proposal will have on the number of families moving into the area. However, the Local Authority are hopeful that they will understand the benefits of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities and advantages that it can provide. This proposal will provide all future pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school and benefit from these advantages throughout their lives.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also hopeful that this proposal will have a positive effect on the local economy by providing community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p>		
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<p><b><u>Forcing the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect. Implementing the proposal will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils</p>	<p>The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>9%</p>
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	exposure to the Welsh language.			
9.	<p><b><u>Transport and Travel to Other Schools</u></b></p> <p>It is unfair to expect parents to transport pupils to other schools to receive English medium education. This will have time and financial impact on families.</p>	<p>As there will be no change for current pupils attending the schools, there is consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that all future pupils will attend their local school.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications. If any parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.</p>	3	6%
10.	<p><b><u>Consultation Process/ Misrepresentation of Data</u></b></p> <p><u>Consultation</u> Some respondents felt that the consultation had not been widely enough</p>	<p>The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018 and all required stakeholders have been notified and consulted with.</p>	2	4%

	<p>publicised and should have been more accessible.</p> <p><u>Misrepresentation of Data</u> Some respondents felt that the data and information contained within the Consultation Document was incorrect and a deliberate misrepresentation to mislead stakeholders.</p>	<p>Prior to formal consultation, an informal drop in session was held at the school and during the consultation period a further drop in session was held for stakeholders to discuss the proposal. It must be noted that this practice is not a statutory requirement of the School Organisation Code but considered good practise by CCC.</p> <p>The consultation period was held from 20<sup>th</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and was widely publicised via Carmarthenshire County Council's website and social media and was reported by local media. Consultees were able to respond to the consultation via the online survey, e-mail or letter.</p> <p>All data and information contained within the Consultation Document is accurate and is based upon the Pupil Level Annual School Census Data (PLASC). Information regarding the current linguistic arrangements at the school was provided in the document and all data was represented accurately with regards to the proposal. All data contained within the Consultation Document is stipulated as a requirement within the School Organisation Code 2018.</p>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;</li> <li>• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;</li> <li>• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and</li> <li>• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.</li> </ul> <p>Should the Local Authority not seek to achieve the specific outcomes as detailed in WESP, then it would not meet its aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh as recommended by the Welsh Government.</p>		
12.	<p><b><u>Transfer to English Medium schools</u></b></p> <p>It is unfair for pupils who desire/require an English medium education to have to transfer to another school outside of their catchment. In addition, it is felt that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school. Sufficient support will be provided for all future pupils in accordance with each individual's needs.</p>	1	2%

	also have to transfer to another school.	<p>Please see <b>point 13</b> which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Please see <b>point 14</b> which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p>		
13.	<p><b><u>Coping with the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>Concerns were raised that not all children will be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh, especially pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds. In addition, there are concerns that non-Welsh speaking parents may find it hard to support and help their children with their school work and home work should the school the proposal be implemented.</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils in accordance with the needs of each individual. It is also important to note that staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to the schools around the county will also be supporting the school. Welsh Language Immersion Centres will also be available for those pupils who may need extra input linguistically.</p> <p>The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of individual families.</p> <p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have also offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p>	1	2%

<p><b><u>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</u></b></p> <p>Children with special education needs or additional learning needs may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh and may require English medium education. It is unfair to assume that all children with SEN/ALN will be able to learn through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible.</p> <p>For this proposal, the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive support which is individually tailored to their needs.</p> <p>All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2%</p>
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Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and complex additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.

In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialised school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Department for Education and Children provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible, this is not always practicable.

It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.

	<p><b><u>Staffing</u></b></p> <p>Implementing the proposal will restrict opportunities to staff who do not speak the Welsh language and will restrict employment opportunities. In addition, concerns were raised on whether there are enough Welsh speaking staff employed at the school for the change to be effective.</p>	<p>The schools have been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum. Rather than restrict opportunities for staff who do not speak the Welsh language, this proposal will help staff to improve their Welsh language skills. "Athrawon Bro" will provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh language skills and the Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh language skills. Support will also be given through the National Sabbatical courses as well as Welsh for Adults. Courses have been designed specifically to meet the needs of staff at all linguistic levels. Subject specific, classroom and incidental language courses are now available.</p>	1	2%
16.	<p><b><u>Opportunities for Parents</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents felt that further support was required for parents to develop their linguistic skills, in order to help support their children.</p>	<p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p> <p>Further support and guidance can be found by accessing the following links as noted in the Consultation Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go!</b></li> </ul>	1	2%



<http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf>

Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently.

- **Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire**

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf>

This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career, health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language.

- **Welcome to Wales Welcome to Carmarthenshire Welcome to Welsh**

<http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf>

[This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.](#)

Information by parents and pupils from non-Welsh speaking families is also available to watch on the County council website:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU>

### 3. Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

#### **Estyn's response to the proposal to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Rhys Pritchard to Welsh-medium**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

#### **Introduction**

This is a proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Rhys Prichard to Welsh-medium from 1st January 2020.

#### **Summary/Conclusion**

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'.

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education.

#### **Description and benefits**

The proposer provides a clear rationale for the logic behind the proposal. It identifies clearly that this proposal has been designed in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh-medium Education Strategy. They state fairly that it is a transitional

school, which is a school that is working towards becoming a Welsh-medium school for 4-11 year-old children.

They refer validly to the fact that there has been a sustained increase in the number of pupils who have chosen to attend the Welsh-medium stream over the last five years. During the same period, there has been a decline in the number of pupils who have chosen to attend the English stream and, by January 2018, only one pupil was attending the English stream.

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to other options. These include maintaining the status quo, changing the nature of foundation phase provision only and the option of changing the nature of provision of the whole school to Welsh-medium (foundation phase and key stage 2). They identify clearly the advantages, disadvantages and risks that are associated with the proposal and different options.

They have given a good outline of the reasons for changing the nature of the school's provision and list the advantages. These appear to be reasonable and include: taking advantage of opportunities to develop bilingual learners and achieving the objectives of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The proposer identifies validly the benefit of having buildings and a site with better facilities than the school has at present. This will include provision for an external playgroup in the new school building, rather than in a mobile classroom on the current site.

The proposer states validly that the proposal will increase the school's capacity. This will meet any additional need for places, as outlined in the projected number of pupils by January 2023. They draw relevant attention to the fact that facilities will be available to the local community and will provide an opportunity for the school to become a community hub for the town of Llandovery.

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the proposal's effect on Welsh-medium provision within the authority. They claim fairly that the proposal will have a positive effect on the number of places available within Welsh-medium education in Carmarthenshire.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposer gives appropriate consideration to the proposal's effect on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership within the school.

They refer validly to the outcomes of the school's most recent Estyn inspection report, its category and support banding.

They claim reasonably that this proposal will ensure that pupils will be given an opportunity to become bilingual learners who are confident in both Welsh and English.

The proposer identifies that including nursery provision in the new school building will provide seamless transition from the early years to the foundation phase and key stage 2.

The proposer has conducted an equality impact assessment and has identified reasonably that the proposal should not have a detrimental effect on any specific groups. They state clearly that the proposal will ensure that better facilities in the new building will improve teaching and learning experiences for all learners, including those with additional learning needs.

The proposer has given appropriate attention to the possible disruption to current pupils, and has identified validly that the catchment area will not change and that there will be no change to the current arrangements in terms of pupils transferring to secondary education.

### 3.1 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

#### **Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn**

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education.

The proposer provides a clear rationale for the logic behind the proposal. It identifies clearly that this proposal has been designed in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh-medium Education Strategy. They state fairly that it is a transitional school, which is a school that is working towards becoming a Welsh-medium school for 4-11 year-old children.

They have given a good outline of the reasons for changing the nature of the school's provision and list the advantages.

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the proposal's effect on Welsh-medium provision within the authority. They claim fairly that the proposal will have a positive effect on the number of places available within Welsh-medium education in Carmarthenshire.

The proposer gives appropriate consideration to the proposal's effect on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership within the school.

The proposer identifies that including nursery provision in the new school building will provide seamless transition from the early years to the foundation phase and key stage 2.

## 4. Consultation with the Pupils

**School:** Ysgol Rhys Prichard

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Consultation undertaken by:** Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language  
Development Manager

**Interviewed:** Cross section of pupils from year 2 to year 6

Ysgol Rhys Prichard pupils did not see this proposal as anything new to them or to their school. They felt that the school is already a Welsh medium school and that there will be no change in the future. When questioned as to the importance of their type of education they were all in agreement that they are and are becoming totally bilingual. They discussed how fortunate they felt to have two languages and are looking forward to learning more languages during their secondary education stage. They spoke about the fact that they feel more able to learn a third and maybe fourth language as they already have two.

They were enjoying the Siarter Iaith and are trying to make sure that all pupils speak Welsh within the school but also in the community.

They felt that homework is not an issue as they can use English to explain the work to the parents that cannot speak Welsh.

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should go through.

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Annual Report 2018/19

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

- That members consider and approve the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee's annual report for the 2018/19 municipal year.

### Reasons:

- The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to report annually on their work.

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

**Chair of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Darren Price**

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive's  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Llinos Jenkins	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration & Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224088 <a href="mailto:llsjenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">llsjenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – Annual Report 2018/19

The attached 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.”*

The report provides an overview of the workings of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2018/19 municipal year and includes information on the following topics:

- Overview of the forward work programme
- Key issues considered
- Issues referred to or from Executive Board / Other Scrutiny Committees
- Task & Finish Review
- Development Sessions
- Member attendance at meetings

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
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

**1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – In line with requirements of the County Council's Constitution.

**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
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	Meetings from September 2015 onwards: <a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=153">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=153</a>

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# Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

## Annual Report 2018-19



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## **Chair's Foreword**

As the Chair of the Committee I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year. The report provides a comprehensive summary of the work undertaken by the Committee during the period May 2018 to April 2019.

I would like to thank the Members of the Committee for their valuable input and dedication over the past year. I would also like to thank the co-opted members of the Committee, who have continued to provide an external, and important viewpoint as to the effectiveness of the Authority's provision.

The Committee developed a comprehensive work programme at the start of the municipal year, and 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.

The Committee has scrutinised council performance in a wide range of areas, including, Educational Standards & School Performance, Inclusion and Additional Learning Needs, the Music Service, the Fostering and Adoption Services, School Modernisation, School Funding and Children's services. It also undertook a Task and Finish Group investigation into Early Years Education, Childcare and Play.

However, it is apparent that a significant challenge this year has been the workload of the committee. Over nine meetings, 46 reports and updates were received, which proved challenging in terms of our ability to undertake detailed scrutiny of service areas.

Following training received by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) in March 2019, the committee has agreed to use the CfPS principles going forward. In future, we will aim to limit the number of substantive items on the agenda to two per meeting, which should enable the committee to look in greater detail at the reports presented. The Committee will also consider the rationale and proposed outcomes of future items in greater detail, resulting in more focussed reports.

The Committee are also keen to look at new ways of undertaking our scrutiny role – particularly in the way that we engage with frontline staff. In addition to our regular schools visits, we are looking to pilot new forms of scrutiny such as one day investigative scrutiny and introduce site visits to delivery teams within children's services, to hear directly from the frontline.

I would finally like to thank Democratic Services and Education and Children's Services Officers for their input and for their professionalism in supporting the work of the Committee. I look forward to continuing to work with Members, Co-opted Members and Officers in the year ahead.

**Councillor Darren Price**  
**Chair of Education & Children Scrutiny Committee**

## 1. Introduction

Article 6.2 of the Council's Constitution requires all Scrutiny Committees to *"prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committees activities over the previous year."*

The main aim of the report is to highlight the work that has been undertaken by the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during 2018/19. The document may also facilitate discussion on other items that could be included within future work programmes.

The Committee is chaired by Councillor Darren Price and is made up of 14 Elected Members and 5 voting Co-opted Members (3 elected parent governor members, 1 representative from the Church in Wales and 1 representative from the Roman Catholic Church). Support is provided by the Democratic Services Unit and other Council officers as and when required.

This report provides an overview of the work of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2018/19 municipal year. It gives Members the opportunity 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 scrutiny.

## 2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2018/19

### 2.1 Number of Meetings

The Scrutiny Committee held 9 meetings and 1 joint meeting with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee during the 2018/19 municipal year.

### 2.2 The Forward Work Programme

The Scrutiny Committee develops its own Forward Work Programme (FWP). In June 2018 the Committee considered its 2018/19 Programme which included standard items such as performance, budget and action plan monitoring reports. Additional reports were also requested by members at that meeting and throughout the year and the Forward Work Programme was amended accordingly. In the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined in the FWP, as confirmed on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The concept and development of the Forward Work Programme and the process for its agreement has allowed each Scrutiny Committee to determine its own agendas. The benefits of such an approach has led to an improved level of debate and input during Scrutiny Committee meetings.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places long term sustainability at the forefront of how public services are designed and delivered and



it places emphasis on public bodies to work in partnership with each other and the public to prevent and tackle problems.

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee's key responsibilities are:

- 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

To compliment the work undertaken during formal meetings, the Committee also undertakes other scrutiny functions such as Task and Finish, visits to establishments falling within its remit together with member development sessions.

## 2.3 Performance Monitoring / Strategic Issues

**Performance Monitoring 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 performance monitoring reports and various action plan monitoring reports. The performance monitoring reports provide a balanced picture of performance across the relevant service areas. The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee received the Performance Monitoring Report for the Council's 2018/19 Wellbeing Objectives at its meetings in September 2018 and April 2019. The reports mainly focussed on underperforming indicators.

**Carmarthenshire County Council's Draft Annual Report 2017/18** - As part of its performance monitoring role, the Committee received relevant information from the Council's key strategies and plans. In July 2018 the Committee considered the Council's draft Annual Report for 2017/18 which included extracts for its service remit and which had been produced in accordance with the requirements of both the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales Act 2015).

**Education & Children Departmental Draft Business Plan 2019/20-22** – In December the Committee considered the Education & Children Departmental Draft Business Plan 2019/20-2022 which detailed the department's aims and objectives over that timeframe. This provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment upon the priorities outlined for the department for the three year period.

**Draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire 2017/18** - In July 2018, during a joint meeting with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee, members received the Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire for 2017/18. Members noted 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.

The report was subsequently approved by both the Executive Board and Council at their respective meetings in July and October, 2018.

**Corporate Strategy 2018-23** – In April 2019 the Committee considered the elements of the draft new Corporate Strategy 2018-23 relevant to its remit.

**Actions & Referrals** - During the course of the municipal year several requests for additional items are made by members of the Committee to assist them in discharging their scrutiny role. Actions & Referrals updates are presented to Committee which provide an update on progress in relation to these requests.

## **2.4 Revenue & Capital Budgets**

**Budget Monitoring Reports** - The Committee received quarterly reports, including by e-mail, 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 connection with any capital works and to raise any concerns at the formal meeting, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

**Revenue Budget Strategy 2019/20-2021/22** - As well as monitoring the current budget, the Committee was also consulted on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2019/20 to 21/22. The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget for 2019/20 together with the indicative figures for the 2020/21 and 2021/2022 financial years.

### **Outcome:**

As part of the widespread consultation undertaken on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22, the Committee considered the budget proposals and a number of comments were raised. Whilst the Committee did not put forward any recommendations to change the budget proposals, it did resolve to relay the following items to the Executive Board



“- its serious concerns regarding any reduction in the Education Welfare Service, Education and Child Psychology Service and the School Counselling Service and the serious implications of any reduction;  
- The request that any additional money identified across the Authority’s budget should be vired to the Education Department”

These points were incorporated within the 2019/20 Budget Consultation Report to the Executive Board on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 and, subsequently, to Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

## 2.5 Schools

**2.5.1 Modernising Education Programme** – In May 2018, as part of the Modernising Education Programme the Committee was consulted on the following school proposals for change:-

- to increase the capacity of Gorslas Community Primary School from 110 to 210;
- to provide nursery education at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn by increasing its age range from 4-11 to 3-11

### Outcome:

The MEP proposals were endorsed and subsequently considered by the Executive Board on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 where it was resolved to implement the proposals.

**2.5.2 Task and Finish Review 2015/16 – Action Plan Monitoring – May 2018** - In May, the Committee received a report on the progress made on the recommendations of its Task and Finish Group, established in 2015, to research and review the attainment gap for e-FSM learners.

**2.5.3 TIC Programme for Schools** - In May, 2018 the Committee received an update report on the TIC (Transform, Innovate and Change) Programme for schools that included details on a number of work streams developed relating to the service delivery to schools via Service Level Agreements and also to a range of procurement issues where collaborative or corporate arrangements might yield savings to schools. The Committee also received a presentation on progress to date, together with an indication of the potential and actual savings that could be/had been made. The Committee having considered the report requested that an update report be presented to a future meeting.

### Outcome:

The Committee received the update report at its December meeting and also requested to be provided with an update copy of the savings achieved to date.

**2.5.4 ALN Transformation Programme Update (Additional Learning Needs)** – In June, the Committee received a report and presentation providing an overview of progress and developments in relation to the ALN transformation Programme. It noted that the Welsh Government, on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, had published The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill, to be supported by regulations and a new ALN Code, to be consulted on during the autumn of 2018 and anticipated to be in place by the end of 2019

**2.5.5 Music Service Update – July 2018** – The Committee, in accordance with its decision made in March 2018, received an update report on the operation of the Music Service. The report made reference to the intense financial pressures the service had faced over recent years with a short fall of £169,127 being experienced for 2017/18. It was noted that the service faced many significant challenges nationally, including reductions in the Purchase of Service Level Agreements. Mention had also been made of the possibility of national funding being forthcoming, however, in the meantime the service recognised the importance of identifying ways to address the financial shortfall.

**Outcome:**

The Committee requested an update report as soon as information was received on national developments. That report was presented to the Committee at it June 2019 meeting.

**2.5.6 Approaches to Securing ‘Positive Behaviour’ in Carmarthenshire Schools** – The Committee received an overview report on the current practice and guidance in place in supporting positive behaviour and anti-bullying within the County’s schools. It noted that Carmarthenshire had a strong and lengthy track record of working effectively in that field, drawing on numerous elements of research and good practice nationally and internationally.

**Outcome:**

The Committee requested a future report to include data measuring the effectiveness of positive behaviour attitudes. The report is included within the Committee’s 2019/20 Forward Work Programme.

**2.5.7 Supporting Progression into Teaching, Leadership Roles and Headship** – In July 2018, the Committee received a report setting out the current areas of activity, both within Carmarthenshire, and nationally, in support of:-

- access to and encouragement of teaching as a career and;
- support for leadership progression into senior roles and headship.

The report detailed the range of opportunities available to the Council's workforce in support of enhanced leadership practice, self-development and achievement. It also referred to the proactive work of ERW, in conjunction with the Welsh Government and the authority on the #Discoverteaching Strategy with the aim of encouraging more people to embrace a rewarding career in teaching.

**Outcome:**

The Committee requested an update report be presented to a future meeting. The report is scheduled within the Committees 2019/20 Forward Work Programme.

**2.5.8 Elective Home Education: Cabinet Secretary's response to correspondence**

– In July 2018, the Committee received a response to its letter sent to the Welsh Government in March 2018 expressing the Committee's concerns with regard to problems being experienced with home schooled and flexi schooled children.

**Outcome:**

The Committee noted the Cabinet Secretary's response and accepted an invitation for Su Crowther to present an item on the Committee's letter and the Cabinet Secretary's response to the next Local Authority EHE Stakeholder meeting.

**2.5.9 Implementing ERW Core Support Visits and Schools Causing Concern**

– In July 2018, the Committee received a presentation providing an overview of the work of the Challenge Advisors and School Improvement Team in undertaking ERW core support visits during the 2017/18 academic year and the progress made with schools causing concern

**2.5.10 Referral from the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee – Young Carers and Adult Carer Services**

– In July 2018 the Committee considered a request from the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on young carers at its September meeting

**Outcome:**

The Committee received a presentation at its November meeting with members of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee invited to attend.

**2.5.11 Provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and Provisional School Attendance Data**

– In September, the Committee received the provisional examination and teacher assessment results together with the provisional attendance data in September 2018. The verified performance data was reported to the Committee as part of the annual School Performance and Achievement report in January 2019.

**2.5.12 Formula Funding for Schools** – The Committee received a report on Formula Funding for Schools that provided an overview of current arrangements for the funding of Carmarthenshire’s schools in line with Welsh Government practice and procedures.

**Outcome:**

The Committee received the report and requested a workshop session be arranged on both the Formula Funding for Schools and the £0.5m finding for the School Development Fund. The workshop was held in January 2019. A report on the School Development Fund was also considered at the Committee’s January meeting where it was noted that of the 11 applications received for funding totalling £224k, 3 had been approved to a combined value of £116k.

**2.5.13 Early Voluntary Retirement and Redundancy Budget** - In November, the Committee, following a request made in March, received an update report on the approach taken, and progress made, in relation to School Redundancy and Early Voluntary Retirement. It was noted that whilst the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 established that expenditure in respect of the dismissal or premature retirement of any person and expenditure in respect of teacher’s emoluments were part of the local authority budget, the associated costs were outside the Department’s direct control.

**2.5.14 Carmarthenshire Admissions Forum – Review of Admission Round 2018/19 and Admission Arrangements for 2019/20 and 2020/21** – In November, the Committee, as part of its FWP agreed in June, received a report providing a review of the Admission Round 2018/19 and Admission Arrangements for 2019/20. The report also incorporated an overview and position statement with regard to school admission arrangements which was presented annually to the Admissions Forum

**2.5.15 Modernising Education Programme – School Organisation Code 2018** – The Committee received the School Organisation Code 2018 introduced by the Welsh Government for implementation on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2018 replacing the 2013 Code. The new Code altered the requirements to take forward proposals involving changes to schools, new schools or school closures. The most substantial change was a strengthening of the Code in respect of a presumption against the closure of rural schools.

**2.5.16 ERW Business Plan 2018/29** – the Committee received a presentation on ERW’s Business Plan 2018/19 setting out its key objectives, practice and direction of the region’s work, aligning with the authority’s school

improvement agenda thus ensuring benefits and progress for all of Carmarthenshire's school settings

- 2.5.17 School Performance and Achievement 2017/18** – In January, 2019 the Committee received a report detailing the key issues arising from an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in the performance of schools. In particular, it related to:-
- a summary of teacher assessments and examination results for pupils in the Foundation Phase, Key Stages 2,3,4 and 5;
  - School improvement outcomes;
  - Developing Values for Skills and Lifelong Learning.
- 2.5.18 MEP Progress Report to December 2018** – In January, 2019 the Committee received an update on the Council's Modernising Education Programme up to December 2018.
- 2.5.19 Adult Community Learning** – In January 2019, the Committee received an overview report on Adult Community Learning and its attention was drawn to funding changes with the Welsh Government Direct Grant being subject to change from September 2019. It was noted whilst it was likely the grant would continue to be awarded to LEA/FE colleges within each local authority, the allocations would be recalculated to ensure a more equitable distribution across Wales.
- 2.5.20 Healthy Schools Initiative** – In January 2019 the Committee received a presentation on the Healthy Schools Initiative and noted there were seven schools within Carmarthenshire in the process of, or about to commence, applying for the National Quality Award.
- 2.5.21 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan** – In March, 2019 the Committee considered and endorsed the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), the production and implementation of which is a statutory requirement for the Authority.
- 2.5.22 Draft Equality and Wellbeing Strategy** – In March 2019 the Committee considered a report on the Draft Equality and Wellbeing Strategy. As part of its discussion on the report references were made to the aspect of "Children at greater risk of difficulties" and to whether the Pupil Deprivation Grant was used to support children in that category.

**Outcomes:**

The Committee received the report and requested a further report on the Pupil Deprivation Grant.

**2.5.23 Modernising Education Programme** – In April 2019 the Committee considered and endorsed proposals to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Rhys Pritchard and also at Ysgol Y Ddwylan, Ysgol Griffith Jones Ysgol Llangynnwr and Ysgol Llŷs Hywel.

**Outcomes:**

The Committee endorsed the MEP proposals which were then approved for consultation by the Executive Board on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

## **2.6 Children's Services / Safeguarding**

**2.6.1 National Adoption Service Annual Report** – the Committee received the 2017/18 National Adoption Service Annual Report detailing the work and performance of the five National Adoption Service Regions

**2.6.2 Children First** – The Committee received a presentation on the Children First approach together with a short film on the experiences of children in the Glanymor and Tyisha wards within Carmarthenshire. The approach sought to initiate change at a local level, based on the needs of a specific place, identified by listening to children and young people and the local community. The approach also contributed to mitigating the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and exploring new and more effective ways of tackling child poverty.

**2.6.3 Annual Report on Corporate Parenting Activity** – In April the Committee considered and received the Annual Report on Corporate Parenting Activity detailing how the Council was meeting its corporate parenting duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, the outcomes for looked after children up to the age of 25 and providing an update on progress against targets set in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

## **2.7 Additional Reports Requested**

During the course of the year, the Committee requested the additional reports:-

- The additional £0.5m funding for schools;
- WESP language continuum and transfer from primary schools;
- Transform Innovate and Change (TIC);
- Delegated Schools Funding formula (including ALN Funding);
- The school admissions and appeals process;
- Adult Community Learning.

### 3. Other Scrutiny Activity

#### 3.1 Task and Finish

At the meeting held in March 2018 it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to review Early Years Education, Childcare and Play in Carmarthenshire. The key aims and objectives for the review were detailed in a planning and scoping document endorsed at that meeting along with the membership of the Task and Finish Group, as follows:-

Councillor Darren Price (Chair)

Councillor Kim Broom

Councillor Dot Jones

Councillor Jean Lewis

Councillor Bill Thomas

Councillor Edward Thomas

#### Outcomes:

The Group's findings were presented to the Committee in April 2019 where it was resolved to forward the report to the Executive Board for approval.

#### 3.2 Site Visits

The programme of school visits commenced in the 2009/10 municipal year and by the end of the October 2015, the Committee had visited all the county's primary, secondary and special schools, along with the 3 integrated family centres. In 2016/17 the Committee began re-visiting schools, linking in with the School Improvement Panel's work programme and the Authority's Modernising Education Programme proposals. It was felt that the visits tended to focus on premises issues and in November 2017 the Committee considered a report entitled Scrutiny School Visits Framework which proposed that the school visits programme's focus be realigned to facilitate broader discussion on aspects chosen as greater priorities e.g. leadership, teaching, learning and outcomes. However, it was not intended to preclude or ignore any elements of premises related issues which may arise and require attention.

The Committee continued with its programme of school visits in 2018/19 with the new emphasis as detailed above and the following 3 schools were visited during the Summer/Autumn Term of 2018:-

- Maes y Gwendraeth
- Ffairfach
- Llanmiloe



### 3.3 Development/Sessions

The Committee held a School Funding and EVR Workshop in January 2019

The following all-member development sessions/seminars were held during 2018/19, to which Committee members were invited:

- Member workshop with Hywel Dda University Health Board – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018;
- Rural Affairs Conference - 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Homelessness Seminar – 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2018
- Digital Transformation Seminar – 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018
- Eiriol Independent Mental Health and Carers Advocacy Seminar – 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2018
- Transform, Innovate and Change Programme Seminar – 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018
- Choice Based lettings Seminar – 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2018
- Improve your decision making skills seminar – 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2018
- Seminar with Welsh Water – 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018
- Drop-in Session – Flagship websites and revised LDP (including candidate sites) – 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019
- Economic Development Seminar – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Scrutiny Training / Centre for Public Scrutiny – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- Members drop in digital skills sessions (various dates)
- Mod.gov training sessions for committees (various dates)

In addition, there were several departmental budget seminars held.

## 4. Future Work

A significant challenge this year has been the workload of the committee; over nine meetings 46 reports and updates were received. In March 2019 Members received training from the Centre for Public Scrutiny, and at the following Forward Work Planning meeting agreed that they would use the CfPS principles going forward. In future the number of items on the agenda will be limited to two per meeting, which should enable the committee to look in greater detail at the reports presented. The Committee will also consider the rationale and proposed outcomes of future items and circulate reports previously presented 'For Information only', outside of the formal committee process.

In previous years the Committee has relied on the content of previous years' Forward Work Programmes (FWP) to shape future content but in light of the training noted at item 4 in this report, Members will undertake a full review of the FWP in 2019/20. The Committee will also look pilot new forms of scrutiny such as one day investigative scrutiny and increase the number of site visits undertaken during the year.



The FWP will continue to be monitored during the course of the year, together with the Executive Board FWP.

## 5. 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:

- Formulating, in accordance with the FWP, and despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings a minimum of 4 working days prior to the meeting;
- Providing support and constitutional advice to the 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 meetings of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs with the Executive Board;
- Advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as and when guidance is published;
- Managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny Committees' forward work programmes in conjunction with Scrutiny Committee members;
- Managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the administration of scrutiny task and finish groups, assisting in writing reports in conjunction with the groups and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews;
- Assisting with the Scrutiny member development programme.

For more information on Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire including forward work programmes, task and finish reports and annual reports, visit the County Council's website at: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny)

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or e-mail [scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

## Attendance

Attendance by members of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee during the 2018/19 year is shown in the table below. A total of 9 meetings were held between May 2018 and April 2019.

Scrutiny Committee Member	Meetings Attended	%
Cllr. Liam Bowen	6	67%
Cllr. Kim Broom	9	100%
Cllr. Ieuan Wyn Davies	7	78%
Cllr. John Jenkins	6	67%
Cllr. Betsan Jones	8	89%
Cllr. Dot Jones	8	89%
Cllr. Gary Jones	8	89%
Cllr. Jean Lewis	9	100%
Cllr. Shahana Najmi	4	44%
Cllr. Darren Price	8	89%
Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone	9	100%
Cllr. Bill Thomas	8	89%
Cllr. Edward Thomas	6	67%
Cllr. Dorian Williams	8	89%

Parent Governor Representatives	Meetings Attended	%
Mrs Georgina Cornock-Evans (from 01/04/18)	4	44%
Mr James Davies (from 01/04/18)	7	78%
Mrs Melanie Jones (from 01/04/18)	8	89%

Church Representatives	Meetings Attended	%
Mrs Vera Kenny	7	78%
Mrs Jean Voyle Williams (to December 2018)	4	44%
Rev D. Richards (from March 2019)	2	22%

<b>Substitutes</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
Cllr. Sue Allen	2
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	1
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1
Cllr. Rob James	1
Cllr. Ken Lloyd	1
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	1
<b>Executive Board Member</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
Cllr. Glynog Davies	6

Attendance at the Joint Meeting of the Social Care & Health and Education & Children Scrutiny Committees held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 is shown in the table below.

<b>Scrutiny Committee Member</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Cllr. Liam Bowen	0
Cllr. Kim Broom	1
Cllr. Ieuan Wyn Davies	1
Cllr. John Jenkins	1
Cllr. Betsan Jones	1
Cllr. Dot Jones	1
Cllr. Gary Jones	1
Cllr. Jean Lewis	1
Cllr. Shahana Najmi	1
Cllr. Darren Price	1
Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone	1
Cllr. Bill Thomas	1
Cllr. Edward Thomas	1
Cllr. Dorian Williams	1
<b>Parent Governor Representatives</b>	
Mrs Georgina Cornock-Evans (from 01/04/18)	0
Mr James Davies (from 01/04/18)	1
Mrs Melanie Jones (from 01/04/18)	1

Church Representatives	
Mrs Vera Kenny	1
Mrs Jean Voyle Williams (to December 2018)	1
Rev D. Richards (from March 2019)	0



## EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

### EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT - FEDERATING SCHOOLS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

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

**To consider the draft planning and scoping document and to decide on the participation of Members.**

**Reasons:**

At the ECS Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, Members asked for a focused scrutiny review on the federating of schools within the LA. The ECS Scrutiny Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 agreed in principle that a one day investigative scrutiny review would be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

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

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:**  
Councillor G. Davies (Education & Children)

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Llinos Jenkins	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration and Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  Irjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224010  llsjenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 224088
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

#### EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT - FEDERATING SCHOOLS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee has agreed to establish a one day investigative scrutiny review in to the Federating of Schools in Carmarthenshire.

The Committee's discussions on the key aims and objectives for this task and finish review have been captured and developed into the appended Draft Planning and Scoping document which members of the Committee are asked to consider and agree.

The Committee is required to agree on the membership of a Review Group which should consist of up to 6 Members and be politically balanced (3 Plaid Cymru, 1 Labour, 1 Independent Group, and 1 New Independent Group/Unaffiliated). Members may also want to consider whether all Members should participate in the review day on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The Task and Finish Group will arrange to hold its first meeting following the ECS Scrutiny Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – following the Scrutiny Committee meeting. Officers from the Education & Children's Services Department and Democratic Services will support the work of the Review Group.

**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 – Staff and Governors from relevant schools will be invited to submit evidence to the review.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Officers from the Education & Children's Services Department will participate in the review.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None.

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# Education & Children Scrutiny Committee One Day Investigative Scrutiny Review 2019/20

## *Federating schools in Carmarthenshire*

### Draft Planning & Scoping Document

<b>Context</b>	<p>At the ECS Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, Members asked for a focused scrutiny review on the federating of schools within the LA. The ECS Scrutiny Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 agreed in principle that the review would be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.</p> <p>The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development within their remit.</p> <p>Guidance for governing bodies and local authorities on the process of federating maintained schools in Wales was issued by the Welsh Government in May 2014. The guidance outlines the process in relation to governing body led federations and local authority led federations, and to date, this authority has not led the federating of schools. However, it is likely that the authority would lead schools to federate as part of future plans.</p>
<b>Membership</b>	<p><b><u>Elected &amp; Co-opted Members</u></b></p> <p>6 Members (Politically Balanced 3 PC, 1 LP, 1 U/NIG, 1 IG)</p> <p><b><u>Advisors / Support Officers</u></b></p> <p>Officers from the Department of Education and Children</p> <p>Democratic Services</p>
<b>The main aims of the review</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To gather and consider evidence from staff, parents and governors of schools who are, or have been, involved in the federating process.</li> <li>2. To review the support currently available for federating schools.</li> <li>3. To identify good practice and common issues encountered.</li> <li>4. Assist Members in gaining a clear understanding of the issue, in order to identify possible best practice, evaluate current process and shape future process.</li> <li>5. To consider whether available support is sufficient to meet the needs of schools.</li> </ol>
<b>Scope of the study</b>	<p>The study will consider the views and experiences of four schools that have been through, or are going through, the federating process, and</p>

	<p>the viewpoint of officers involved in the process.</p> <p>It will consider evidence from four federations – three formal and one informal), representing primary and secondary federations. Suggested federations -</p> <p>Swiss Valley and Dafen Primary Schools (Informal Federation)</p> <p>Ponthenri, Carwe and Gwynfryn Primary Schools</p> <p>Bryngwyn a Glan y Môr Secondary Schools</p> <p>Trimsaran and Mynydd y Garreg Primary Schools</p>
<b>How it will contribute to achieving corporate / community objectives and priorities</b>	<p>1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.</p> <p>3. Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners. We will provide an excellent school in the right place by:</p> <p>a. Improving the condition, suitability and resource efficiency of our schools network through the Modernising Education Plan.</p>
<b>Initial list of key officers, stakeholders, partners or other agencies to involve</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Education and Children's Services Officers</li> <li>• School-based Staff</li> <li>• School Governors</li> <li>• Democratic Services</li> <li>• Other partners as identified during the review period</li> </ul>
<b>What information / documents are required to inform the work of the study?</b>	<p>Federation process of maintained schools in Wales- Guidance for governing bodies and local authorities (May 2014). <a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/federation-process-of-maintained-schools-in-wales-guidance-for-governing-bodies-and-local-authorities.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/federation-process-of-maintained-schools-in-wales-guidance-for-governing-bodies-and-local-authorities.pdf</a></p> <p>Estyn Thematic Report- Federated schools - Common features of effective federation- <a href="https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Federated%20schools%20en.pdf">https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Federated%20schools%20en.pdf</a></p> <p>Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire – Scrutiny Committee and Task &amp; Finish Group Participants Charter and guidance for participants. <a href="file:///\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Democracy\DEMOCRATIC%20MLG\Scrutiny%20Committees\SCRUTINY%20PARTICIPANT%20CHARTER\Scrutiny%20Participant%20Charter%202019%20Working%20Document.doc">file:///\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Democracy\DEMOCRATIC%20MLG\Scrutiny%20Committees\SCRUTINY%20PARTICIPANT%20CHARTER\Scrutiny%20Participant%20Charter%202019%20Working%20Document.doc</a></p> <p>If any of the links listed above do not work, please contact the report author.</p>

<b>Timescale for completion of the review</b>	<p><b>September 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 04/09/19 Scoping and Planning document to the ECS Scrutiny Committee Selection of Members (6+CO) Briefing meeting</li> <li>• Circulate invitation to relevant individuals/schools</li> </ul> <p><b>October 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15/10/19 – Planning meeting if required</li> </ul> <p><b>November 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 06/11/19 – Scrutiny Inquiry A briefing session for Members (45mins) on the process of federating Morning session to focus on gathering evidence from schools perspective. A set of pre-agreed questions will be circulated to participants ahead of the meeting. Participants who do not wish to attend can submit a response in writing. Afternoon session to focus on DECS current practice and review of evidence.</li> <li>• 25/11/19 – Review session</li> </ul> <p><b>December/January 2019/20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report and findings to ECS Scrutiny Committee 19/12/19 – 23/01/19</li> </ul> <p><b>March 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/03/19 Final report to ECS Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>
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# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## FORTHCOMING ITEMS - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

SCRUTINY TOPIC	<b>Provisional Examination and Teacher Assessment Results and provisional school attendance data</b>	
SCORED AS PART OF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME	YES/NO	Standing Item
BACKGROUND	Provisional results and data are published annually.	
OUTCOME REQUIRED	For members to consider the provisional External Examination, Teacher Assessment Results and School Attendance Data, in order to monitor performance, and to enable further discussion with regards to informing priorities.	
PURPOSE OF BRINGING ITEM TO SCRUTINY / ADDED VALUE	To consider the data contained in the report in order to monitor performance.	
TIMESCALE	Annually in September	
LEAD MEMBER LEAD OFFICER	Cllr Glynog Davies Aneirin Thomas	<b>RECOMMENDATION REQUIRED</b>

SCRUTINY TOPIC	<b>Mental Health Provision in Education</b>	
SCORED AS PART OF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME	YES/NO	SCORE 6
BACKGROUND	During the forward planning process the Committee identified this area as one of interest and Members have requested a report on the matter.	
OUTCOME REQUIRED	To identify any areas of concern or possible areas of improvement, with a view to recommending policy changes to the Executive Board.	
PURPOSE OF BRINGING ITEM TO SCRUTINY / ADDED VALUE	For Members to review available data on the following – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emotional wellbeing - in relation to youth suicide.</li> <li>- What schools are doing to support young people at risk of developing significant mental health issues?</li> <li>- Are teaching staff sufficiently skilled/trained to identify 'at risk' pupils?</li> <li>- What schools are doing at present - noting the range of schools and demographic.</li> </ul>	
TIMESCALE	None	
LEAD MEMBER LEAD OFFICER	Cllr Glynog Davies Aneirin Thomas	<b>RECOMMENDATION REQUIRED</b>

<b>SCRUTINY TOPIC</b>	<b>Modernising Education Programme Ysgol Heol Goffa</b>	
<b>SCORED AS PART OF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>SCORE N/A</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	In order to support Carmarthenshire's Modernising Education Programme - proposal to relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa to a new site and increase its capacity from 75 to 120.	
<b>OUTCOME REQUIRED</b>	To formulate views for submission to Executive Board for consideration	
<b>PURPOSE OF BRINGING ITEM TO SCRUTINY / ADDED VALUE</b>	To review the decision to change the nature of provision/relocation at proposed school/s	
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	None	
<b>LEAD MEMBER LEAD OFFICER</b>	Cllr Glynog Davies Simon Davies	<b>RECOMMENDATION REQUIRED</b>

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting –

30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – Adoption Annual Report

30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – Fostering Annual Report

31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – News from the Education and Children's Services Department

20<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Digital Schools Strategy Report

## DRAFT TIMETABLE 2019/20

4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	May 2020 – 20/21 Forward Work Planning	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	
CCC Annual Report	Provisional Examination results – School Attendance Data	Recruitment and retention of staff (3)	3 Year Revenue Budget Consultation	Youth Services (4)	Promoting Positive Behaviour Practice in Schools (5)	Behaviour Service Review		Scrutiny School Visits Framework	Annual Report of Director of Social Services 2019/20	
ECS Scrutiny Annual Report	Mental Health provision in Education (2)	New Curriculum (1)	Actions & Referrals	LA Education Services Self Evaluation	NEETS (6)	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Update		Post 16 education (7)	Young Carers (8)	
Consultation Report - Proposal to change the nature of provision at Ysgol Rhys Prichard	(MEP) Relocation of Ysgol Heol Goffa - to increase capacity		Education & Children's Services Departmental Business Plan 2019/20-2022	Task & Finish Monitoring	2019/20 Task & Finish Report - ALN	Actions & Referrals			Actions & Referrals	
Consultation Report - change the nature of provision at Ysgol Y Ddwylan, Griffith Jones, Llangynnwr and Llys Hywel.										
Actions & Referrals			Task & Finish Meeting Dates – 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2019 at 2pm 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 10am 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019 at 2pm 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 2pm 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 2pm  One Day Scrutiny – Federating of Schools 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Scoping Document to be completed 06/09/19				Site visits  School visits – One visit per quarter 01.07.19 – Llandeilo C.P. School  Fostering Service (Q1 2020) Adoption Service (Q1 2020) Youth Service (Q2 2020) Young Carers (Q2 2020)  Workshops ERW – Update on current progress (review request in Autumn 2019)			

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## EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### 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*

<b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive's  <b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones  <b>Report Author:</b> Llinos Jenkins	<b>Designations:</b>  Head of Administration & Law  Democratic Services Officer	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>  01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 224088 <a href="mailto:llsjenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">llsjenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### 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
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 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 and Children Scrutiny Committee - Actions & Referrals 2019/20

Action No. E&C 19/20 0-	Meeting Date	Recommendation / Action / Referral	Recommendation/Minute text	Progress Update	Member / Officer	Status
1  (prev E&C 017 - 18/19)	13th March 2019	Action	Members noted references to 'Children at greater risk of difficulties' and asked whether the Pupil Deprivation Grant was used to support children in this category. It was noted that other Local Authorities used the grant to employ an individual; to directly support children and families in need. The Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing advised that work was being done in this area and working with families with ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) was part of the strategy. <u>The Director of Education and Children's Services advised that he would report back to the Committee on the Pupil Deprivation Grant and the type of work undertaken.</u>	Request made to the lead officer in ERW for a regional report showing how the PDG is utilised and examples of effective practice.	Gareth Morgans	
2	6th June 2019	Recommendation 4.2	That a scoping document on ALN Funding should be presented at the next committee meeting on the 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2019.	Item 5 - 4th July 2019 ECS Scrutiny Committee	Andi Morgan	COMPLETED
3	6th June 2019	Recommendation 5.2	The Executive Board be requested to sufficiently support the service financially, in order to continue and maintain the current standard of service	Cllr G Davies to raise at Executive Board - update on completion.	Cllr Glynog Davies/ Llinos Jenkins	
4	6th June 2019	Recommendation 5.3	Consideration be given to providing Governing Bodies with clearer guidance in relation to charging for use of the Music Service, particularly in relation to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals	Guidance can be reviewed and re-confirmed with Governing Bodies in the Autumn Term.	Aeron Rees	
5	6th June 2019	Recommendation 5.4	The Music Service should be supported by the TIC team to identify efficiencies	An approach to TIC for support has been made	Aeron Rees	

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 6 June 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillor D. Price (Chair)**Councillors:**

L.R. Bowen, K.V. Broom, I.W. Davies, B.W. Jones, D. Jones, G.R. Jones, M.J.A. Lewis, E.M.J.G. Schiavone, B. Thomas, E.G. Thomas and D.T. Williams.

**Co-opted Members:**

G. Cornock-Evans - Parent Governor  
 J. Davies - Parent Governor  
 M. Jones - Parent Governor  
 D. Richards - Church in Wales Representative  
 V. Kenny - Roman Catholic Church Representative

**Also in attendance:** Cllr G. Davies, Executive Board Member for Education and Children**The following Officers were in attendance:**

G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services  
 A. Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing  
 S. Davies, Head of Access to Education  
 A. Morgan, Head of Education Services  
 R. Williams, Additional Needs Provision Manager  
 G. Kirby, Music Service Coordinator  
 L. Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer

**Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP - 10.00 am - 12.10 pm****1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.Jenkins and S. Najmi.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**

The following Declarations of Interest were received :

Councillor	Minute Item(s)	Nature of Interest
G. Jones	5. Music Service Update	Wife works in the Education Department
D. Jones	5. Music Service Update	Children are beneficiaries of the Music Service and she has relatives working in the Education Department

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

### **4. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS - TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Head of Education Services gave an overview of the report and drew Members' attention to the three overarching aims of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill and the six areas of focus (noted on pages 9 and 10 of the report).

The following observations/questions were raised on the report:

Members noted that the timeline within the report was quite tight and asked whether the department was confident that they could undertake the work required within the timescale. The Additional Needs Provision Manager advised that a significant amount of work had been done in raising awareness, partnership working specifically in relation to Person Centred Planning (PCP), Individual Development Plans and Post 16 Transition. The department had also identified PCP Champions to lead on PCP training, which should ensure that by the end of 2020 all Primary and Secondary Schools will have a PCP Coach. It was also noted that the authority had lead the initial pilot for Individual Development Plans (IDPs) which was based at Ysgol Glan y Mor and its feeder schools, and as a result most schools are familiar with the principle of PCPs and IDPs. The Additional Needs Provision Manager advised that she was confident that the work required was going well.

In response to a question on the partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) the Director of Education and Children's Services advised that the six local authorities within HDUHB working with a Designated Clinical Lead Officer (DECLO) to support the changes. Although concerns have been raised in relation to the capacity of the Health Board to provide a clinician to attend all school visits, the Code of Practice within the Bill clearly sets out what is expected of each Health Board and their duty in relation to providing what is required. The Director of Education and Children's Services further advised that in most circumstances the authority valued the advice of the Health Board over the structured formal reporting, noting that it could take up to 26 weeks to develop an IDP. However, the presence of the right people e.g. Speech and Language Therapists etc. at planning meetings was encouraging. He also acknowledged that more complex cases were revised annually, during which process there was a need for a more formal approach. The Additional Needs Provision Manager advised that the Health Board has a Multi-Agency Steering Group which local authorities can work with, should the need arise.

Members asked for clarification on the consultation approaches noted in section 5(ii) of the report and asked for further information. The Additional Needs Provision Manager advised that the priorities were to build good partnerships between parents and settings in order to support the rights of the child, and these priorities should be communicated clearly to parents so that they can understand what to expect. The advertised workshops were well attended and links with the inclusion department has improved with the use of Family Liaison Officers. The Director of



Education and Children's Services noted that workshops were held across all six authorities and as well as work on the website, the authorities had commissioned SNAP Cymru to provide independent advice to families. In response to a query on the use of social media, the Director advised that capacity was an issue when it came to responding and managing responses.

Members asked for detailed information in relation to the number of pupils with IDPs and were advised by the Additional Needs Provision Manager that it was close to the figure of one hundred; noting that the high number could be linked to the authority's participation in the pilot scheme for the rollout of IDPs.

In response to a question on the training available to School Governors, noted in the report as an action in autumn 2018; the Director of Education and Children's Services advised that there was a conflict in releasing the training before the Code of Practice consultation has closed. Tier 1 training had already gone through the legal process and was ready to be delivered however, some aspects of Tier 4 training may require some adjustment following the consultation. In response to a further query on the likely changes to the Code of Practice, and whether the authority were agreeable in relation to the new code, the Director advised that overall the changes to the code were positive and centred around a new way of working, it would also align the 22 local authorities under one code. However, there were some concerns in relation to guidance on the transfer of responsibility from schools to the local authority with very little to prevent schools under financial pressures to transfer responsibility for ALN to the local authority. The consultation was due to close on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and the situation would be clearer when the final code is published.

Members raised the issue of workforce development and asked whether there was specific training available or bespoke courses to support children with ALN in the classroom. The Director of Education and Children's Services advised that there was a national training programme for Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators (ALNCo) which offered the opportunity to work towards a qualification. There is also local and regional training available for school staff. In relation to upskilling Teaching Assistants the Director advised that Coleg Sir Gâr and UWTSD offer courses in Child Development and a NVQ in supporting children with ALN. Training for ALNCo's was a matter of ongoing development and a four/five day course covering the area under discussion would be rolled out later in the year.

Members questioned the progress monitoring of the implementation plan, both locally and regionally. The Director of Education and Children's Services advised that regionally there was a strategic group to monitor progress overall, of which he was the Chair, locally the implementation plan forms part of the Departmental Business Plan and will be monitored alongside other performance measures. The Director also noted that there was some additional capacity to drive some areas of change and to track and map development, and in due course the cost of this would be evaluated in relation to its impact. The Additional Needs Provision Manager advised that the Welsh Government had distributed an ALN readiness survey, the results of which should highlight areas where there is a need for further development.

The Chair noted that the funding of ALN was a consistent overspend for the department, and the issue was considered as a suitable topic for the next Task & Finish Group. It was agreed that a scoping document should be prepared on this

issue for Members to review. In response to this the Director of Education and Children Services advised that the transformation of the service should see a reduction in costs, and gave an example of the practice of having an assistant supporting a pupil for an entire lesson, when the need for support may only be at the start/end of a lesson. The new model allowed for greater flexibility in how pupils are supported and how needs can be met in the most effective way.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that**

**4.1 the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Transformation Programme Update be received.**

**4.2 that a scoping document on ALN Funding should be presented at the next committee meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

**5. MUSIC SERVICE UPDATE: MAY/JUNE 2019**

The Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing gave an overview of the report and drew members' attention to the recent and ongoing achievements of the Music Service.

The following observations/questions were raised on the report:

In answer to a question on the shortfall which was noted in the report as having reduced over previous years, the Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing advised that the previous year's shortfall was £147,000 and could be considered as related to the core funding element of the service's finances.

Members asked for further information in relation to the integration of the Music Service within the new curriculum and its effect on future provision. The Music Service Coordinator advised that some guidance had already been released and many of the areas covered by Expressive Arts are already in place, however it was unclear whether further guidance would be given by the Welsh Government. The Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing advised that there are a few fields within Expressive Arts that require cross subject skills. Several local authorities have placed Music within Expressive Arts, possibly in order to attract more grant funding, others have included Music within Humanities. It was noted that each of these models have potential and risk attached, however if further guidance is received from Welsh Government the situation could be very different in six to nine months. It was also noted that the Welsh Government were withholding funding to employ a consultancy to improve provision across Wales, with a remit to improve access and to look at existing best practice, this could further shape the future of the service.

Whilst acknowledging the confines of the budget, Members asked for clarification on costs passed on to pupils and the advice given to schools in relation to costs. The Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing advised that pupils are charged varying amounts e.g. £30 per term, which included ensembles and lessons. Pupils who qualify for Free Schools Meals (FSM) and pupils who are studying towards GCSE or A Level Music are not charged. However, some schools do not pass on charges to pupils. The Music Service Coordinator acknowledged that schools could source music lessons at a lower rate from external sources, but it would not include ensemble, orchestra and residential courses. Through charging for music lessons schools and the service has seen an improvement in attendance, practice and development. The Director of Education and Children's Services advised that the

decision to pass on charges, or not, was a matter for each Governing Body; they can be advised by the Music Service but the decision lies with each individual school. £86,289 was made available by the Welsh Government to support and enhance music provision within any one of nine possible areas, of which FSM Support was one area. The Director acknowledged that schools could benefit from clearer guidance in relation to charges and their application.

Members asked whether anything further could be done to encourage participation. The Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing advised that there already programmes in place to encourage broader participation, including a Music for All pilot, and the Peripatetic Music Tour. The service had also engaged with Heol Goffa on Music Therapy programmes. It was acknowledged by Members that Music enriched other areas of education and supported the wellbeing of pupils of all ages.

In response to a question on whether the Music Service had worked with the TIC Team to identify efficiencies, the Music Service Coordinator advised that they had not started a review yet, although some work had been done to develop Parent Pay to reduce processing work.

The Executive Board Member for Education and Children thanked the Music Service for the work undertaken and noted the significant successes at the recent Urdd National Eisteddfod. The Executive Board Member advised that he was willing to accept any overspend, in order to support the work of the Music Service. The Committee noted their agreement that service should continue, whilst acknowledging the overspend.

#### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that**

- 5.1 the report be received**
- 5.2 the Executive Board be requested to sufficiently support the service financially, in order to continue and maintain the current standard of service**
- 5.3 consideration be given to providing Governing Bodies with clearer guidance in relation to charging for use of the Music Service, particularly in relation to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals**
- 5.4 the Music Service be supported by the TIC team to identify efficiencies**

#### **6. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT**

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

- Fostering Annual Report

**RESOLVED that the information should be circulated to members outside of the committee process.**

#### **7. FORTHCOMING ITEMS**

The Committee considered the list of forthcoming items and agreed that the items should be presented to the next meeting.

With reference to the Digital Schools Strategy Update, Members requested that the following information be included within, or noted alongside the report –

- How the strategy is funded, and the level of capital expenditure
- Training available for teachers
- Schools succeeding in this area and schools less progressive in their development
- The level of support given to school governors to understand this agenda
- The support available to schools that do not have the required infrastructure. Is this just a matter for schools in rural areas?
- The strategy in relation to the changes to the new curriculum

Members also reviewed the decision of the committee to only circulate the Agenda for the meeting electronically, and agreed that all future meetings would be paperless – acknowledging that all Council meetings would be paperless from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2019.

### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that**

- 7.1 the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019, be agreed**
- 7.2 all future meetings of the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee should be paperless**

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 4 July 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillor D. Price (Chair)**Councillors:**

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

**Co-opted Members:**

J Davies - Parent Governor  
V. Kenny - Roman Catholic Church Representative  
M. Jones - Parent Governor

**The following Officers were in attendance:**

J. Morgan, Director of Community Services  
S. Davies, Head of Access to Education  
A. Morgan, Head of Education Services  
A. Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing  
S. Smith, Head of Children's Services  
S. Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager  
L. Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer

**Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP - 10.00 - 11.40 am****1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from I.W Davies, J. Jenkins, G. Cornock-Evans, S. Najmi and D. Richards.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mrs M Mothobi, an Education Officer from Lesotho, to the meeting.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**

	Minute Item(s)	Nature of Interest
V. Kenny	4	A relative works in Social Services
G. Jones	5	Spouse works in the Education Department
D. Jones	5	Relatives work in the Education Department

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

#### 4. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services on the Performance of Social Care Services in Carmarthenshire 2018/19. Members were informed that there was a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually on delivery and performance, as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of social services.

The report detailed the progress made on areas identified for improvement in last year's report and highlighted those areas to be developed in the current year. It examined each service area within Social Care and showed how service strategies, actions, targets and service risks will be addressed and delivered operationally by the service this year, based on the approved budget. The report outlined how the service performed in 2018/19 together with an assessment on the future, together with strategic priorities for 2019/20. It linked closely with the Business Plans for the Directorates of Community Services and Education & Children's Services.

At the request of the Director of Community Services, members gave feedback on the content and format of the report, and identified areas within the report that required further development. The Chair thanked the Director of Community Services for the work undertaken over the last year, and on the preparation of the report.

The following observations/questions were raised on the information contained within the report:

Members sought clarification with regards to target setting and performance measurement within the service. The Director of Community Services advised that different areas measure success in different ways, for instance a reduction in intervention is considered a measure of success in some areas, whereas in other areas it was possible to measure positive performance through a percentage increase or reduction.

Members asked for further information on what was being done to develop specialist provision for complex needs. The Head of Children's Services advised that there was a possibility that a residential complex-needs resource would be developed. It was noted that some local authorities in South Wales are placing complex needs children in residential settings in Scotland, and there is a clear need across the area to develop the type of service locally.

Members referenced a graph on page 24 of the report which gave a snapshot of the number of children on the Child Protection Register as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, and asked whether children were at risk of coming back on to the register. The Director of Community Services advised that there could be a small number, however re-registration is tracked and that it would be possible to contain the information within the report. The section of the report under discussion also contained reference to the care and support satisfaction rate of 84.6%, and members asked what measures were in place to track the 15.4% who were not satisfied with the care and support received. The Director of Community Services advised that comparative data from previous years was available and an overview of themes could be identified from the data.



In answer to a question on safeguarding children electing to be home educated, the Director of Community Services advised that there was a small but significant number of children who may be at risk. The Director emphasised that the vast majority thrive under home education and have very good outcomes. However, there has been a case in the national press in recent years of a home educated child experiencing neglect, who died as a result of a lack of intervention. He noted that beyond registering the birth of a child, children are not tracked outside of the education system, and there was very little requirement, above advising the local authority of intent, in order to home educate a child. He advised that there were proposals underway for a statutory register for home educated children, which would require a child to be visited annually. The Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing advised that the local authority had a responsibility to ensure that children receive an education, and steps were in place to strengthen exiting arrangements for home educated children via a National Stakeholder Group.

Members reviewed the Welsh language levels on page 70 of the report and asked for an update on the current situation, and the pilot recruitment exercise. The Director of Community Services advised that having trained staff at level five was key in delivering an active offer in a professional context; undertaking a Child Protection Assessment was a level five skill which required more than just proficiency in the language. The current pilot was underway but there was little data to report at this stage. He acknowledged that the recruitment and retention of Social Workers generally was an ongoing issue.

In answer to a question on the relatively low take up of the Childcare offer, the Head of Children's Services advised that the scheme was doing well comparatively. Take up was increasing steadily and that increase was likely to continue, he also advised that it was unlikely that all eligible individuals would take up the offer.

Members noted the reference on page 26 to an increase from 8.8% to 10.4% in children having moved three or more times. The Director of Community Services advised that children who experienced multiple moves are often likely to be the most challenging. He further advised that multiple moves did not necessarily result in a bad outcome, and looking at the qualitative stories would be a better measure. The Head of Children's Services noted that a range of outcomes are included within this measure, and illustrated that a child moved from their home to foster care, then to pre-adoptive placement before permanent adoption would count as four placements, and would be considered a good outcome.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.**

## **5. EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUP 2019/20 -DRAFT PLANNING AND SCOPING DOCUMENT**

The Committee considered a report which detailed the scope of the next Task and Finish investigation.

**RESOLVED:**

- 5.1 that the Task and Finish Scoping Document be received;**
- 5.2 that the aims and scope of the work of the Task and Finish Group be endorsed;**

**5.3 that the membership of the Task and Finish Group be as follows:-**

- **Councillor Kim Broom**
- **Mr James Davies**
- **Councillor Gary Jones**
- **Councillor Shahana Najmi/John Jenkins**
- **Councillor Darren Price (Chair)**
- **Councillor Edward Thomas (Vice Chair)**
- **Councillor Dorian Williams**

**6. 2019/20 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME DRAFT TIMETABLE**

The Committee reviewed the Forward Work Programme Timetable. Members were advised that there would be additional site visits and workshops held during the year and a One Day Investigative Scrutiny Review on 'Federating Schools in Carmarthenshire' on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received**

**7. FORTHCOMING ITEMS**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting, be agreed.**

**8. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT**

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

- Digital Schools Strategy Update
- Actions and Referrals

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:**

**8.1 the Digital Schools Strategy Update should be circulated to members outside of the committee process;**

**8.2 the Actions a Referrals Report should be submitted at the next meeting**

**9. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 24TH APRIL 2019**

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be signed as a correct record.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**