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**FRIDAY, 16 JUNE 2023**

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN. SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 1.30 PM ON FRIDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2023 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA**

*Wendy Walters*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

<b>Democratic Officer:</b>	<b>Julie Owens</b>
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<b>This is a multi-location meeting. Committee members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the Zoom link which is provided separately.</b>	
<b>The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:- <a href="https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home">https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home</a></b>	

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

**EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**PLAID CYMRU GROUP -**

Cllr. Carys Jones  
Cllr. Liam Bowen  
Cllr. Kim Broom  
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths  
Cllr. Betsan Jones  
Cllr. Hefin Jones  
Cllr. Jean Lewis

**LABOUR GROUP -**

Cllr. Lewis Davies  
Cllr. Michelle Donoghue  
Cllr. Dot Jones  
Cllr. Edward Skinner  
Cllr. Michael Thomas

**INDEPENDENT GROUP -**

Cllr. Sue Allen

**UNAFFILIATED -**

Cllr. Sean Rees

**NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS –**

Vera Kenny

Roman Catholic Church Representative

Rev. Delyth Richards

Church in Wales Representative

**ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS -**

1 Vacancy

Parent Governor Representative - Area 1 - Dinefwr

Anthony Enoch

Parent Governor Representative - Area 2 -  
Carmarthen

Dr. Felicity Healey-Benson

Parent Governor Representative - Area 3 - Llanelli

# **A G E N D A**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**
- 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**
- 4. SUPPORTING BEHAVIOUR** 5 - 34
- 5. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LEVELS** 35 - 48
- 6. WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN - ANNUAL REPORT** 49 - 74
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- 8. SCRUTINY ACTIONS UPDATE** 99 - 106
- 9. EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2023/24** 107 - 112
- 10. FORTHCOMING ITEMS** 113 - 138
- 11. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 5TH MAY 2023** 139 - 146

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Agenda Item 4

**EDUCATION YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
23RD JUNE 2023**

**SUPPORTING BEHAVIOUR**

**Purpose:**

To respond to Scrutiny Committee's request for an update on behaviour support services.

**The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the following issues:**

The current situation in relation to supporting behaviour in schools.

**Reasons:**

The report provides information about how the LA is supporting improving behaviour across our schools.

**To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision:**    No

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:-** Councillor Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)

**Directorate Education and Children Services**

**Name of Head of Service:**

Aneirin Thomas

**Report Authors:**

Jo Antoniazzi

**Designations:**

Head of Education Services and Inclusion

Lead Officer for Behaviour Services & PRUs

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**EDUCATION YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**23RD JUNE 2023**

**SUPPORTING BEHAVIOUR**

The report provides information with regard to supporting improved behaviour across Carmarthenshire schools.

Following a behaviour review undertaken across all schools a model was agreed to address providing equitable and consistent behaviour support services. A Four Phase Model of Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing Support has been developed and is being successfully implemented. The Four Phase Model includes upskilling schools and staff to meet the needs of learners, providing 'in school' support for staff and learners, providing specialist Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) support within Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) and providing bespoke support for some of the most vulnerable learners in the Local Authority. The 4 Phase Model continues to be embedded in our schools.

**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:**

**Aneirin Thomas**

**Head of Education and Inclusion**

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>

**CABINETMEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

**Yes**

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**There are None.**

# Adroddiad Cynnal Ymddygiad Supporting Behaviour



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## BEHAVIOUR AND ENGAGEMENT

Following a behaviour review undertaken across all schools, a model was agreed to address providing equitable and consistent behaviour support services. A Four Phase Model of Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing Support has been developed and is being successfully implemented. The Four Phase Model includes upskilling schools and staff to meet the needs of learners, providing 'in school' support for staff and learners, providing specialist BESD support within EOTAS and providing bespoke support for some of the most vulnerable learners in the Local Authority. The 4 Phase Model continues to be embedded in our schools.

The Behaviour Support Community Team are directly linked to schools aligned with the ALN cluster model. The Behaviour Support Community Team has been re-structured and re-designed to offer a more comprehensive, specialist and inclusive service delivery.

The new service delivery model has doubled the number of staff on the team and has included the creation of a team of Teaching Assistants who are highly experienced in working with and supporting young learners with BESD. The Two-Tiered approach within Phase One and Two of the Four Phase model provides schools with a proactive and reactive service that allows for the provision of support at an early stage and identification of emerging needs replacing the lengthy referral process that preceded it. However, as a newly established team quantitative data on the impact from this service is not yet available, initial feedback from schools indicate that the realigned model is being well received and appreciated by mainstream colleagues. Qualitative data collected provides very positive response regarding the support of the team and the impact they are having in the training provided, support for learners and guidance given. For example, many schools note improving confidence in addressing the increasingly complex needs of our learners, however challenges remain.

As well as providing advice, guidance and strategies that are heavily based in the ethos of Trauma Informed and Restorative Approaches to support staff and pupils in schools, the team of specialist teachers have developed appropriate training programs that have been delivered to colleagues in around half of our mainstream schools.

Alongside the current provision of support interventions such as Thinking Detectives, Positive Play and Draw Talk, the team are in the process of researching and planning further interventions such as Lego Play and Peer Mediation that can be delivered to mainstream. The identification and development of training programs that can be delivered to support the work of staff in schools will be a key part of the ongoing provision of the BSCT.

The Behaviour Support Community Team works closely with the Educational and Child Psychology Service to attend whole school and individual wellbeing needs through TAPPAS (Teams Around Pupils, Parents and Settings) four times a year



to complete a 'plan, do, review' cycle in secondary schools. In primary schools the Behaviour Support Community Team teacher links with the Educational and Child Psychology Team to attend the primary planning meetings in Autumn Term to plan training and identify possible support for BESD needs. The TAPPaS Model allows key partner agencies to work proactively with the school to identify the whole school strategy for supporting all learners with SEBD needs and ensures that the school and learners receive the right support from the right agency sooner and reduces the need for the school to make multiple referrals for the same learner. Plans are in place to further embed the TAPPaS approach to include, TAPPaS for whole school, TAPPaS Review and TAPPaS Strategy meetings to ensure that there is a robust system around meeting the needs of vulnerable learners.

The team has supported 100% of Secondary Schools and 65 out of the 95 Primary Schools (68%) in the Local Authority have received direct support from the BSCT during this period. The direct impact of this work will be evaluated through questionnaires and introducing impact summary documents. The current impact of the new service delivery is that the LA has responded to schools 'request for timely and needs led support, and this is delivered through an integrated approach catering for the full range of needs, making strong timely and accessible provision that supports both school staff and learners.

To enhance the specialist BESD support available in schools, the Local Authority listened to the concerns of Headteachers in Secondary Schools and agreed to provide funding to each school to employ an additional member of staff to support vulnerable learners demonstrating BESD. (£500k) The Lead Officer worked with Headteachers to listen to the main concerns and wrote a job profile that provided a specific role to support learners. The impact has been that each secondary school now has a specific member of staff with the agreed title of Behaviour Support and Wellbeing Officer who are directly linked to the Behaviour Support Community Team for advice, training and guidance. Each school was offered a place on a Trauma Informed training course which was for agreed induction training for the Behaviour Support and Wellbeing Officers. Within the Specialist BESD settings (Phase 3 of the model -PRU provisions) the LA has created a Lead Trauma Informed Practitioner role who will work closely with the Behaviour Support Community Team and the Behaviour Support and Wellbeing Officers to deliver trauma informed activities, strategies and interventions. Again, as these posts are new this academic year (2022-23), their impact is yet to be analysed. However, what can be noted is that within the Behaviour Support Services we are developing a phased and staged response to working with our learners and schools so that we can deliver a needs-led service where we approach supporting our learners with a restorative ethos and have an inclusive person-centred approach supporting the needs of learners and schools.

To further develop joint working between BSCT and the Behaviour and Wellbeing Officers and to enhance targeted support within Phase 1 and 2 of the 4 Phase Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing Support Model half termly meetings are held. Our first presentation by one school's Behaviour and Wellbeing Officer has reported that

the impact of the structure and strategies using restorative, and trauma informed practice has resulted in an over 80% reduction in fixed term exclusions in their school in the first six months of the approach being implemented.

To develop the work of our specialist BESD PRUs an enhanced Senior Leadership team is in the process of being implemented. All learners attending the centres are placed via a robust process through the ALN departments Inclusion Panel. The Lead Officer for Behaviour Support Services and PRUs has developed a strong team ethos where all centres now work closely. There is a planned weekly Phase 3 SLT meeting attended by the Lead Officer and Centre Managers where information is shared, good practice, training and joint developments for interventions and for secondary curriculum. The impact has been at the established secondary centres improved training opportunities with training outcomes implemented into daily practice, such as the Trauma Recovery Model. The impact has led to multiple improvements in attendance and wellbeing for learners and the centre has been accredited with national awards. This trauma recovery model will shortly be delivered into the newly registered secondary PRU and the established primary PRU using the new Lead Trauma Informed Practitioner. A similar approach enhancing trauma informed practice, using the Behaviour and Wellbeing Officers in our secondary mainstream schools to deliver trauma informed practice in mainstream schools has also been planned.(impact noted above)

Joint working with ECPs and BSCT has led to implementation of a series of training to support Phases 1 and 2 of the Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing Support in schools. The impact has been-ELSA training delivered, and an ELSA now trained in every school in Carmarthenshire, TAPPAS meetings to support whole school and individual learners, joint consultation planning meetings, supervision for all Trauma Informed Practitioners/staff delivering trauma informed strategies, the newly piloted EBSA (emotionally based school avoidance) project.

Our School In-Reach team is a mix of experienced mental health professionals and therapists who work in our education settings to support learners and staff with their emotional and mental wellbeing. They work in every secondary school across Carmarthenshire, including Pupil Referral Units and Out of School Tutoring Services. They attend termly prioritisation meetings with education staff in secondary schools where they discuss the needs of individual learners, staff and the school as a whole

# Ysgol Coedcae School

Scrutiny committee meeting  
23 June 2023



# Mission, vision and values

## **Mission statement**

*To inspire confident learners to thrive in an ever-changing world*

## **Vision**

Our more detailed vision statement can be summarised as *our commitment to being a happy, inclusive school, in which staff are well supported so that they may, in collaboration with others, deliver the best possible educational experiences and outcomes for all our pupils, without exception.*

## **Values**

*Respect, honesty, kindness & inclusion*

# Estyn inspection findings 27 February 2023

“Coedcae School provides a highly inclusive and safe environment where pupils and staff are happy and thrive. Leaders’ relentless focus on helping all pupils, whatever their background, to succeed has a notable impact on the progress and well-being of pupils, particularly the most vulnerable.”

Leaders and staff have created a culture of safeguarding where most pupils feel safe and free from bullying at school. The support for pupils’ well-being is highly effective, and the school provides exceptional tailored support for those pupils with additional learning needs. The standard of care, support and guidance for pupils is exemplary, and this helps pupils and parents to feel valued as part of the school community

# School context data

Context factor	Data
Pupil numbers	<b>916</b> 858 in 2019
FSM	<b>2023: 41.9%</b> 3yr rolling average 2020/21-2022/23: 37.5% 3yr rolling average 2017/18-2019/20: 30.8%
EAL	<b>12.6%</b> 5.9% at stages A-C
SEN	<b>56.1%</b> 27.0% SA 27.0% SA+ 2.1% Statement
Deprivation	<b>47%</b> of cohort living in 20% most deprived areas in Wales <b>37%</b> of cohort living in 10% most deprived areas in Wales

## EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTIONS

eFSM		Behaviour Support Community Team	
Child Protection		CYCA	
CASP (Care and Support Plan)		SEAL provision	
LAC		Young Carers	
EWS		NHS Smoking Cessation	
CAMHS		Prevent	
SBYW (Youth Worker) - group		EOTAS	
SBYW (Youth Worker), 1-to-1		Behaviour & Wellbeing Officer	
Counselling		Cyfle	
School Health Nurse		One-page profiles	
Medical need/health plan		Behaviour plans	
Youth Prevention Team		ELSA	
EBSA Psychologist		INTACT	
Choices (substance misuse)		Cynnydd (up to November 2022)	
TAF		Police School Liaison Officer	
TAPPaS		Psychotherapy	
Educational Psychologist		Threshold (relationships)	

# Key performance indicator trends

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Capped 9</b>	<b>365.3</b>	<b>378.2</b>	<b>354.1</b>	<b>347.8</b>	<b>334.0</b>
<b>Literacy</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>37.5</b>
<b>Numeracy</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>36.1</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>36.0</b>
<b>WBQ SCC</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>
<b>5 A* - A</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.2</b>



# Legacy indicator trends

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
L2 inclusive	53%	58%	47%	46%	51%
L2 threshold	71%	75%	73%	61%	60%
L1 threshold	96%	93%	98%	96%	98%

# KPI 2019 compared with Wales' averages

<b>Performance measure</b>	<b>School 2019</b>	<b>Wales 2019</b>	<b>School 2019</b>	<b>Wales 2019</b>	<b>School 2019</b>	<b>Wales 2019</b>
<i>Average points score</i>	<b>All pupils</b>	<b>All pupils</b>	<b>eFSM pupils</b>	<b>eFSM pupils</b>	<b>eFSM/nonFSM gap</b>	<b>eFSM/nonFSM gap</b>
<b>Literacy measure</b>	37	39	33.9	32.5	-4.5	-8.9
<b>Numeracy measure</b>	36	37	33.1	29.4	-4.3	-10.3
<b>Science measure</b>	37	37	32.9	28.2	-5.4	-11.6
<b>Capped 9</b>	350	353	326.4	298.3	-28.9	-77.1
<b>Skills challenge certificate</b>	34	36	30.5	29.5	-5.1	-9.6

## E-FSM learner performance 2019

Performance measure	School	Family	Wales
<b>Average points score</b>			
Capped 9	326.2	306.4	298.3
Skills challenge certificate	30.7	31.2	29.5
Literacy measure	33.9	31.9	32.5
Numeracy measure	32.9	28.3	29.4
Science measure	32.9	26.2	28.2
5 A*/A (%)	4.7%	3.8%	4.9%
English	31.5	29.7	30.4
Maths	30.0	26.1	27.4
Maths- Numeracy	30.1	25.1	26.2

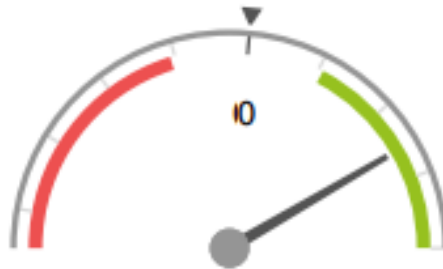
Value added  
data

## KS4 Progress 2019 · Contextual Value Added

154 matched pupils

**Capped 9 Points Score (Interim)**

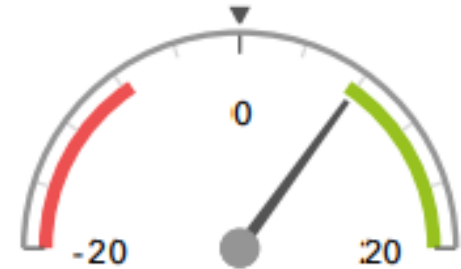
**+25.7 pts +**



Significantly above the national  
average (0) ◀

**% Level 2 Threshold Inclusive**

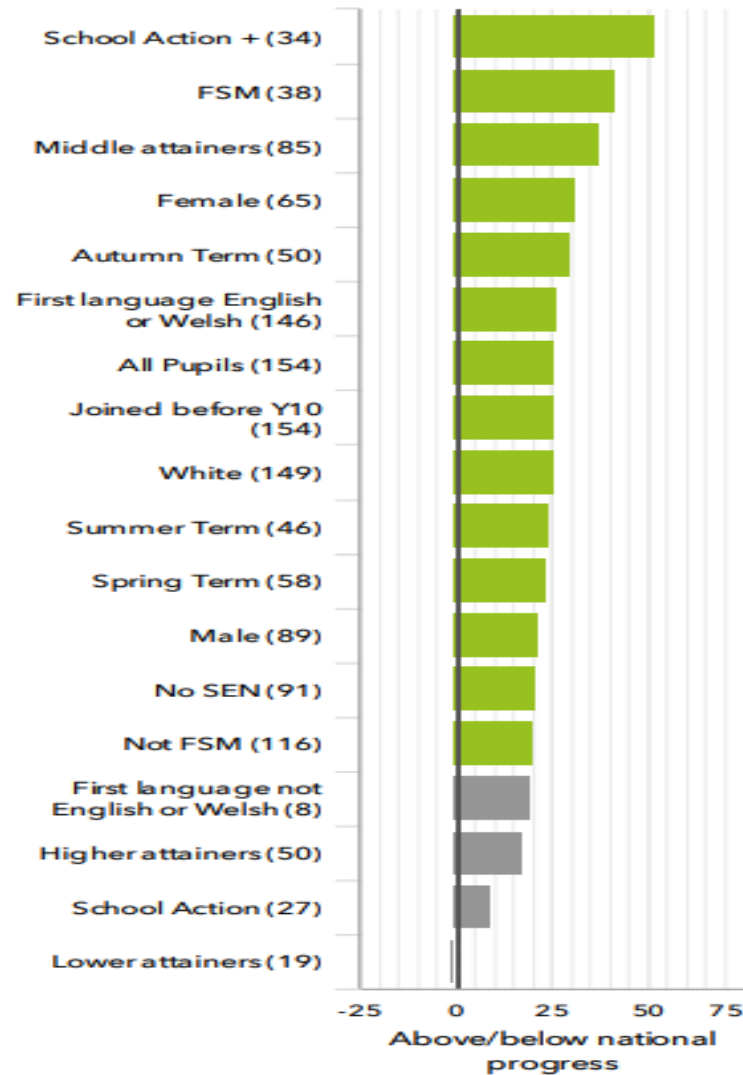
**+8% +**



Significantly above the national  
average (0%) ◀

### High-to-low chart

Pupil progress in Capped 9 Points Score (interim)  
visually from high to low



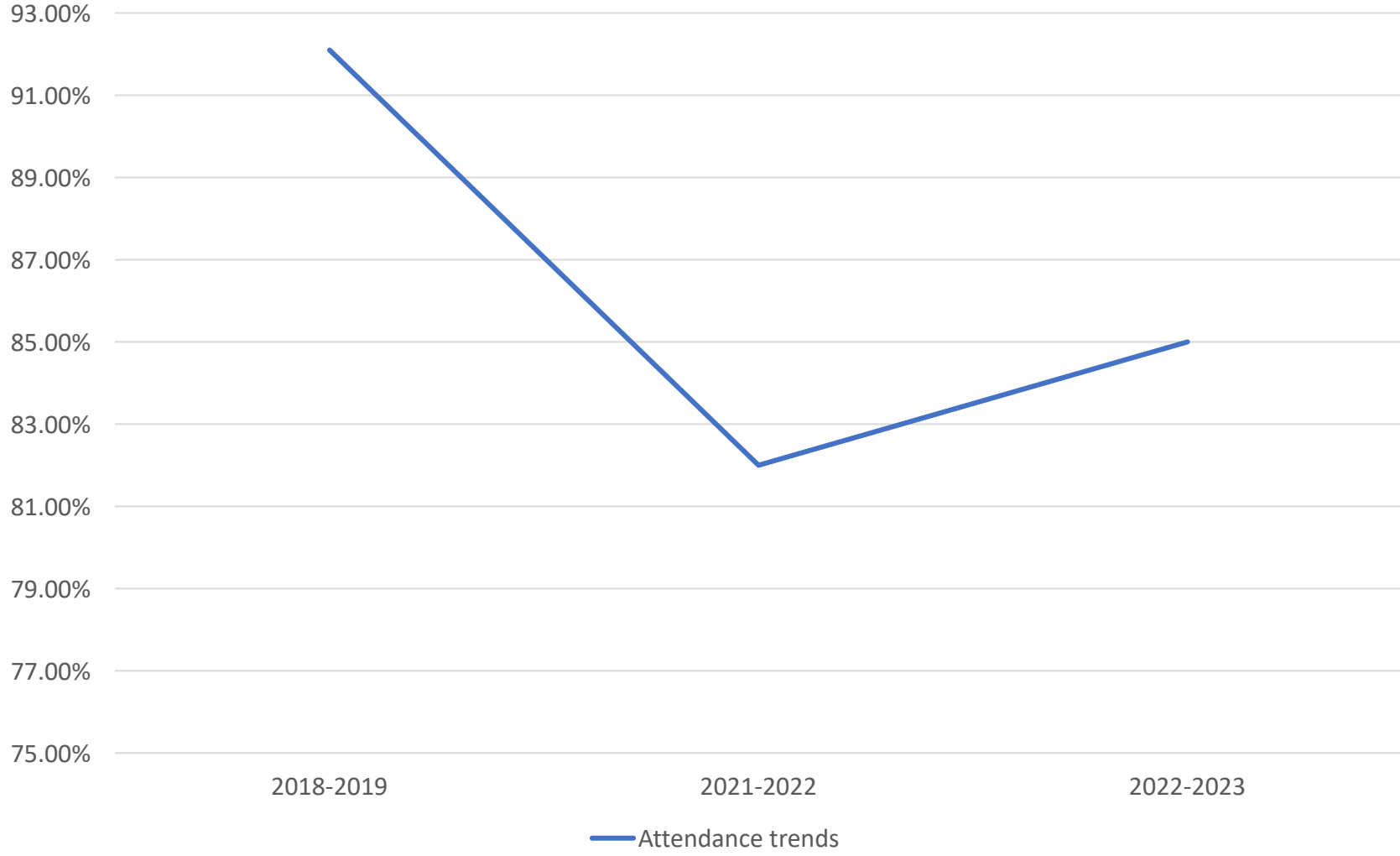
Apart from a small number of lower attainers [without SEN], in 2019, all key vulnerable groups made progress that was above national levels, with eFSM learners and SA+ pupils making progress that was significantly better than expected.

This is representative of pupil progress over many years.

# School priorities 2023-2024

- Improving attendance
- Developing positive learning environment – improving pupil behaviour
- Continuing to improve pupil outcomes, particularly literacy

# Attendance trends



# Reasons for absence

- Broad continuum
- Poverty, disadvantage, eFSM
- SEN/ALN
- Parental influence and families with complex and multiple needs
- Anxiety, mental health
- General disengagement and more casual attitudes to school/learning since pandemic
- Transport



# What we are doing to improve attendance

- Robust implementation of LA attendance policy
- Regular communication with pupils, parents/carers about importance of good attendance
- Close liaison with Carms School Safeguarding and Attendance Team
- Purposeful use made of Community Focused Schools funding (2022-2023) to appoint an Attendance and Wellbeing Officer
- Broad range of bespoke engagement strategies with pupils and families
- Introduced a free, school-funded breakfast club
- Targeted use of PDG to provide a robust Pupil Support and Inclusion Team

# Estyn inspection findings 27 February 2023

“The school has supported pupils well to improve their attendance since their return to school following the pandemic”

“The school has effective arrangements to monitor attendance and provides robust interventions to support those pupils with poor attendance. This has led to improvements in attendance, especially that of pupils who are eligible for free school meals.”

# What would help

- Local authority/school campaign around attendance
- Bus routes to school
- Increased access to funding for FEW support
- Recognition of impact of cost of living crisis on attendance, particularly in schools serving deprived communities
- Better access to mental/emotional health support for pupils

# Behaviour

- Clear decline in behaviour standards since pandemic
- Increase in anxiety-driven behaviours
- Increased lack of social skills
- Lack of engagement with learning
- Emergence of 'newer' behaviours:
  - Verbal abuse and aggression towards staff;
  - Poor conflict resolution – physical aggression peer-on-peer
  - Unhealthy attachment to, and misuse of, mobile phone
  - Apathy, refusal behaviours
  - Vaping
  - Vandalism

# On-call support for behaviour during lessons

November 2017– March 2018

<b>Year</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of callouts</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>235</b>

November 2018 – March 2019

<b>Year</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of callouts</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>241</b>

November 2021 – March 2022

<b>Year</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of callouts</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>335</b>

November 2022 – March 2023

<b>Year</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>No. of callouts</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1138</b>

# Internal exclusion

Time period	Referrals	Total pupils
September 2017 – March 2018	168	80
September 2018 – March 2019	175	75
September 2021 – March 2022	304	145
September 2022 – March 2023	565	184

# Fixed-term exclusions

	<b>Autumn and spring terms 2017-18</b>	<b>Autumn and spring terms 2018-19</b>	<b>Autumn and spring terms 2021-22</b>	<b>Autumn and spring terms 2022-23</b>
Total instances	40	23	90	98
Total days	72	63	110	117.5

# Strategies to improve behaviour

- PDG – Pupil support team
- LA-funded Behaviour & Wellbeing Officer
- School provided nurture unit – *Cyfle*
- Links with LA Behaviour Support Community Team
- Key adult/mentor roles
- Engagement with a range of external stakeholders



# Estyn inspection findings 27 February 2023

“Most pupils behave well in lessons and around the school sit”

“The ‘ready to learn’ behaviour policy is understood well and implemented consistently by staff. This ensures that there are clear and consistent routines that have a positive impact on pupils’ engagement and well-being.”

“A highly supportive, caring and inclusive ethos pervades all aspects of life at Coedcae School. Staff place a strong emphasis on knowing every pupil well and ensuring that support is tailored carefully to meet individual needs. Positive relationships between staff, parents and pupils are fostered by the school’s ‘trusted adult’ approach.”

# What would help

- Local authority focus on earlier intervention
- Increased ALN funding
- Full-time ELSA
- Improved structures for early intervention
- Increased access to Behaviour Support Community Team
- Continuation of LA campaign

Agenda Item 5

**EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**23 JUNE 2023**

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LEVELS**

**Purpose:**

To respond to Scrutiny Committee's request for an update on attendance.

**The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the following issues:**

- The current situation in relation to attendance across schools
- A clear understanding of how the Local Authority is supporting school attendance.

**Reasons:**

The report provides information regarding the levels of attendance across Carmarthenshire schools since 2012. The main reasons cited for pupil absence have been included within the report.

Schools across Wales have struggled to re-engage learners and families following the lengthy periods of isolation brought about by the pandemic. In addition, many of the learners returning to full time education have found it difficult to resume the routine and expectations of school life. This situation has once again prevented meaningful comparison with the data from years prior to the COVID pandemic for Carmarthenshire, but it does provide an initial opportunity to provide some insight into its legacy.

Attendance across Carmarthenshire schools remains lower than pre-pandemic levels, with illness accounting for the majority of absences.

**To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: No**

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)

**Directorate:** Education and Children Services

**Name of Head of Service:**  
Aneirin Thomas

**Report Authors:**  
Rhona Evans  
Allan Carter

**Designations:**

Head of Education Services and Inclusion

Attendance

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**23RD JUNE 2023**

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LEVELS**

The report provides information with regard to the levels of attendance across Carmarthenshire schools for this academic year.

**HOW ARE WE SUPPORTING SCHOOLS AND PROMOTING GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?**

We are part of a local authority strategy to support schools.

Our work links to Strategic focus groups for Inclusion and Engagement and SFG for Safeguarding.

We cover:

- School safeguarding
- Attendance
- Children Missing from Education- CME
- Elective Home Education- EHE
- Child licensing

**ADVISORY WORK - completed by social workers for schools / senior staff**

- **At a Welsh Government level-** Contribution by senior staff/ team manager to all Wales groups- EHE, attendance, CME and licencing. Data returns completed as required. Manager has been member of selected task and finish group with WG to write new attendance guidance.
- **Local Authority- strategic level**
- Attendance by team manager at case management meetings (education), member of Strategic Focus Groups – safeguarding, inclusion and engagement, audit and evaluation, CLOG, DMT, provision of training to senior managers, and key LA teams, including school admissions, development of CME Policy and toolkit, model attendance policy, education neglect policy, Flexi-learning toolkit and attendance self-evaluation toolkits for schools.
- **School level- whole team support for attendance**
- Team manager has provided attendance training to schools, governors, and developed a Supporting Schools handbook with comprehensive resources, which outlined a 5 step model for responding to pupil absence.
- Social workers provide advice, share resources and support for schools around promoting good attendance, addressing pupil absence, child welfare, safeguarding, CME, EHE.
- Social workers support schools to proactively identify pupils/ families for early intervention via advisory visits.

- Whole team assist schools to find positive solutions to pupil absence/ support needs in the early stages.
- Social workers supported schools with 140 advisory meetings/ pre-referral meetings last academic year.
- The team support schools by attending TAPPAS (Team Around the Pupil Parent and Setting) meetings.
- Team manager reviews completed attendance self-evaluations from schools and provides follow up support where needed.
- Team manager has worked with education psychology to develop Emotionally Based School Avoidance EBSA resources which have been shared with schools.
- Social workers provide a duty system within the team. This ensures all referrals and queries are dealt with promptly and responded to. The duty worker ensures Operation Encompass and Endeavour notifications are shared with school safeguarding leads in a timely way. Feedback indicates that the duty system is valued by schools. Over last 12 months we have had 3299 Operation encompass notifications and 357 Operation endeavour notifications.

#### **OPERATIONAL WORK- how do we support children referred to the team and their families?**

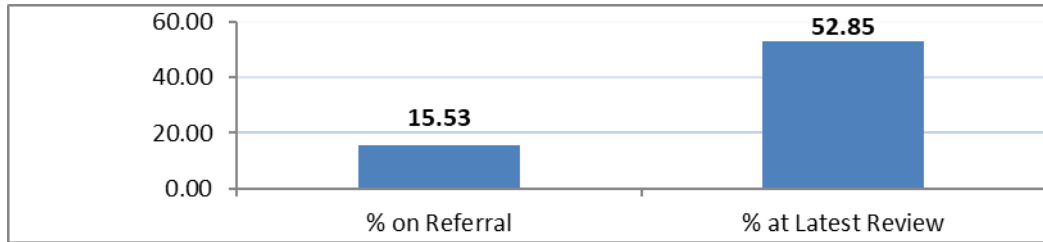
- This year 446 referrals from schools were received up to 22-5-23. Last year for same period we had 413.
- CME referrals spiked last year with 127 referrals – it remains high this year with 87 referrals- this includes work with Ukrainian children/ refugees.

#### **We work to:**

- achieve improved attendance of children referred to the team, promote good attendance through a family engagement/ social work model of intervention with case work.
- identify and engage children missing from education.
- support the Local Authority in promoting positive engagement between families and schools.
- Plan, deliver and review bespoke packages of direct intervention with families and pupils who are referred to the team.
- provide a valuable interface between schools, education staff and Children's Services/ safeguarding.
- contribute to the wider, multiagency, provision of early intervention and support.
- Where appropriate pursue the resumption of satisfactory school attendance through the Magistrates or Family Court/ FPN

## **IMPACT OF OUR WORK – what difference are we making?**

### **Average % Attendance at Referral and Review**



Following all referrals, 94.62% of families are contacted within the recommended 3 working days.

During the first 2 terms, 362 referrals were received, and 218 cases closed.

Data for first 2 terms (2022/23) shows attendance has improved in 81% cases referred.

Of the 87 CME referrals, only 5 children have yet to engage in education and support is in place for them to do this.

Prosecutions are used as a last resort and numbers of prosecutions are listed below for current and previous academic years:

<b>2018/19</b>	<b>22</b>
2019/20	7
2020/21	4
2021/22	6
2022/23	8

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Develop LA attendance strategy – with clear responsibilities for schools and the LA.
- Development of publicity resources – raising awareness of good attendance.
- Develop consistency of practice across schools.
- Annual attendance training to be held to share best practice.
- Embed the attendance self-evaluation toolkit for schools.
- Formalise challenge and scrutiny to schools where needed- universal/ targeted/ enhanced support.
- Complete local authority CME self-evaluation
- Embed policy for reduced timetables, CME policy and flexi guidance.

- Implement emerging attendance guidance from Welsh Government and EHE guidance.
- Continue to utilise and build on an engagement model of intervention.

**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:                   Aneirin Thomas**

**Head of Education and Inclusion**

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>

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

Yes

**Include any observations here**

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**There are None.**

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# Cefnogaeth Presenoldeb i Ysgolion **Attendance Support for Schools**



[sirgar.llyw.cymru](http://sirgar.llyw.cymru)  
[carmarthenshire.gov.wales](http://carmarthenshire.gov.wales)

Cyngor Sir Gâr  
Carmarthenshire  
County Council



## **Department for Education and Children's Services**

### **Supporting Schools to Improve Pupil Attendance – Strategic Overview**

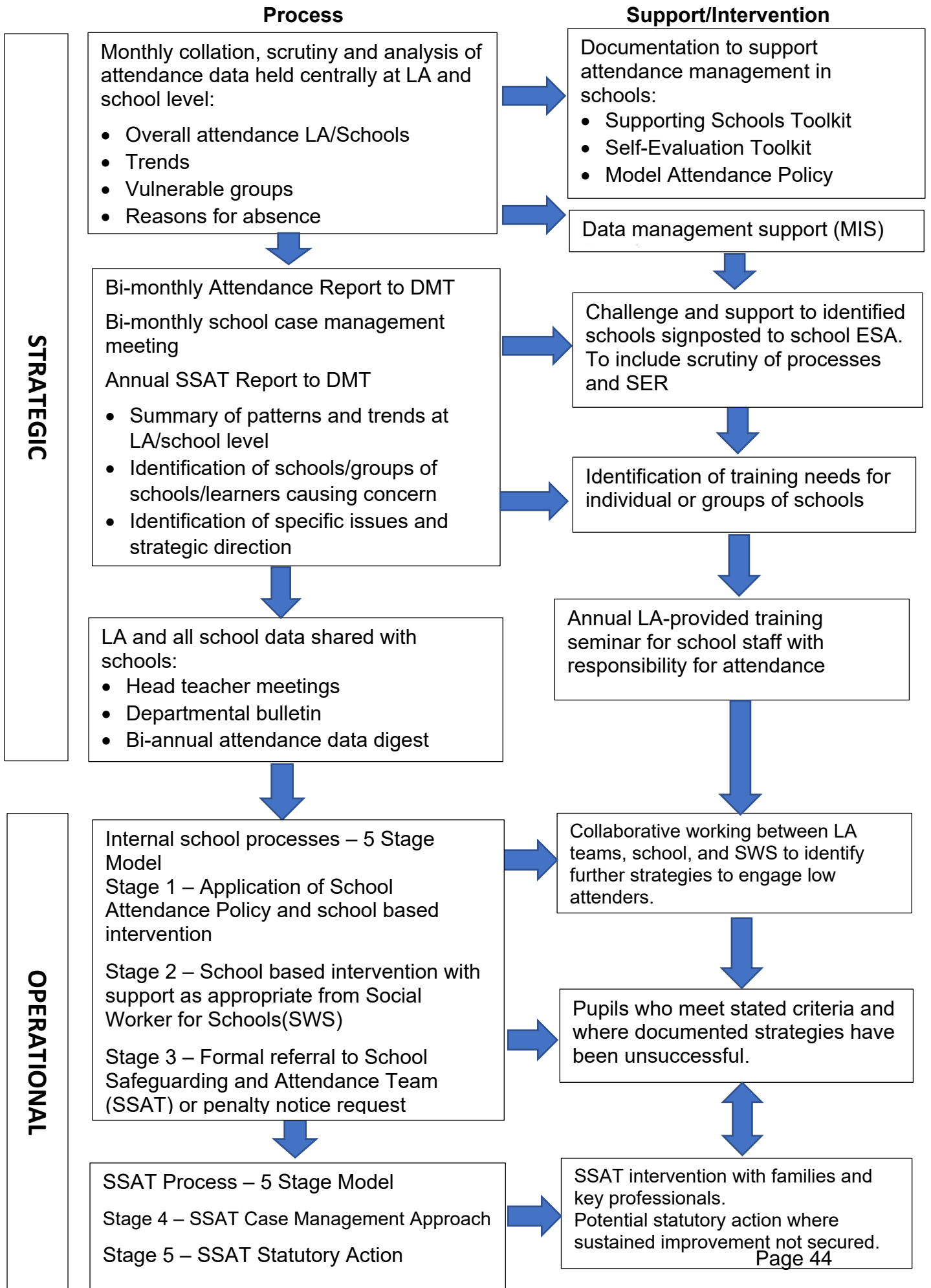
Schools are directly responsible for managing and improving attendance within their individual contexts but the LA provides a range of support and challenge strategies to assist them in this.

School has the following responsibilities:

- Meet all requirements of the All Wales Attendance Framework and policies developed by the Local Authority.
- Use electronic registration systems at morning and afternoon sessions.
- Keep all pupil information up to date on their relevant MIS and only use the appropriate WG attendance codes.
- Operate a 'first day contact' system and ensure that the school makes every effort to maintain close contact with any pupils unable to attend.
- Take reasonable measures to secure improved attendance and engagement in education prior to contacting the School Safeguarding and Attendance Team.
- Follow statutory guidance in relation to deregistering pupils from school roll.
- Strategically analyse attendance data by a range of criteria, including year group/class, gender, vulnerable groups.
- Target support for attendance to areas of identified need within the school.
- Have and adhere to an Attendance Policy which is in line with LA and All Wales guidance.
- Utilise Team Around the Family (TAF) approaches to solving problems for families that may impact on attendance.

The Local Authority supports schools in improving and maintaining good attendance the following ways:

- Provide a consistent, corporate, and strategic approach to supporting all schools in raising and maintaining good attendance.
- Monitoring school attendance data, providing advice around pupils at risk of disengagement and challenging schools as and when required.
- Providing toolkits for schools to support maintaining good attendance.
- Provide a centralised service of support and advice on attendance and data monitoring to schools, parents and pupils via the School Safeguarding and Attendance team (SSAT).
- Provide a suite of template documents such as policies, legally approved letters.
- Offer a “refer in” service for pupils where the main cause of absence is unauthorised and where the criteria for referral are met.
- Ensure policies and procedures are in place for securing regular attendance, attendance monitoring, children missing from education, child employment, chaperone licensing and child performance licensing and elective home education.
- Provide schools with appropriate and timely information, advice, and support in line with the evolving Welsh Government attendance guidance and All Wales Attendance Framework.
- Support schools to ensure the regular attendance of vulnerable groups of pupils including those children who are: ‘Looked After’ by the Authority, at risk of exclusion, have ALN, have disengaged from school, Asylum Seekers, and travellers.
- Support Schools in some specific circumstances, as outlined in the existing WG guidance, to secure regular school attendance through School Attendance Orders, Education Supervision Orders, Parenting Contracts, Parenting Orders and Prosecution.

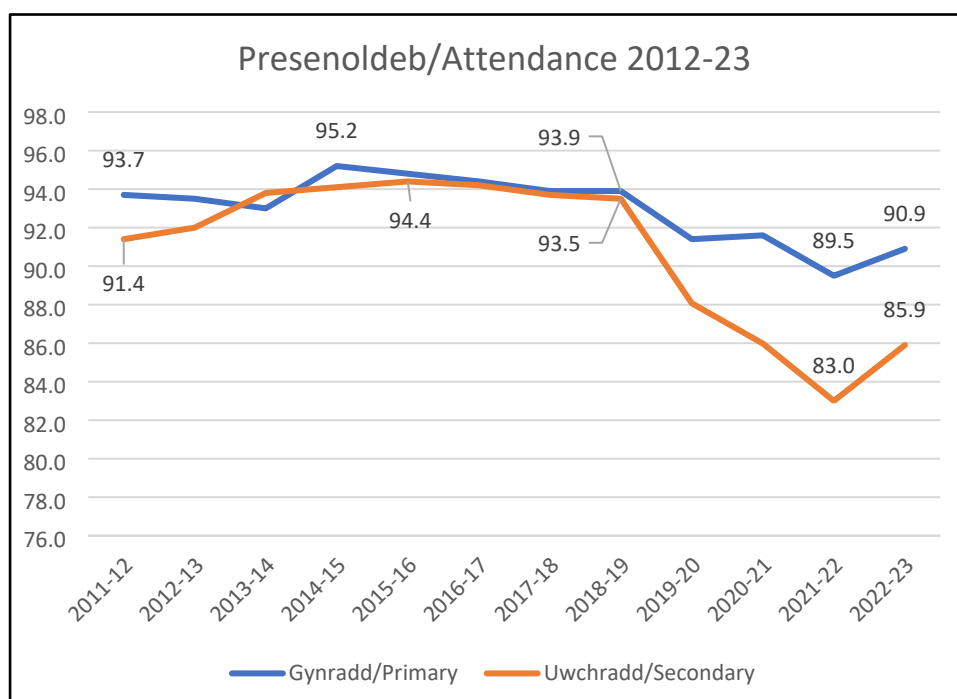


## Current Data:

### Carmarthenshire Schools Attendance Data 2012-23

Year	Primary			Secondary		
	Total	A	U/A	Total	A	U/A
2011-12	93.7	5.9	0.4	91.4	8.0	0.6
2012-13	93.5	6.1	0.4	92.0	7.6	0.4
2013-14	93.0	4.3	0.8	93.8	5.6	0.5
2014-15	95.2	4.0	0.9	94.1	5.1	0.8
2015-16	94.8	4.4	0.9	94.4	4.9	0.7
2016-17	94.4	4.8	0.8	94.2	4.8	0.9
2017-18	93.9	5.1	1.0	93.7	4.9	1.4
2018-19	93.9	5.0	1.2	93.5	5.0	1.5
2019-20	91.4	7.1	1.5	88.1	7.6	2.4
2020-21	91.6	7.0	1.4	86.0	10.1	3.8
2021-22	89.5	8.9	1.6	83.0	11.2	4.8
2022-23	90.9	7.6	1.5	85.9	9.1	4.3

	<b>2011-19 Official published WG data</b>
	<b>2019-23 Unverified Teacher Centre data</b>



Attendance at the time of the last LA inspection in 2011-12 was 93.7% in primary schools and 91.4% in secondary schools. Although there was a very slight fall in primary schools in the following two years, there was an improvement which peaked at 95.2% in 2014-15, following which the figure slightly declined in subsequent years to 2018-19 which was the last year of official data reporting to Welsh Government before the covid pandemic. The

figure for 2018-19 was very slightly above the figure for 2011-12 at the time of the last inspection.

In secondary schools, there was a sustained improvement from 2011-12 which peaked at 94.4% in 2015-16, following which the figure plateaued. However, the figure of 93.5% in 2018-19 and just before the pandemic was 2.1 percentage points higher than in 2011-12.

As in all local authorities across Wales, the covid pandemic has had a significant impact on school attendance with the fall most pronounced in the secondary sector. In the first full year of recovery to normal school operations in 2021-22 the figure was 89.5% in primary schools and 83.0% in secondary although formal reporting to Welsh Government has not yet resumed. In the current academic year, there has been a steady recovery in school attendance but the level is still significantly below the pre-covid figure. It is recognised that much has to be done to improve school attendance levels and this remains a key target for the Authority.

Prior to the pandemic, school attendance and exclusion comparative data had been published by Welsh Government (WG) retrospectively on an annual basis. During the pandemic, data publication and performance measurement was suspended and has not fully resumed.

The data presented below is using unverified Carmarthenshire County Council data from existing local sources.

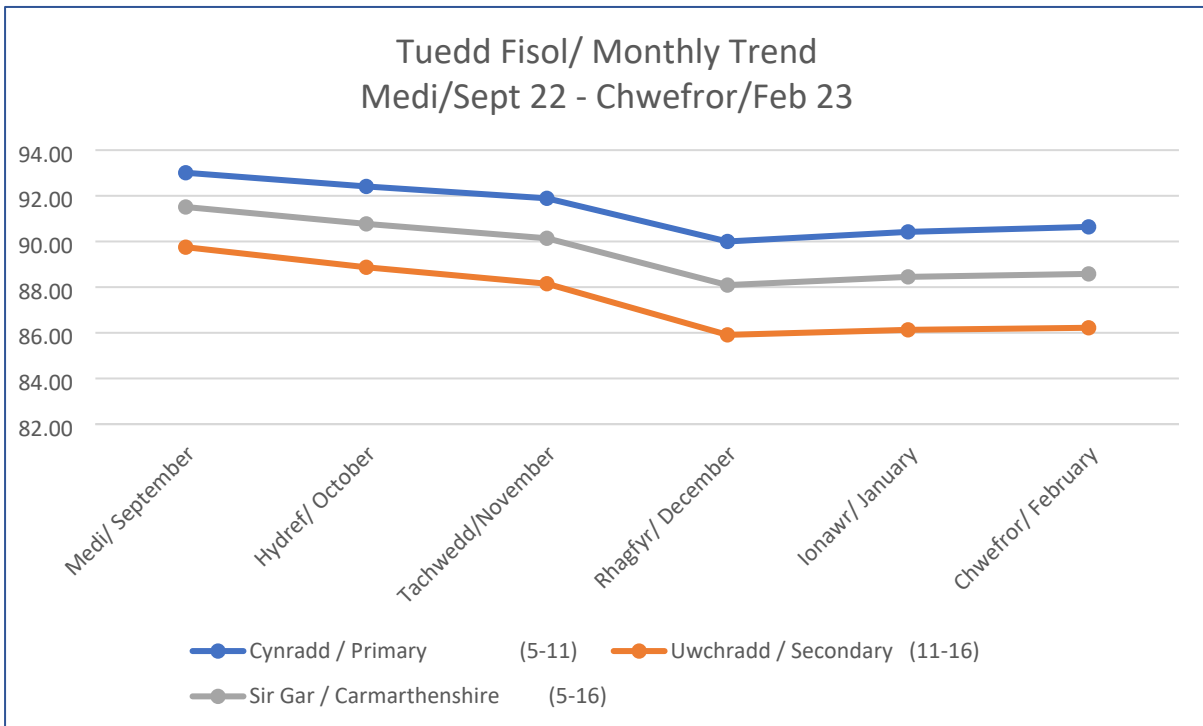
### School Attendance 2022-23 Academic Year (Half year)

**Tabl/Table 1: Crynodeb o Presenoldeb Chwefror 2023  
Summary Attendance February 2023**

	2021-2022	Chwefror / February 2023		
		Awd Auth	Anawd Unauth	Presenoldeb Attendance
<b>Cynradd Primary (5-11)</b>	89.49	7.95	1.39	90.64
<b>Uwchradd Secondary (11-16)</b>	83.01	9.31	4.13	86.22
<b>Sir Gar Carmarthenshire (5-16)</b>	86.57	8.58	1.38	88.58

**Tabl/Table 2: 2022-23 Tuedd fisol  
2022-23 Monthly trend**

	Medi September	Hydref October	Tachwedd November	Rhagfyr December	Ionawr January	Chwefror February
<b>Cynradd Primary (5-11)</b>	93.01	92.41	91.89	90.00	90.42	90.64
<b>Uwchradd Secondary (11-16)</b>	89.75	88.87	88.15	85.91	86.13	86.22
<b>Sir Gar Carmarthenshire (5-16)</b>	91.51	90.77	90.14	88.09	88.45	88.58



Primary attendance data, whilst below pre-pandemic levels is showing an improvement on the previous year at 90.6% indicating some signs of recovery. Attendance in secondary schools also reduced to below 90% during the pandemic and this situation remained unchanged for 21/22 with overall attendance sitting at 83.0% for the year. However, the recovery in secondary schools during the current academic year has been slightly stronger than in primary schools, albeit from a lower base.

There remains inconsistency between schools in both sectors in terms of the rate of improvement during the current year and it is hoped that a more strategic approach to challenge and support, supported by a more robust use of county level and individual school data and ongoing training for key staff in schools will enable continuous improvement in the coming year.

Headteachers have the discretion as to whether to authorise a child's absence or not based on the information provided by the parent/carer. The high levels of authorised absence

outlined in Table 1 suggest that parents/carers were continuing in the main, to provide schools with acceptable reasons for absence, although this is slightly less the case in secondary schools where unauthorised absence remains at a higher level than in primary schools.

Analysis of data shows that illness remained the predominant reason for absence across the year in both sectors with this significantly surpassing all other reasons. The COVID absence code remained available for schools to use until August 2022 and the use of this reflects the continued impact of the COVID virus on school communities during 2021/22. Holiday absences increased significantly in the primary sector for 21/22 as travel restrictions eased. Once again this reflects the significant impact of the COVID-19 lockdown with many families keen to resume holiday bookings after the lockdown ceased. This trend has continued in the current year and there have been 10,800 pupil days (0.3%) lost through unauthorised holidays to June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Table 3**  
**Attendance Vulnerable Groups Half Year to September 1st 2022 to February Half-Term 2023**

	Boys	Girls	Diff	FSM	Non-FSM	Diff	ALN	Non-ALN	Diff
<b>Primary 5-11</b>	90.5	90.8	-0.3	86.5	92.1	-5.6	87.8	91.5	-3.7
<b>Secondary 11-16</b>	86.6	85.8	0.8	78.8	88.6	-9.9	81.7	88.1	-6.4
<b>All 5-16</b>	88.6	88.5	0.2	83.1	90.5	-7.4	84.7	90.0	-5.3

Parents/carers are ultimately responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly. Headteachers understand the importance of attendance on pupil engagement and attainment and implement a range of strategies to promote and secure attendance in collaboration with Council Services. The challenges of recent years have resulted in many schools developing a range of alternative offers to re-engage those who are struggling to attend. A strategic priority for the department in the coming year is to facilitate training where schools with successful practice can share this across all schools.

The department has shared key documentation with schools to support a consistent approach to improving attendance. The most important of these are:

- Model Attendance Policy template
- Improving Attendance Self-Evaluation Toolkit
- Supporting Schools Toolkit – contains guidance on all aspects of managing attendance, including all legally approved template letters

The School Safeguarding and Attendance Team plays a key role in supporting schools at an operational level to improve attendance levels. (See separate report)



## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2023

### WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN – ANNUAL REPORT

**Purpose:**

To provide an update on the progress made with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-32.

**The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:**

The document is submitted for comment on this year's progress whilst implementing the 10-year WESP (2022-2032).

**Reasons:**

At the specific request of the Education, Young People and Welsh language Scrutiny Committee.

Cabinet Decision Required

NO

Council Decision Required

NO

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Glynog Davies

**Directorate:**

Education and Children  
Directorate

**Designations:**

Head of Strategy and  
Learner Support

Head of Strategy and  
Learner Support /  
Welsh Language  
Development Manager

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

The Wales School Standards and Organisation Act (2013) became law on 4 March 2013. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which needs to be monitored.

Carmarthenshire is lauded nationally as being innovative and proactive with respect to this agenda. Positive support with the strategy will galvanise the perceived proactivity of the county as we move further towards the 2031 census and towards the national goal of delivering a million Welsh speakers by 2050 – an aim referenced in Welsh Government’s Programme of Government released on 15.6.21 and which is proposed to be laid down in statute in the new Welsh Education Bill.

The developments outlined in the paper build upon corporate priorities identified in Carmarthenshire’s Corporate Strategy (2022-27), namely Well Being Objectives 1 and 3. The proposals also support the Welsh Promotion Strategy, officially launched on 1.6.23, specifically Aims 1-4.

## **2. Legal**

Each Local Authority is required by law to have, and implement, a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. This plan must be monitored. This can be achieved by corporate scrutiny and in scheduled meetings with Welsh Government.

## **3. Finance**

As noted in the Census Working Group’s recommendations, sufficient support and resources are required to successfully implement and promote and extend Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. The WESP is currently funded by a combination of core funding, coupled with the Welsh Immersion Grant and other grant sources such as the Welsh medium Workforce grant.

## **5. Risk Management Issues**

Not delivering an aspirational Welsh in Education Strategic Plan could:

- see the County Council failing to meet elevated WG requirements and expectations of Carmarthenshire with respect to the development of Welsh medium education and its WESP targets.
- entail failure to meet key Corporate strategic priorities.

There are also considerations in respect of maintaining an appropriate provision for latecomers moving into the county. This, and the appeals process, requires regular monitoring and can be ameliorated by immersion education and the use of our language centres. By the end of the decade, there will still be linguistic choice available in the system, albeit that all learners should have been bestowed with a higher base level of bilingual acquisition following their primary schooling.

## **6. Staffing Implications**

Maintaining and developing a strong team of TADG teachers (Tîm Athrawon Datblygu'r Gymraeg / Welsh Development Teacher Team) is vital for this agenda.

There are major staff training requirements which need to be expedited.

## **7. Physical Assets**

MEP/MIM funding or similar can assist with the restructuring of parts of the system (separate discussion), with capital investment available to support the WESP agenda.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: J.A. Rees

Head of Strategy and Learner Support

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. **Scrutiny Committee – 28.01.21; Scrutiny general update 17.03.21**
2. **Welsh in Education Forum – 16.12.20; 25.06.21**
3. **Local Member(s) – of schools identified for re-designation, pending approval to proceed**
4. **Community / Town Council – stakeholder in the public consultation pending approval**
5. **Relevant Partners – anticipated public consultation**
6. **Head Teachers: 21.01.21; 25.06.21**

Date	Meeting/Event
05.05.21	DMT
13.05.21	CMT
01.06.21	PEB
25.6.21	Second Head teacher surgeries (2)
	Fforwm y Gymraeg mewn Addysg / Welsh in Education Forum
30.6.21	PEB
8.7.21	ECS Scrutiny
July-September '21	Adjustments over summer vacation
06.09.21 (if required)	PEB
October -November '21 (no later than)	Heads & Governors
	8-week Public Consultation (with scrutiny perusal of report)
22.11.21	EB (including consultation report)
08.12.21	County Council
31.1.22	Submitted to WG
June-August '22	Approval by Welsh Ministers
1.9.22	New 10-year WESP became operational

Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Unions appraised as necessary

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

**Include any observations here**

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE, apart from internal WG guidance documentation**

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**EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23.6.23**  
**CARMARTHENSHIRE'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2022/23**

## **1. Background**

Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires a local authority to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and states that such a Plan should include:

- a. Local authority proposals on how it will carry out its education functions to:
  - i. Improve the planning of the delivery of Welsh-medium education in its area;
  - ii. Improving Welsh-medium education standards and Welsh language teaching standards in its area;
- b. The local authority's targets for improving the planning of the delivery of Welsh-medium education in its area and for improving the standards of that education and the teaching of Welsh in its area;
- c. Report on progress made to meet the targets included in the previous plan or the previous revised plan.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-32 has now been approved by the Welsh Government. At the request of Carmarthenshire's Education, Children and Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee, it is timely to propose an annual review of progress in the implementation of the Scheme.

The Strategic Plan and action plan were organised under 7 main goals or outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** More nursery age / three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- **Outcome 2:** More reception class children/five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- **Outcome 3:** More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
- **Outcome 4:** More learners to study for qualifications in Welsh as a subject and subjects through the medium of Welsh
- **Outcome 5:** More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
- **Outcome 6:** An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- **Outcome 7:** Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

## **2. Action Plan**

An Action Plan for the WESP has been drafted and submitted to the Welsh Government (WG) by 01/2023. The action plan is attached with this report (below). Progress in implementing the scheme has been highlighted by expected progress over the current year as well as suggesting progress over the next 5 years. We have received feedback on the scheme from Welsh Government civil servants, and the general advice was to ensure that the commitments in the WESP were clearly reflected in the action plan and that it was necessary to detail how we go about delivering on the commitments.

The plan has been fine tuned and updated by 05/2023.

3. **Recent progress** – here's a list of different progressives around the WESP who are/have come to fruition in our schools:

**Outcome 1:** More nursery age / three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

**Outcome 2:** More reception class children/five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

- Appoint a Welsh language Flying Start officer.
- Welsh language Development Manager now a member of the '*Flying Start Expansion Early Years and Welsh Language*' committee - Regular meetings to plan for language use in the Flying Start settings with a view to increasing the use of Welsh and raising linguistic standards in the Foundation Phase
- Hand in Hand Plan Foundation Phase – 12 English medium primary schools are involved here. 58 staff members at these second language schools receive practical training and advice on the classroom floor. The class language learning sessions will be held on Monday mornings and will then operate in class with the support of the Welsh Language Development Teacher Team who share current dedicated resources.
- Refine and develop the provision in the planning of intensive immersion education in the Foundation Phase.
- Conduct training for Immersion education pedagogy in the Foundation Phase.
- Filming a series of clips at Halfway, Penygaer, Llandeilo and Burry Port schools to show ways to introduce Welsh across learning areas.
- Conduct face-to-face training for the assistants with teachers involved in the projects

**Outcome 3:** More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

- Arm in Arm KS2 plan being piloted - This is a follow up from Hand in Hand plan for teachers and classroom assistants to ensure linguistic continuity in our English schools.
- Create film clips to encourage the use of Welsh across learning areas
- Support Year 6 pupils of Welsh medium schools to ensure continuity with Welsh medium education.
- Supporting Year 6 pupils who need support in continuing Welsh Medium education in Secondary School – Running confidence building and language refresher sessions at Canolfan Gwên.
- Welsh Language Charter
  - Secondary Schools Charter launch – footage has been created from the launch at Canolfan Gwên on 17/03/23. Hosted by Heledd Cynwal, it was a very successful day, with special guests such as Ian Gwyn Hughes, Cefin Campbell MP and Marc Morris, Ysgol Pen y Dre Merthyr Tydfil creating a special tone and important messages for the pupils and school staff in attendance.
  - Organising events and competitions to promote the Primary Schools Charter eg Ar y Meic da Marci G – the input of a number of schools into the Marci G radio programme in introducing themselves and their schools. Schools to create a Radio programme following the format of Marci G.
  - Schools to continue on the journey towards the Language Charter Gold award with the support of TADG. This has been validated across the Partnership to ensure consistency of standards



**Outcome 4: More learners to study for qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh**

- Plan for Language Centres ensures consistency and continuity including lesson plans and theme timetable across the Centres
- Language Centres – The centres below are currently running but as the language needs of the county change 'Pop ups' within specific areas will be needed for newcomers
  - Gwên, Drefach
  - Ysgol Llangadog
  - Griffith Jones, St Clears
  - Y Bedol, Garnant
- Current numbers and schools attending.

<b>Language Centre</b>	<b>Schools</b>
Canolfan Gwên - (two days) Latecomers -12	Parc y Tywyn, Ffwrnes, Five Roads, Llechyfedach, Nantgaredig, Llandybie
Canolfan Gwên – (8 days) Confidence building- 9	Cross Hands, Bancffosfelen, Y Fro, Pontyates
Canolfan y Bedol – one day - latecomers. – 13	Betws, Brynamman, Blaenau, Y Bedol
Llangadog Centre - latecomers -one day– 14	Talley, Rhys Pritchard, Cwrt Henri, Llangadog Ffairfach
Llangadog Centre Building Confidence – one day - 13	Llangadog, Rhys Pritchard, Talylychau, Cwrt Henri, Fairfach

- Supporting in the Schools – Meidrim , Hafodwennog, Llanpumsaint Llanybydder Bro Brynach
- Ffwrnes / Llechyfedach online lessons
- Continue with digital workshops of more able and talented year 6 pupils

**Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school**

- Running Refresher lessons for target groups – with numbers varying on demand
- Parents - A film for parents to assist in the work within the language centres . Running opportunities at the end of sessions to share pupils' work with their parents.
- Collaborating with the Mentrau Iaith – Officer based at Bryngwyn school including conducting oral activities e.g. coffee and chat mornings at school.

**Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018**

- Ensuring our pupils with needs have the same opportunities when it comes to learning Welsh – Collaborate with TADG to create a series of tri-lingual books – Welsh, English and Sign Language called Derwyn a'r Ddraig
- Support ALN and encourage them to compete in the Eisteddfod
- Intensive conversations with the County ALN team to ensure collaboration and equal opportunities.

**Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh**

- Working together to forward plan. Use of language audits on an annual basis and of the TADG's understanding of those schools that are keen to move linguistically. A number of schools have sought help with the support of the governing body
- Share good practice on the class floor

- Create bespoke resources and conduct training
  - Second language good practice film available for facilitating and building staff confidence
  - Language Training Courses at the following levels
    - Complete beginners (Primary)
    - Entry Level – for beginners, language based and classwork
    - Foundation Level – for those who already had a bit of Welsh
    - Intermediate Level
      - Focus on learning Welsh as a subject and literacy -including language learning methodology and grammar
    - Advanced Level/Proficiency - aimed towards Welsh speakers to improve the teacher's language accuracy and confidence to enable them to develop pupil literacy
    - Advanced Level/Proficiency/Refresher (Secondary) - aimed towards Welsh speakers who are almost confident to learn a subject through the medium of Welsh including vocabulary for KS3 and KS4 tailor-made for the subjects of the teachers attending
    - Follow up – supporting Year 7 Secondary teachers to gain confidence and ensure accuracy in the delivery of the new curriculum.
  - S4C CROESO CYW Project – this was a very successful project incorporating pioneering work with S4C for Foundation stage children
  - **Staffing**
    - Use of the Immersion grant to run a Continuing Professional Development opportunity for 2 teachers – one Secondary one Primary all working within TADG
4. **Linguistic categorisation of schools** – The Department for Education and Children is working with schools to transition them to the Welsh Government's new linguistic categorisation system. The new regime now places schools in three categories:
- 1 – English Medium School**  
**2 – Two language school**  
**3 – Welsh Medium School**
- T2** and **T3** are transitional categories that facilitate the journey of schools from one category to another, namely T2 for moving from an English school to a dual language school and T3 from a dual language school to a Welsh medium school. Also, in secondary schools, category 3P denotes a specified Welsh school.
- In line with Welsh Government guidance, the County has taken the lead by highlighting a current new category that best reflects the current linguistic situation of each school
  - Also, each school was placed with an aspirational category which is a category to aspire to in the 10 year WESP rolling programme
  - This regime has been identified as good practice by the Welsh Government and there has been an opportunity to spread this good practice nationally at two recent conferences
  - All schools have been asked to respond to the categories proposed for them, and respond by the end of the Autumn Term 2022. The table below summarises the response received:

<b>CURRENT / ASPIRATIONAL</b>	<b>Numberof Schools</b>	<b>%</b>
AGREE AGREE	87	80.6
AGREE DISAGREE	1	0.9
DISAGREE AGREE	2	1.9
DISAGREE DISAGREE	11	10.2
REQUEST FOR MORE TIME	5	4.6
UNANSWERED	2	1.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>

The response has been generally very positive, with a clear majority agreeing with the two categories suggested for them. Interestingly, of these 87 schools, 12 English medium primary schools wish to move along the language continuum; 2 2B secondary schools wish to convert to Welsh language schools (Category 3) and one 2A school wishes to move to become a Category 3P school.

As the response is slightly polarising, in the Spring 2023 term, officers held a series of conversations and meetings with the schools who wanted more time to consider the situation, and with those who disagreed with both categories. Of these 11 schools, 8 of the schools were from the same catchment area.

Formal meetings with Heads and Governors were attended as follows:

- Catchment area of schools in east Llanelli
- Ysgol Bryngwyn/Glanymor
- QE High

For the Summer term 2023 - we have granted an extension, for those schools that possess it, to consider their position further and to hold further discussions at governing body level. We therefore expect further answers by the end of the academic year.

During the Autumn Term, we will agree and finalise categories with all schools, offer advice on how to reflect the language category in the school prospectuses, paving the way for the categories to be recorded in the annual school census (CBLDY / PLASC) in January 2024.

## 5. Welsh Language Development Teacher Team –

- Professional Teaching Awards Wales. - Iona Llyr, Manager of the Welsh Language Development Teacher Team won an award in the category ' Using the Welsh language in an inspiring way'. Judges came to Canolfan Gwên to judge Iona when interviewing her and headteachers, Pupils/students, parents/carers, teaching colleagues and support staff, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing, Department for Education and Children and external organisations.
- A ceremony was held in Cardiff for the winners at the summer 2023 conference.
- Iona has subsequently received a number of requests for television and radio interviews and also for sharing good practice across Wales

## 6. Standards –

- The speaking and listening skills of most pupils in both Welsh and English are strong across many of our schools. For example, most pupils demonstrate effective listening skills by following instructions, asking and answering questions and collaborating with others.
- In both languages, the early reading skills of most pupils in many schools are effective. They successfully use their phonic skills to understand the relationship between phonemes and graphemes. Many learners use a range of strategies well to read unfamiliar words and develop their fluency and

expression. In the majority of our schools many pupils use advanced reading skills successfully.

- Many pupils develop appropriate basic writing skills in many schools. The majority of pupils write extensively successfully and exhibit appropriate writing styles for different purposes.
- Many English medium or dual stream schools successfully implement the Cymraeg Campus project, and this has a good impact on pupils' awareness of the language, its culture and ethos. Many pupils in many of our schools are making effective progress in their acquisition of international languages from the valuable opportunities and experiences provided
- In the schools surveyed since September 2022 literacy was a recommendation to address by around half of them

### **7. Working with Partners - Partneriaeth / Mentrau Iaith**

- Working together to forward plan. Use of language audits on an annual basis and of the Tîm Athrawon Datblygu'r Gymraeg (TADG) understanding of those schools keen to move linguistically . Many schools have sought help with the support of the governing body
- Use of Partneriaeth and Mentrau staff in working together on various specific projects across a number of schools to ensure movement along the language continuum.

### **8. Workforce Development Grant**

Very recently, the Department for Education and Children has been successful in receiving funding of £105,000 to support the capacity of the Welsh-medium workforce in the County. We aim to combine the sponsorship with other grant sources to employ peripatetic teachers to increase the Welsh-medium teaching workforce, and the available subject range, in the primary and secondary sector in Llanelli and the secondary sector in Taf Myrddin.

### **9. The Way Ahead**

#### **a. White Paper**

- The Welsh Government (WG) has been consulting publicly on the content of a new Welsh Language Education Bill. The results of the 2021 Census highlight the need for purposeful action to address the two-fold challenge of the growing numbers who can speak Welsh across Wales and to protect Welsh-speaking communities with high percentages of Welsh speakers, but are showing a decline.
- The bill includes proposals such as:
  - Set the national target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050 in law
  - Aim for pupils by statutory age to speak Welsh up to Level B2 (CEFR – Common European Framework of Reference)
  - Realising one Welsh continuum
  - Set school language categories on a statutory basis
  - Set a minimum for curriculum time provided in Welsh
  - Agree a principle that all schools should increase their Welsh language provision over time
  - Proposal to denote new schools as Welsh schools
- The education system has an integral role to play as we meet these challenges.
- WG says every pupil in Wales deserves to become a Welsh speaker, and everyone who works in the education system has a responsibility to work towards that goal.
- The proposals in the white paper reflect this new aim and ambition for our education system. Achieving this will mean increasing the number of Welsh-medium schools, but also

increasing Welsh language provision in schools that are not already designated Welsh-medium schools. Fundamentally, there is a vision that every pupil can become a confident Welsh speaker through the statutory education system.

- WG is committed to ensuring over time that all children receive a proportion of their education provision through the medium of Welsh beyond Welsh as a subject, in order to build Welsh language skills across the curriculum.
- The current path set by 'Cymraeg 2050' in 2017 sets a goal that at least 40% of all learners will be in Welsh-medium education by 2050.
- The White Paper sets out a number of important developments for Welsh-medium education, at least some of which can be considered far-reaching.
- In terms of the consultation, WG stated, *'The Welsh language belongs to all of us, and so we want to encourage everyone to consider the proposals... The consultation will run for 12 weeks, until 16 June 2023. We look forward to hearing the views of a wide range of people on our proposals.'*

### **b. Carmarthenshire as an area of higher density linguistic significance**

The Welsh Communities Commission was established by the Welsh Government in August 2022 with the aim of making recommendations to strengthen Welsh-speaking communities. The Commission's final recommendations will be published in the form of a report by August 2024.

The Commission emphasises that Welsh is a national language. It has a number of universal features and language policy should reflect this. For example, language rights in Wales should be universal: they belong to all Welsh citizens wherever they live in the country.

In order to support Welsh as a national language, it also needs to be supported as a community language. In areas facing a language shift to English, there should be a willingness to allow the variation of public policy in socioeconomic and sociolinguistic areas in order to stabilise Welsh as a community language. These are areas such as town and country planning, land use, housing, education, community development, language planning and economic policies.

To enable the variation of public policy in such communities, areas of linguistic significance should be designated. These areas should be referred to as 'areas of linguistic significance (higher density)'.

The advantage of designating areas of linguistic significance (higher density) would be:

1. allowing policy diversity and policy emphasis in favour of Welsh as a community language
2. ensuring that the policy diversity responds to the diverse social and linguistic needs of these areas
3. intensifying consideration of the Welsh language within a policy framework
4. allowing pro-Welsh interventions to stabilise and strengthen it as a community language
5. providing necessary forces to empower communities to reverse language shift

Following the 2021 Census, Carmarthenshire, or parts of it, may well become an area of linguistic significance. We understand that education is within the scope of sponsorship that will be awarded to areas of this designation. Officers will examine the potential of this sponsorship for the education system in the County. Our aim will be to combine any subsistence we bring with other grants to further build on the Welsh-medium workforce in our schools.

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## Outcome 1

### More nursery age / three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

<u>What we want to achieve</u>	<u>Make it happen to support schools/organisations</u>	<u>Evidence</u>	<u>When?</u>
<b>Develop more child care/pre-school provision through the medium of Welsh.</b>	We will continue to work with early years providers including Mudiad Meithrin and provision before the child turns 3, as well as Flying Start, to strengthen and expand Welsh-medium childcare provision.	Appoint a Welsh language Flying Start officer. Working together to forward plan. Committee member .... Frequent meetings to plan for language use in the settings.	Year 1 2022/2023
<b>Support current dual stream and transitional schools to become Welsh medium schools.</b>	We will continue to share materials with parents/carers/guardians in relation to the value of bilingualism in order for them to have a better understanding and be able to make informed decisions at all transitional stages.  We will continue to increase the percentage transferring from nursery groups to the Welsh-medium Foundation Stage.	Sharing information including WG films Re-visit Welsh Education brochures created in 2018	Year 1 2022/2023
<b>Consider the age range of specific schools and potentially create space for Welsh-medium very early years provision.</b>	We will continue to work with early years providers including Mudiad Meithrin and provision before the child turns 3, to strengthen and expand Welsh-medium childcare provision.	Welsh-medium education developments in the Foundation Phase Create a 'Magic of Nursery Rhymes' resource - Cards within a book with QR codes Legends Resources	Year1 2022/2023
<b>Continue to monitor the demand in urban areas.</b>	Refining on demand	Collaborate with the county's language promotion forum	Year 1 -5 2022 -2027

## Outcome 2

### More reception class children/five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

<u>What we want to achieve</u>	<u>Make it happen – supporting schools/organisations</u>	<u>Evidence</u>	<u>When?</u>
<b>Support our Transitional schools to move into Welsh-medium schools.</b>	We will share materials with parents/carers/guardians in relation to the value of bilingualism in order for them to have a better understanding and be able to make informed decisions at all transitional stages.	We will ensure that parents, through our 'Information to Parents' booklet, know which schools offer Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2-5 Welsh medium provision. The information on the linguistic nature of each school will be in accordance with the Welsh Government's new school designations Create a 'Magic of Nursery Rhymes' resource - Cards within a book with QR codes Legends Resources	Year 1 -2 2022-2024 Refining on demand
<b>Support some of our current dual stream and transitional schools to become Welsh medium schools.</b>	Support our current dual stream and transitional schools to become Welsh medium schools in the short term.	Collaborate with the headteachers, staff, governing bodies and parents in the marketing of bilingualism. Offer training to staff and parents (Welsh for the family 'Dechrau'r Daith') Create a 'Magic of Nursery Rhymes' resource - Cards within a book with QR codes Legend Resources – well suited for parents and teachers	Year 1 -5 2022-2027
<b>Supporting some of our English Medium schools to become Welsh medium schools.</b>	Support English medium schools to develop Welsh Foundation Phase provision.	Increasing the use of Welsh and raising linguistic standards in the Foundation Phase	Year 2 -5 2023-2027



		<p>Promoting the use of Welsh across the Learning Areas</p> <p>Create a 'Magic of Nursery Rhymes' resource - Cards within a book with QR codes Legends Resources</p> <p>Increasing the use of Welsh and raising linguistic standards at Key Stage 2</p> <p>Share good practice on the class floor</p> <p>Create bespoke resources and conduct training</p> <p>Arm in Arm Plan in KS2</p>	
<p><b>Support some of our English-medium schools to be dual-stream schools.</b></p>	<p>Continually monitor with partners the demand in our urban areas and promote and expand provision as required.</p>	<p>Share good practice on the class floor</p> <p>Create bespoke resources and conduct training</p> <p>Hand in Hand Plan Foundation Stage – 12 schools attached – 58 staff in second language schools: Laugharne, Model, Mill, Pwll, Pentip CP, Llandeilo, Dafen, Swiss Valley, Myrddin, Halfway Hill ,Penygaer.</p> <p>Conduct face-to-face training for the assistants with teachers involved in the projects:</p> <p>Develop a resource / film clips to encourage the use of Welsh across learning areas</p>	<p>Year 2 -5 2023-2027</p>
<p><b>Assist our secondary/special schools to increase Welsh-medium provision taking into account linguistic designation.</b></p>	<p>Offer language refreshers to latecomers and native learners at crucial transitions and have funding available for transport for them to the language centres.</p>	<p>Holding discussions with headteachers and Governing Bodies</p> <p>Appoint staff to deliver subjects through the medium of Welsh across English Secondary schools.</p>	<p>Year 2 -5 2023-2027</p>

<b>Parents</b>	Supporting parents to come on the bilingualism journey with their children	<p>Ensure closer contact with the latecomers' parents.</p> <p>Initial chat and visit, visit to see Centre in Action + end-of-period talk/meeting</p> <p>Prepare a welcome pack for parents of newcomers.</p> <p>Preparing an information sheet for headteachers</p> <p>Making sure we invite parents to sample the children's work and the work of the centre. Inviting parents to the MATH days at Maes y Gwendraeth</p>	

### Outcome 3

**More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another**

<u>What we want to achieve</u>	<u>Make it happen – supporting schools/organisations</u>	<u>Evidence</u>	<u>When?</u>
Ensure linguistic progression from early years sector to KS2 and to the secondary sector	<p>We will ensure that all pupils are able to speak, read and write the language fluently by the end of Key Stage 2 to their expected levels.</p> <p>Adhere to the clear progression protocol to increase the number of pupils who continue to study through the medium of Welsh at each key stage and ensure that this is communicated clearly to all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Strengthen standards and promote the importance of continuing bilingual education</p> <p>Share best practice across schools</p> <p>Support year 6 pupils who need support in continuing with Welsh/ bilingual</p>	Year 1 -5 2022-2027

	<p>We will continue to listen to and react to parental comments such as 'We cannot help with homework', especially in KS3 and KS4, by creating guidelines, or in this case a pamphlet, which gives clear answers. Showing and creating film clips of parents describing their children's journey through Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>secondary education. Group of short refresher lessons weekly                  Create bespoke new Resources and hold training                  Ensure closer contact with the latecomers' parents. Initial chat and visit, visit to see Centre in Action + end-of-period talk/meeting</p> <p>Create film clips to encourage the use of Welsh across learning areas                  Second language good practice film available for facilitating and building staff confidence                  Expanding the provision of Language Centres</p> <p>Running Refresher lessons for target groups in years 7, 8 –Gwên, Maes y Gwendraeth                  Continue to staff our language centres                  Gwên                  Ysgol Llangadog                  Griffith Jones                  Y Bedol</p> <p>Create Pop Ups as needed                  Year 7 Bro Dinefwr                  Running MATH 6 Workshops at centres .                  Inviting parents to the open days</p>	
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		<p>Supporting year 6 pupils who need support in continuing with Welsh/ bilingual secondary education -Maes y Gwendraeth</p> <p>Partnership Collaboration To Support Welsh teachers at Ysgol Bryngwyn in Llanelli</p> <p>Collaborating with the Mentrau - a member of Menter Elli based within Bryngwyn school</p>	
Increase the subject provision of Welsh medium and bilingual education in the secondary sector in accordance with the new school designations.	However, we will ensure that primary and secondary schools can work much more closely in partnership in order to promote linguistic progression	Use of skills sharing and provision from school to school. Employ staff all working across schools through the medium of WG grant use	Year 2 -5 2023-2027
Strengthen Welsh-medium secondary provision in specific areas of the county.	Working with Headteachers and Governing Bodies to look at potential provision within the schools .	Conduct Language Refresher and Learning through the Medium of Welsh training for those teachers who qualify. Set targets within SDP to ensure sustainability.	Year 1 -5 2022-2027

## Outcome 4

### More learners to study for qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

What we want to achieve	Make it happen – supporting schools/organisations	Evidence	When?
Working with schools to develop the curriculum, affording opportunities for more learners to have access to Welsh medium and bilingual teaching.	Curriculum Development: a strategic approach to increasing the proportion of Welsh medium subject delivery offered by all our schools. Increasing the number of subjects available through the medium of Welsh, resulting in an increasing percentage of the curriculum being available through the medium of Welsh, while also increasing the proportion of learners opting for Welsh medium or bilingual subject training	Use of skills sharing and provision of a variety of subjects from school to school. Sharing good practices Create good practice clips as a learning resource Conduct Language Refresher and Learning through the Medium of Welsh training for those teachers who qualify. Set targets within SDP to ensure development.	Year 2 -5 2023-2027
Increasing the volume of learners pursuing Welsh medium and bilingual options and, ultimately, more progressing to take qualifications at 16 years of age	We intend to support an increase in the range of courses offered, while also incorporating the two 2B schools as partners. Opportunities to connect with similar initiatives such as E-sgol are also being pursued.	Expand use of language Centres to run catch-up and language refresher courses for Year 7,8, and 9 pupils to ensure continuity	Year 1 -5 2022-2027
Strive for linguistic choice in our English schools that supports the progress of pupil bilingualism	Working together to plan for improving subject provision in the medium of Welsh	Conduct language training for dedicated staff within English schools. Working together with Partneriaeth to ensure the offer of subjects bilingually over time	Year 2 -7 2023-2027

## Outcome 5

### More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts at school

<u>What we want to achieve</u>	<u>Make it happen – supporting schools/organisations</u>	<u>Evidence</u>	<u>When?</u>
Embed the Language Charter in all primary and secondary schools, leading to enhancing the Welsh ethos throughout all schools	We will support schools and work with partners to develop opportunities to use Welsh outside the classroom.	<p>Hold a day at Canolfan Gwên - teachers, secondary pupils and councillors to re-launch the Secondary Language Charter. Mark Morgan Question - Ysgol Pen y Dre, Merthyr, Cefin Campbell MP, Heledd Cynwal and Ian Gwyn Hughes (Welsh Football)</p> <p>Continue to support primary schools as they work towards the Gold award.</p>	Year 1 -5 2022-2027
Continue to work with employers and higher education to promote bilingualism as a key skill for further education and the world of work.	Connecting with employers and higher education and facilitating opportunities for advancement within our schools	<p>Host opportunities for conversation with local employers – ranging from area from area</p> <p>Promoting the county's Language Strategy Joint working with county colleges</p>	Year 3 -5 2024-2027
We will ensure that the Athrawon Gwella'r Gymraeg Service is maintained as they work	Continue to maintain the service as staff retire	<p>Appoint additional staff using WG grants. Running projects with partners eg S4C Project ..... specifically eg.....</p>	Year 1 -6 2022-2027

<p>tirelessly in delivering all aspects of support for Welsh medium education</p>		<p>Planning for Language Centres - adding opportunities from the Centres - running Language Refresher courses, courses Refining the Plan for the Centres for 10 weeks / three days a week                  Creating a new Refresher plan for the second term of newcomers                  Ensure termly / half-termly contact with Schools and parents                  Working towards consistent support across the county for the newcomers                  Ensure termly / half-termly contact with Schools and parents                  Working towards consistent support across the county for the newcomers                  Plan intensified immersion education.</p>	
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**Outcome 6**

**An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018**

<u>What we want to achieve</u>	Make it happen – supporting schools/organisations	Evidence	When?
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To ensure that there is equity of provision for all learners with ALN in all settings and services.	Continue to develop a bilingual system to respond to the ALN reform agenda	Work with our Special Schools/Units and Behavioural Support Team to further develop bilingual provision	Year 1 -5 2022-2027
Continue to develop a bilingual system to respond to the ALN reform agenda	Ensure that the majority of our learners with additional learning needs will be supported in our mainstream English and Welsh schools.	Maintain constant training for county staff.	Year 1 -5 2022-2027
Further develop the skills of our Additional Learning Needs Coordinators to support learners.	Provide bilingual training to all relevant staff in relation to the ALN reforms in place.	Provide bilingual training to all relevant staff in relation to the ALN reforms in place.	Year 1 -5 2022-2027

## Outcome 7

### Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

<u>What we want to achieve</u>	<u>Make it happen – supporting schools/organisations</u>	<u>Evidence</u>	<u>When?</u>
Linguistic upskilling of staff	All schools to respond to the school workforce Welsh Language Skills audit, analysing the data that identifies current provision and areas for further development. All schools will need to reflect this in the school's self-evaluation documents and development plans. Schools will be required to use their resources to provide opportunities for staff to access development opportunities.	Language Skills Audits Ensure planning input for staff attending language courses WG grant use	Year 1 -5 2022-2027



	Offer staff training to improve reading, writing and speaking in Welsh, and to refine the Welsh skills of those who already have a command of the language. We will use the County Council's Language Skills Framework, as a basis for this work		
Development of the skills and confidence of teachers to teach through the medium of Welsh and upskill support staff to lend assistance to pupils through the medium of Welsh.	Offer training at all levels of access through to in-person and online refreshing.	Run courses at all linguistic levels Access up to Refresher	Year 1 -5 2022-2027
Staff/leaders Recruitment	Providing bespoke linguistic and leadership training for school leaders.	Offering one-to-one courses to headteachers in conjunction with Excellence	Year 2 -5 2023-2027
Support for School Governors	Continue to support and advise Governors and school leaders on developing the linguistic ability of staff.	CCC staff to hold meetings within schools	Year 2 -5 2023-2027
Develop leadership and ensure we have a school workforce with the suitable bilingual skills	Running a variety of language courses	Running various language courses on demand – Pure beginners to Refreshers Getting Carmarthenshire on the Learning framework with the National Centre Win tender for provision of Welsh for the Family courses -underway	Year 1 -5 2022-2027

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## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2023

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

#### The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

Consider and approve the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee annual report for the 2022/23 municipal year.

#### Reasons:

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

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

#### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

**Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)**

<p><b>Directorate</b> Chief Executives</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees-Jones</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Julie Owens</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b> Head of Administration &amp; Law</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses:</b> 01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01267 224088 <a href="mailto:juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2023

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

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 work of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 municipal year and includes information on the following areas:

- Overview of the Work of the Committee;
- Other Scrutiny Activity;
- Development Sessions;
- Public Engagement;
- Challenges and Future Work;
- Support for the scrutiny function;
- 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
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**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.

**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’s Services Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes		<b>Meetings from September 2015 onwards:</b> <a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=153">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=153</a>

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## Chair's Foreword



I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

As the Chair of the Committee I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Following the May 2022 Local Elections the Committee welcomed new and experienced members to scrutinise the effectiveness of the Authority's provision. I would like to thank both the elected and co-opted members of the Committee for

their valuable contributions over the past year.

The Committee has welcomed the pre-decision method of scrutiny which was introduced in September 2022. This has given the Committee an opportunity to be proactive in its interaction with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, and to scrutinise relevant matters from their inception. The Committee has also identified its own topics for investigation, and has continued to assess ongoing themes.

This post Covid-19 era has presented its own challenges in the lives and life-long education of our children and young people. The Committee developed a comprehensive Forward Work Plan to take account of the extraordinary circumstances of recent years, and to consider the ongoing impacts of the epidemic on learners of all ages.

The Committee scrutinised the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales and the support provided to meet the challenges faced by schools. It reviewed the Education and Children's Services Department Improvement Strategy which aimed to reflect upon the progress achieved by pupils, and considered the Carmarthenshire Professional Learning offer for schools.

A Post-16 Education Review workshop was delivered to members which considered the inputs provided by secondary schools in response to questions about their educational provision and experience. The Committee's observations contributed to the Review prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

The Committee was provided with an update on the Council's progress in implementing the transition from Statements of Special Education Needs to Individual Development Plans for pupils with Additional Learning Needs. The Committee also reviewed the data on pupils with Additional Learning Needs in mainstream schools and specialist settings and the increase in demand for Autistic Spectrum Disorder provision.

The Committee considered a report on Estyn inspection outcomes within Carmarthenshire since 2018 and their impact on improvement strategies for schools, and reviewed the Youth Justice Plan which provided for the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire.

The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy was reviewed by the Committee and the action plan to deliver the aims of the strategy will be monitored during its period of operation. The Council's Policy on Awarding Grants and the Welsh Language was scrutinised and endorsed prior to approval by Cabinet.

During the year the Committee has also reviewed the recommendations of relevant past Task and Finish Groups, and received a school presentation on meeting post-Covid-19 challenges. In addition the Committee requested several themed seminars which were delivered by officers. I would like to thank all officers across the remit of this Scrutiny Committee for their input and professionalism in supporting the work of members through this period of change.

The revised remit of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee has been well-established during 2022/23, and members have contributed positively and enthusiastically to policy development and decision making. I look forward to continuing to work with Members, Co-opted Members and Officers in the year ahead.

**Councillor Carys Jones**

**Chair of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee**

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## 1. Introduction

The Scrutiny function is a key element of the County Council's governance arrangements and decision-making process. Although not a decision-making body, Scrutiny is at its most effective when it grasps the potential to influence and inform decisions made by both the Council and partner bodies across the county.

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

This report highlights the work undertaken by the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 municipal year. It aims to provide members with an opportunity to reflect on its achievements, identify areas of best practice and highlight areas for improvement to further enhance the scrutiny function. Additionally, this report may facilitate discussion on items which could be identified for inclusion within future work programmes.

The Committee is chaired by Councillor Carys Jones 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). Cabinet Members attend meetings as required in order to address the Committee on areas within their respective portfolios.

Support is provided by the Democratic Services Unit and other Council officers, as and when required.

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## 2. Overview of the Work of the Committee in 2022/23

### 2.1 The Role of Scrutiny

The Scrutiny Committee remits were updated by Council following the May 2022 elections and each Scrutiny Committee became responsible for the overview and scrutiny of specific Cabinet Portfolios and their respective services. The Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of Cabinet's Education and Welsh Language portfolio and the respective service areas:

Schools and Education Services from 3 - 19	Regional Integrated School Improvement Service
School Improvement, Organisation and Performance	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Forum
Education Welfare and Inclusion	Adult Community Learning including Welsh for Adults
School Support and Governor Services	Youth Support Service
Nursery Education and Standards	School Admissions
Young People Not in Education, Employment & Training (NEETS)	Behavioural Services
Regional Consortia	School Attendance

Carmarthenshire's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme	Post 16 Education & Funding and Regional Learning and Skills Partnership
Additional Learning Needs	Play Sufficiency Assessment
Development of the Welsh Language / Standards reporting	Music Service
Healthy Schools	School Catering Services
Estyn	Education data and systems
Educational Psychology	Schools Safeguarding and Attendance Team
Education and Wellbeing Team	

In accordance with its areas of responsibilities, the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee will seek to:

- Examine how well the Cabinet and Council are performing.
- Hold the Cabinet to account and seek to promote open and transparent decision-making.
- Monitor the performance of the Council's services and functions.
- Review decisions made by the Cabinet where appropriate.
- Assist the Cabinet in the development, monitoring and review of policy.
- Scrutinise, as a key element of the consultation process, the proposed revenue budget strategy and capital investment programmes.
- Enable the participation of external organisations and partners in consideration of issues that may impact upon the delivery of Council and countywide priorities.

## 2.2 The Forward Work Plan

Scrutiny plays a key role in promoting accountability in the decision-making process of the Local Authority. It is also useful in ensuring that Council policies reflect current priorities, as well as promoting efficiency and encouraging partnership working with external agencies.

In order for Scrutiny Committees to take on greater ownership of their own Forward Work Plans, a pre-decision method of scrutiny was introduced in September 2022 which allows Scrutiny Committees to decide which reports from the Cabinet Forward Work Plan they wish to come before them. As per normal process, Committees are also able to identify their own topics and Cabinet are still able to invite a Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise a decision which was in the pipeline.

The Committee utilised the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny's Gateway framework to develop its own Forward Work Plan for the 2022/23 municipal year which was reviewed on a regular basis. This provided a manageable, flexible, and robust approach to scrutiny and ensured that the areas for review were considered on a priority basis and in a timely manner.

In this regard, the Committee determined that periodic reports in relation to performance and budget monitoring be circulated to members outside the formal meeting programme. This process enabled any relevant matters identified by members to be placed on the formal agenda for further consideration, as appropriate. The benefits of such an approach led to an improved level of debate and input during Scrutiny Committee meetings.

In the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined in the Forward Work Plan.

## 2.3 Meetings of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee

The Committee held 5 formal meetings during the 2022/23 municipal year.

All meetings were conducted in accordance with the provisions set out within section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

To complement the work undertaken during formal meetings, the Committee may also undertake other scrutiny functions such as Task and Finish, One Day Scrutiny Inquiries and Site Visits to establishments falling within its remit, together with member development sessions and workshops.

## 2.4 Performance Monitoring / Strategic Issues

One of the principal roles of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. Accordingly, the Committee reviews performance monitoring reports and various strategies and plans to provide a balanced assessment of performance across the relevant service areas.

### 2.4.1 Carmarthenshire County Council Annual Report 2021/22

In December 2022, the Committee considered the draft Council Annual Report for the period 2021/22 which had been produced to meet the relevant provisions within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021. The report detailed the progress made with the Council's 13 Well-being Objectives (WBO) against a backdrop of unprecedented circumstances presented by the coronavirus pandemic, together with the Council's self-assessment against the performance requirements of the previous financial year. The Committee focused upon the 5 Well-Being Objectives falling within the remit of the committee, namely:

- 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:** Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners.
- WBO 4:** Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty.
- WBO 12:** Promote Welsh Language and Culture.

**Outcome:**

**The Cabinet, at its meeting in January 2023, recommended to Council that the Annual Report 2021/22 be received which was subsequently adopted by the Council in January 2023.**

#### **2.4.2 Draft Divisional Delivery Plans 2023/24**

In March 2023 the Committee received for consideration the Draft Divisional Service Delivery Plans relevant to the Education and Children's Services directorate for 2023/24, as follows:

- Education and Inclusion Services
- Access to Education
- Strategy & Learner Support
- Children's Services

These plans set out the strategic actions and measures to be implemented within each Division in order for the Council to progress with its well-being objectives, thematic priorities and service priorities. This provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment upon the priorities outlined for the Division.

**Outcome:**

**The Committee endorsed the Draft Divisional Service Delivery Plans relevant to the Education and Children's Services directorate for 2023/24.**

#### **2.4.3 Statutory Director of Social Care Services' Annual Report 2021/22**

In accordance with the statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to provide an annual report on delivery, performance and improvement plans for Social Services, a report was circulated by email for consideration by the Committee in October 2022.

**Outcome:**

**In accordance with the recommendation of the Cabinet in October 2022, the Director of Social Care Services' Annual Report 2021/22 was subsequently approved and adopted by Council in November 2022.**

#### **2.4.4 2022-23 Performance Reports relevant to the Committee**

In accordance with the protocols established by the Committee, quarterly performance monitoring reports pertinent to the Committee's remit were circulated by email to members as follows:

- December 2022 – Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring 2022/23
- January 2023 – Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring 2022/23
- May 2023 – Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring 2022/23

The reports enabled members to monitor performance in respect of the Well-being Objectives pertinent to the Committee's remit and aligned to the Authority's Corporate Strategy. The information provided a self-evaluation of performance in accordance with the reformed legislative framework enshrined within Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Members were afforded the opportunity to raise any concerns or matters which required further consideration at the Committee's formal meeting, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

#### **2.4.5 Actions and Referrals**

During the course of the municipal year, requests for additional items were made by members of the Committee to assist them in discharging their scrutiny role. Updates on the Actions and Referrals were presented to the Committee in January 2023 and May 2023 which detailed the progress made in relation to these requests.

## **2.5 Revenue & Capital Budgets**

### **2.5.1 Budget Monitoring Reports**

In accordance with the protocols established by the Committee, quarterly reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets were circulated to members as follows:

- October 2022 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 30 June 2022, together with the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring outturn position for 2021/22;
- December 2022 – in respect of the budgetary position as at 31 August 2022;
- January 2023 – in respect of the budgetary position as at 31 October 2022; and
- May 2023 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 31 December 2022.

The reports enabled members to monitor expenditure in each service area and the progress made in connection with any capital works. Members were afforded the opportunity to raise any concerns or matters which required further consideration at the Committee's formal meeting, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

### **2.5.2 Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26**

In addition to monitoring the current revenue and capital budgets, the Committee was also consulted on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 at its meeting in January 2023. The report provided the Committee with the proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for 2023/24 together with indicative figures for the 2024/25 and 2025/2026 financial years.

#### **Outcome:**

**As part of the Authority's widespread consultation undertaken on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, the Committee considered the Strategy and endorsed the budget proposals, as submitted. The Budget Strategy was subsequently adopted by the Cabinet and Council at their meetings in February and March 2023, subject to some amendments and a reduction in the planned council tax levy.**

## 2.6 Education

### 2.6.1 Support for Curriculum Development across schools in Carmarthenshire

In January 2023 the Committee reviewed the support available to Carmarthenshire's schools, specialist settings and Pupil Referral Units from the County Council and from the regional consortium, Partneriaeth, to facilitate the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.

The development of the new Curriculum for Wales sought to ensure robust and effective pedagogy to meet the needs of individual pupils at all levels to enable schools to effectively progress in line with the aims of the National Mission. Accordingly, the new Curriculum for Wales had been organised around 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) underpinned by the Cross Curricular Responsibilities of Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Competence and the Wider Skills. The Committee gave detailed consideration to the nature of support provided to address the challenges faced by schools in adhering to the range of complex and mandatory elements required in the development and provision of the new curriculum. In this regard, an overview of the Partneriaeth Business Plan was provided to the Committee which had embedded the new curriculum into its strategic objectives and Professional Learning Offer, in addition to the provision of bespoke, localised support for schools.

The Committee reviewed the Authority's Education and Children's Services department Improvement Strategy which was aligned to the Welsh Government Guidance for School Improvement and aimed to work alongside schools to reflect upon the progress achieved by pupils as a result of the curriculum provision. Consideration was also given to the Carmarthenshire Professional Learning offer for schools and the priority areas for 2022 2023.

The Committee welcomed the positive work being developed across the schools within Carmarthenshire, however it was acknowledged that the level of progress varied across schools.

### 2.6.2 Post-16 Review

In March 2023, and subsequent to the Post-16 review workshop delivered to members, the Committee received for consideration an interim report on the Post-16 Education Review which had been undertaken in line with the aims of the Education and Children's Service Business Plan to create strong and inclusive schools and services committed to excellence, equity and well-being.

The report outlined the progress made to establish overarching Learner Entitlement Principles for evolving the post-16 landscape in Carmarthenshire and proposed a remodelled governance structure based upon the feedback provided by secondary schools in terms of what learners valued within their educational provision and experience. In this regard, a synopsis of the key themes which formed the basis of those principles were established as follows:

- Relationship, Belonging, Well-Being and Ethos.
- Improved Pathway Guidance and Skills for Independence and for success in academic, work and life.
- Equity through More Welsh Language options.
- Equity through a wide range of options especially Vocational options.



The Committee raised concerns in respect of the ongoing National recruitment shortage of teachers and teaching staff and will be exploring this issue further as part of its Forward Work Plan for 2023/24.

**Outcome:**

**The Committee's observations, together with stakeholder feedback provided as part of a comprehensive consultation process helped to refine the Post-16 Review. The Committee endorsed the Post-16 Education Review which has been referred to the Cabinet for further consideration.**

### **2.6.3 Transformation, Innovation and Change (TIC), Including School Budgets**

The Committee considered a report in March 2023 which provided an overview of the Schools' Transformation Programme introduced in 2017 to support schools in meeting significant financial challenges. The programme aimed to apply the Authority's core transformation principles of collaborative working and challenging existing practices to support schools in taking advantage of cost saving opportunities and service improvements, by way of a sustainable approach, across a wide range of activities, whilst also maintaining good pupil outcomes.

A presentation was provided to the Committee which detailed the progress made to date in delivering the key priority areas identified. Officers addressed a range of queries and observations which related to benchmarking, the responsibilities prescribed to schools by way of legislation, budgetary constraints and capacity issues.

The importance of clear communication and engagement with schools was emphasised by the Committee as a means of sharing best practice and supporting schools through the transformation process.

### **2.6.4 Additional Learning Needs Update**

In May 2023 the Committee received for consideration a progress update on the Council's implementation of the provisions enshrined within the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, which aimed to transform the expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

The Committee received a presentation which detailed the progress of transition from Statements of Special Education Needs (SEN) to Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for pupils with ALN. Implementation would be undertaken on a phased basis up to August 2025 and would result in three potential categorisation outcomes for children and young people. The Committee reviewed the feedback provided on the level of success of the transition into the new ALN system, which included an overview of the areas that are working well and those that need to be addressed in terms of the role of the ALN Officers and Co-ordinators, Early Years and Post-16 Provision for children and young people with ALN, training and support, and also the ongoing partnership working with health professionals. The Committee also reviewed the statistical data on pupils with ALN in mainstream schools and those requiring specialist setting support whereby it was recognised that there had been a significant increase in demand for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision since September 2021.

Officers addressed a range of queries and observations which related to the process, criteria and quality of IDPs, capacity issues within specialist settings, budgetary pressures and post-16 specialist provision entitlement. Concerns were also raised by the Committee in terms of the lack of parity between Welsh-medium schools in being able to access a wide range of standardised assessments and resources to support the early and accurate identification of ALN, compared with English medium schools.

**Outcomes:**

**The Committee requested an update on the outcome of the discussions ongoing with Welsh Government pertaining to funding of post-16 provision.**

**A further update on the ALN implementation will be considered by the Committee during 2023/24.**

### **2.6.5 Evaluation of Estyn Inspections Across Carmarthenshire Schools, Pupil Referral Units and Specialist Settings**

In May 2023 the Committee received a report which provided an overview of Estyn inspection outcomes within the county for the past five years. The report provided an assurance to the Committee that standards and leadership are considered good or better in the majority of schools, with only a minority of schools placed in a follow-up category for improvement. An overview of new inspection framework adopted by Estyn in March 2022 was provided to the Committee, together with a summary of the strong or effective practice identified by Estyn inspectors to be shared with others.

The Committee reviewed the school improvement recommendations provided by Estyn since March 2022 and an assurance was provided to the Committee that all Estyn outcomes influenced the division's improvement strategies for schools, ways of working and the Professional Learning support programme.

## **2.7 Children's Services**

### **2.7.1 Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan 2022/23**

In December 2022 the Committee received for consideration the Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan which had been developed in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Youth Justice Plan outlined the provision of the Youth Support Service and the Youth Justice Team under a single management structure which provided a holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire. A review the remit, structure, governance arrangements and funding model for the provision of youth support services was undertaken by the Committee. Section 8 of the Youth Justice Plan detailed the performance of the partnership during 2021/22 and also set out the priorities and improvement planning objectives for the forthcoming year in accordance with the overarching 'child first' principles and an ethos of continuous improvement.

**Outcome:**

**In reviewing the main areas of activity, the Committee gained an understanding of the ongoing crucial work of the partnership in seeking to mitigate the continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic in order to safeguard the most vulnerable and complex children and families across the County.**

## **2.8 Welsh Language**

### **2.8.1 Policy on Awarding Grants and the Welsh Language**

In May 2023 the Committee considered the Council's Policy on Awarding Grants and the Welsh Language which had been prepared in order to comply with the provisions enshrined within the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Policy provided a consistent approach in the handling of the Welsh language across the Council's various grants, ensured compliance with the Welsh Language Standards in the allocation of grants and also equipped Council employees to assist third party bodies to promote the Welsh language in their operations effectively. In this regard, the Policy was aligned to the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-28 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

The Committee provided valuable feedback in respect of the eligibility criteria and the grant application process.

**Outcome:**

**Following the feedback provided by the Committee, the Policy on Awarding Grants and the Welsh Language was endorsed and referred to the Cabinet for approval.**

### **2.8.2 Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-28**

At its meeting in May 2023, the Committee reviewed the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2023-28, which had been prepared in conjunction with the Welsh Language Strategic Forum as part of the Council's responsibilities through the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 and the subsequent Welsh Language Standards. The strategy detailed how the Council proposed to promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of the Welsh language across the county.

The Strategy sought to instigate an increase in the number of Welsh speakers, pride and confidence in the Welsh language, increased use of Welsh in the workplace and workforce as 'a norm' and thriving Welsh speaking communities. The Committee reviewed the 9 workstreams that would be implemented as an action plan to deliver the aims of the strategy during its period of operation.

The Committee welcomed the strategy as a means of positively impacting upon the viability of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire and highlighted the importance of residents being given the opportunity to hear and use the Welsh language within their daily lives. Concerns were however raised in respect of the decline in the Welsh for Adults provision of physical, localised classes and a further report on this issue will be reviewed as part of the Committee's 2023/24 Forward Work Plan.

## **Outcome:**

**Following the feedback provided by the Committee, the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2023-28, was endorsed and referred to the Cabinet for approval.**

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## **3 Other Scrutiny Activity**

### **3.1 Task and Finish**

The Committee did not undertake a Task and Finish review during 2022/23. At its Forward Work Planning session held in May 2023, the Committee reviewed the progress made regarding the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the following Task and Finish Groups:

- A Review of the current provision for Early Years Education, Childcare and Play Opportunities. – undertaken in 2018/19
- A Review of the School Organisation Consultation Process – undertaken in 2021/22

### **3.2 Site Visits**

Due to the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, it was not considered appropriate to undertake physical site visits during the municipal year. However, an alternative structure, in the form of online and hybrid school engagement sessions was therefore implemented as a temporary measure to enable the Committee to continue with its school evaluation and improvement function.

The following school engagement session was undertaken during the 2022/23 municipal year:

#### **3.2.1 School recovery from the coronavirus pandemic**

In October 2022 the Committee received a presentation from Ysgol Bryn Teg which focussed on the way in which the school had supported the well-being of pupils, families and staff since the Covid-19 pandemic. The presentation detailed the journey of significant improvement made within the school, against a backdrop of financial challenges, to become highly effective in terms of its learning and organisation and had embraced change in order to achieve a culture of excellence.

The engagement session focussed upon the findings of the Estyn inspection undertaken in June 2022 within the following areas:

- Leadership
- Care, Support and Guidance
- Teaching and Learning Experiences
- Well-being and Attitudes to Learning
- Learning

### Outcome:

The school engagement session raised awareness of the services and innovative practices introduced to support and improve the well-being of pupils following the coronavirus pandemic. Furthermore, the Committee gained a detailed understanding of the main challenges, pressures and priorities identified by schools, which centred upon an increased influx of children with additional needs, cost of living crisis, reduced budgets and the over reliance on grant funding. Access to quality services, individually and collectively was also deemed to be more difficult following the coronavirus pandemic.

A programme of school visits will be resumed as part of the Committee's Forward Work programme for 2023/24.

### 3.3 Development Sessions

Following the Local Government elections held in May 2022, a comprehensive Councillor Induction Programme was provided for all elected members. The programme was designed primarily for new Councillors but was also open to those who were re-elected. The induction programme was geared to provide members with the requisite knowledge, skills and understanding to assist them in serving as a Councillor. The training relevant to the work of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee included an overview of the scrutiny function, Budgetary and Treasury Management and Equality and Diversity (including Welsh Language). Several budget seminars were also held during January 2023 as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and the five-year capital programme.

In addition, at the request of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee, the following sessions were provided during the 2022/23 municipal year:

- **Self Evaluation and School Data (18/10/2022):** This workshop provided an overview of the way the Education division had embedded self-evaluation as an integral element to its business planning processes and modified its approach by triangulating judgements from a wider range of perspectives.
- **Introduction to Scrutiny (01/12/2022):** Overview of the role and updated remit of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee within Carmarthenshire County Council, including an overview of the pre-decision process.
- **Post 16 Review (10/02/2023)**– Members were afforded the opportunity to consider the initial findings of the Post-16 Review, encompassing Vocational Qualifications and those Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs)
- **Modernising Education Programme (MEP\_ (18/10/22, 02/12/22 and 05/05/2023) –** This workshop provided a valuable opportunity for Members to contribute to the progression of the MEP review. Members received an overview of the background, current situation, challenges, engagement methods, budgetary considerations and priorities pertaining to the Modernising Education Programme. The draft viability and investment criteria was reviewed in accordance with the Council's aspiration of ensuring viable, sustainable and efficient school estates.

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## 4. Public Engagement

The Scrutiny function provides the opportunity for public participation in the Authority's activities whereby members of the public can request items to be placed on the Committee's meeting agenda. Carmarthenshire residents, or those who own a business or are employed within the county are also permitted to ask questions at meetings of the Scrutiny Committee.

Whilst the Committee did not receive any suggestions of possible topics from members of the public during 2022/23, the Committee's Forward Work Plan included a range of topics which required public consultation/participation. In order to promote public awareness of Scrutiny Committees and the ability of the public to put forward topics for discussion, the Forward Work Plan of the Authority's Scrutiny Committees, and details of how the public can become involved, are published on the Authority's website:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/scrutiny/#.Xp7Am6aQxMs>

During the municipal year, the Authority's Communications department provided digital marketing support to the Authority's Scrutiny function and proactively promoted details of forthcoming items which may be of interest to the public.

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## 5. Challenges

One of the challenges faced by the County in 2022/23 was the continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the provision of services to the residents of Carmarthenshire and the councils' efforts to achieve a return to pre-pandemic service levels. As a result, the Education and Children's Services department continued to be under pressure throughout the municipal year. Nevertheless, the department has adapted and developed innovative solutions during unprecedented circumstances to meet the needs of children and young people across Carmarthenshire.

Following the local government elections in May 2022 the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee saw a new cohort of members. The newly elected members worked with the rest of the Committee to familiarise themselves with the decision-making process and the topics within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee's portfolio. However, the past year has also been a challenging period following a reconfiguration of the Committee's remit, which now includes the Welsh Language. Furthermore, the reporting process has changed from the systematic referral of reports to a pre-decision process. Whilst these changes have been embraced by the Committee, the revised processes are still being embedded across the Council.

The Committee has continued to be constructive in its role in scrutinising performance which has facilitated the department and positively contributed to policies and decisions. It has been a balancing act for the Committee in undertaking its scrutiny duty without impacting on the resourcing of front-line services.

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## 6. Future Work

As the Authority emerges from the coronavirus pandemic, it is evident that the Committee has made significant progress during the municipal year and will continue to concentrate on topics where members' input will result in positive outcomes to drive forward service improvement. To ensure that the best use is being made of meeting time, the Committee is keen to continue implementing the principles of the Centre for Public Scrutiny in order to achieve a streamlined and focused scrutiny process.

The future work of the Committee will be considered as part of the Forward Work Planning programme and will continue to be monitored during the course of the year. In order to enhance the Authority's Scrutiny function, members will continue to attend development sessions, seek officers' advice where appropriate and make full use of informal pre-meeting discussion.

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## 7. Support for the Scrutiny Function

Support for Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny function is provided by the Democratic Services Unit, based within the Administration and Law Division of the Chief Executive's Department. Support for the scrutiny function includes:

- Formulating and despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings in accordance with the Forward Work Programmes.
- 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 any issues arising from those meetings are actioned.
- Giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to 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 Cabinet.
- 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).

## 8. Attendance

Attendance by members of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 year is shown in the table below. A total of five meetings were held during the reporting period.

<b>Scrutiny Committee Member</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>%</b>
Cllr. Sue Allen	5	100%
Cllr. Liam Bowen	2	40%
Cllr. Kim Broom	5	100%
Cllr Lewis Davies	4	80%
Cllr. Llinos Mai Davies (until 19.04.23)	4 [of 4]	100%
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	5	100%
Cllr. Betsan Jones	5	100%
Cllr. Carys Jones	5	100%
Cllr. Dot Jones	5	100%
Cllr. Hefin Jones (since 19.04.23)	0 [of 1]	0%
Cllr. Jean Lewis	4	80%
Cllr. Sean Rees	5	100%
Cllr. Edward Skinner	5	100%
Cllr. Michael Thomas (since 09.11.22)	4 [of 4]	100%
Cllr. Shelly Godfrey-Coles (until 09.11.22)	0 [of 1]	0%
<b>Parent Governor Representatives</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>%</b>
Mr Anthony Enoch	5	100%
Mrs Deborah Elias (until 10.02.23)	0 [of 3]	0%
Dr Felicity Healy-Benson	4	80%
<b>Church Representatives</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>	<b>%</b>
Mrs Vera Kenny	4	80%
Rev D. Richards	0	0%



<b>Substitutes</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
Cllr. Mansel Charles	3
Cllr. Michelle Donoghue	1
Cllr. Michael Thomas	1
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)	5
Cllr. Philip Hughes (Organisation and Workforce)	1
Cllr. Gareth John (Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism)	1
Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)	1
Cllr Jane Tremlett (Health and Social Services)	1

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## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JUNE 2023

### SCRUTINY ACTIONS UPDATE

#### Purpose:

To apprise the Committee of actions taken in response to decisions made.

#### The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

Review 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 Cabinet / Council for decision:

No.

#### Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:

Not Applicable.

<p><b>Directorate:</b> Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Linda Rees Jones</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Julie Owens</p>	<p><b>Designations:</b></p> <p>Head of Administration and Law</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p><b>Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:</b></p> <p>01267 224010 <a href="mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>01267 224088 <a href="mailto:juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## SCRUTINY ACTIONS 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.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?</b>	<b>YES</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: Linda Rees Jones

Head of Administration and 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>

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

There are none.

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Action No.	Meeting Date	Recommendation/Minute Text / Action Required	Progress Update	Responsible Member(s) / Officer(s)	Status
EYP&WL22/23-01	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> a workshop be arranged in early 2023 to provide information on the Post 16 Review, Vocational Qualifications and NEETs. The Workshop to include an analysis of the gaps in supply of workers locally, together with funding issues associated with NEETs. The final report to be presented to the Committee on 16.03.2023	Date set for 10.02.2023	Julian Dessent, Curriculum & Learning Network Manager	complete
EYP&WL22/23-02		<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> Given the change in membership following the 2022 local government elections, the Chair requested that previous reports on Elective Home Education (EHE) be circulated to the Committee. This information will determine what further reports/information should be requested by the Committee going forward given that the Council was limited in terms of funding and powers to progress this matter.	Previous reports and WG statistics circulated to the Committee 13/12/2022	Jan Coles, Head of Children's Services / Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer	complete
EYP&WL22/23-03	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> Workshop on Self Evaluation and School Data to be provided as soon as possible.	Workshop delivered on 18.10.2022	Heads of Services	complete
EYP&WL22/23-04	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> Members, in recognising the benefits of site visits, expressed a desire to resume these in 2023 on the provision that schools were comfortable in hosting site visits.	Request made on 31.01.23 for Education department to arrange a visit with Ysgol Gynradd Gorslas. AT to arrange site visit schedule	Aneirin Thomas, Head of Education and Inclusion Services	
EYP&WL22/23-05	01.09.2022 & 13.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION AND SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> An information note to be circulated to all County Councilors to provide an update on the progress made with the roll-out of the provision of <b>free school meals</b> . Furthermore, an update report to be circulated setting out how the Eligibility for Free School Meals (EFSM) categorisation issue has been addressed and will be measured going forward.	Regular updates provided to ALL MEMBERS in the Councilor news bulletins- latest update provided w/c 27th April. Carmarthenshire Catering Service on track to deliver in line with Welsh Government expectations. If possible, we will roll-out earlier than proposed.	Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services.	complete
EYP&WL22/23-06	01.09.2022	<b>FORWARD WORK PLANNING SESSION:</b> A development session to be arranged setting out the role and remit of the Committee following confirmation of its revised Terms of Reference.	Development session provided on 01.12.2022	Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services / Linda Rees Jones, Head of Administration and Law	complete
EYP&WL22/23-07	13.09.2022	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION: The Education department to determine appropriate date for a report to be presented to the Committee on "Transformation, Innovation Change (TIC), including school budgets".</b>	Incorporated into the Forward Work Plan 2022/23 - report to be presented 16.03.2023	Heads of Service/ Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services	complete
EYP&WL22/23-08	13.09.2022	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> possible report to be provided on the topic of "Team Around the Family", if considered to be within the remit of the Committee.	Discussed at the Forward Work Planning Session on 23.01.2023 whereby it was concluded that the item is not relevant to the terms and reference of the committee. The item has been removed from the Forward Work Plan.	All Members / Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services	complete
EYP&WL22/23-09	13.09.2022 & 27.01.23	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> The Education department to determine an appropriate date for a report to be presented to the Committee on "Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme".	update 27/01/23 - Consultation with the Committee to be undertaken by way of a Workshop on the Carmarthenshire's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. Education and Children's Services department to confirm date with Democratic Services for arrangements to be made (Spring 2023). Update 26/04/23 - The update of the Modernising Education Programme (reverting to original name) will be completed during the Summer term. A workshop is planned for all Members to outline progress and draft approaches to reviewing our schools and investment priorities.	Heads of Service/ Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services	complete
EYP&WL22/23-10	13.09.2022	<b>SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> The Education department to determine an appropriate date for a report to be presented to the Committee on the provision of education post-COVID. Committee Members to set out the report requirements.	Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes considered by the Committee on 05.05.23. Furthermore, a Post-COVID review of pupil's attendance and behaviour (including input from Coedcae School) incorporated into 2023/24 FWP (June 2023)	Education and Children's Services department.	complete
EYP&WL22/23-11	01.09.22 & 13.09.202	<b>FORWARD PLANNING SESSION AND SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> Report on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to be considered by the Committee following publication of the first year annual report.	Incorporated into the Forward Work Plan for 2023/24 (July 2023)	Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer	complete

EYP&WL22/23-12	01.09.2022 & 13.09.2022	<b>FORWARD PLANNING SESSION AND SCORING MATRIX SESSION:</b> Further information on the <b>Welsh in Education Forum</b> terms of reference and membership be circulated to the Committee.	circulated to the Committee in 13.01.2023	Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services / Head of Service	complete
EYP&WL22/23-13	06/10/2022	<b>EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22</b> Typographical correction to section 6.2.3 of the report which would be updated to reflect that the committee had considered its report in 2021.	report updated on 06/10/2022.	Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer	complete
EYP&WL22/23-14	06/10/2022	<b>EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2022/23</b> A request was made for an update on the recommendations from the <b>School Organisation Consultation Process Task and Finish Group</b> report to be incorporated into the Forward Work Plan.	incorporated into the Forward Work Plan for May 2023	Education and Children's Services department.	complete
EYP&WL22/23-15	06/10/2022	<b>FORTHCOMING ITEMS</b> - Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services to be invited to the next meeting to present the Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan	The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services presented the Youth Justice Plan at the Scrutiny Meeting held on 01/12/2022	Democratic Services Officer	complete
EYP&WL22/23-16	18/10/2022	<b>SELF EVALUATION AND SCHOOL DATA WORKSHOP - Survey to be distributed to Parent Governors to collate data, including the issues experienced with the HWB platform, with a view to providing appropriate support in their roles.</b>	Lowri and Tanya developing survey to gather views of ict etc	Elin Forsyth, Head of School Effectiveness	In progress
EYP&WL22/23-17	01/12/2022	<b>YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN</b> - the graphical representation set out at page 19 of the Youth Justice Plan pertaining to 'offence type' had been condensed and would therefore be re-issued to the Committee with the full information.	Updated graph and key circulated to Committee Members on 05/12/2022	Gill Adams, Youth Support Service Principal Manager	Complete
EYP&WL22/23-18	01/12/2022	<b>YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN</b> - Future reports to contain a comprehensive glossary to explain the full list of abbreviations, and keys would be provided to enable readers to easily interpret the graphical representations.	Noted for the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24	Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support / Gill Adams, Youth Support Service Principal Manager	complete
EYP&WL22/23-19	01/12/2022	<b>DRAFT COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 Page 19</b> - " <i>Well-being Objective 1 Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences</i> ". Wording on graphs to be reviewed in terms of accuracy because, whilst the long-term trend has reduced, the figures for 2021/22 represent an increase on the previous year.	It was agreed that a better word to use should have been 'declined' rather than 'reduced', however this amendment was missed in the quick turn-around of publishing the report. The points raised will be taken on board for future reports.	John Buck, Performance and Information Officer	complete
EYP&WL22/23-20	01/12/2022	<b>DRAFT COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22</b> - Comparable information between the level of EU grant funding and the Shared Prosperity Fund to be provided to the Committee in due course.	information circulated to the Committee on 14.03.2023	Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support	complete
EYP&WL22/23-21	01/12/2022	<b>DRAFT COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 - An update on the ongoing work within the Authority to tackle poverty in the education system to be circulated to the Committee in due course.</b>	information circulated to the Committee on 14.03.2023	Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support	complete
EYP&WL22/23-22	01/12/2022	<b>EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT</b> - The report on 'Support for curriculum development across the schools in Carmarthenshire' to be provided to Committee at its meeting on 23.01.23. Representatives from PARTNERIAETH to be invited.	Considered at the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 23.01.23	Elin Forsyth, Head of School Effectiveness / Julie Owens, Democratic Services Officer / John Buck, Performance and Information Officer	complete
EYP&WL22/23-23	27/01/23	<b>Alternative Outdoor Education Offer</b> – scheduled to be considered at Cabinet on 27.03.23. Chair has agreed that the Cabinet report is to be circulated to Committee in due course. Members can then request any further information or a specific report to the Committee if required.	Report circulated to Scrutiny Members by email on 02.02.23	Ian Jones, Head of Leisure	complete
EYP&WL22/23-24	27/01/2023	<b>School Cluster Groups.</b> Education and Children's Services department to provide a list of School Cluster Groups for circulation to the Committee.	EF to share all cluster groups.	Elin Forsyth, Head of School Effectiveness /	ongoing
EYP&WL22/23-25	27/01/2023	<b>Glossary of Terms.</b> Education and Children's Services department to produce a generic glossary of terms of frequently used abbreviations which can then be added to the Committee agenda pack template.		<b>All Heads of Service</b>	ongoing
EYP&WL22/23-26	24/03/2023	Schools Transformation Programme. Request that headteachers circulate the benchmarking data 2022/23 to School Governors. Allan Carter to attend the next meeting of the Governors Forum to provide an overview of the work undertaken by the Schools Transformation Programme.	Secondary Headteachers have been advised to share this information with Governors.	Gareth Mogans / Allan Carter	ongoing



EYP&WL22/23-27	24/03/2023	Explore the possible introduction of taster sessions, or workplace experience as Teaching Assistants for university students to further understand the requirements of the teaching role in order to make informed career choices and encourage completion of the PGC.	We have asked to meet with Swansea University to discuss this in the first instance due to our recent partnership working with them. We are awaiting a response. <b>Update 15.06.23:</b> Conversations with Swansea University have stalled due to staffing issues within the University. However we have also now opened conversations along the same lines with Cardiff Metropolitan University. This matter will be progressed following the Estyn inspection of the Department in July.	Aeron Rees / Julian Dessent	ongoing
EYP&WL22/23-28	24/03/2023	Draft Divisional Plans - general update and demonstration of the music service's 'soundtrap' package to be offered to members	Music Service Provision incorporated into the Forward Work Plan for 2023/24 (December 2023)	Elin Forsyth	ongoing
EYP&WL22/23-29	24/03/2023	Reports on the following topics to be prepared (including copies of the original task and finish reports) to be considered by Committee at an informal session on conclusion of the next Scrutiny meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Update on recommendations from the School Organisation Consultation Process Task and Finish Group</li> <li>•Update on recommendations from the Early Years Task and Finish Group</li> </ul>	Ongoing, update on School Organisation and Early Years Task and Finish reports are being presented at the FWP session on the 11th May	Heads of Service	complete

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## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2023

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2023/24

#### The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

Confirm its Forward Work Plan for 2023/24.

#### Reasons:

The County Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to develop and publish annual Forward Work Plans that identify issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year.

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

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:-** Cllr Glynog Davies, Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language

#### Directorate:

Chief Executive's

#### Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

#### Report Author:

Julie Owens

#### Designations:

Head of Administration & Law

#### Democratic Services Officer

#### Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:

01267 224010

[lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

01267 224088

[juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:juowens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2023

### EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN FOR 2023/24

Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution requires each scrutiny committee to develop and publish an annual Forward Work Plan to identify and prioritise issues and reports to be considered during the course of a municipal year.

The development of a Forward Work Plan:

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

The draft Forward Work Plan for 2023/24 has been developed under the direction of the Education, Young People and Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee during its Forward Work Planning session held on 11 May 2023. The Forward Work Plan is a flexible document which can be updated throughout the year as new information emerges, and therefore additional informal planning sessions may be convened throughout the year, as and when required.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

Forward Work Plan 2023/24

# 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>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

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.

## 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, Young People and Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes		<a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=153">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=153</a>

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## Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2023/24

23rd June 2023	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2024 (TBC)	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024 (TBC)	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 (TBC)
Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23	Outcome of Estyn's Inspection of Carmarthenshire County Council	Music Service provision for schools	Divisional Service Delivery Plans (date TBC)	Progress update on the roll-out of Free School Meals across Carmarthenshire	
Annual Report for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	Update on Estyn's review of the Welsh for Adults provision	School recruitment and staffing update	Corporate Strategy (date TBC)	ALN update	
Post-COVID review of pupil's attendance and behaviour (including input from Coedcae School)	Update on the current position regarding admissions policy for full time education for 4 year olds (Rising 4's Policy)	Review of Supply Staff arrangements in Carmarthenshire	Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2024/25 to 2026/27 (date TBC)		
Approval of the Forward Work Plan 2023/24		Scrutiny Actions Update	Update on the 30hr Childcare Offer for Wales		Scrutiny Actions Update
Scrutiny Actions Update					
Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items
Page 111					

**Scrutiny Committee Members to scrutinise the following reports via e-mail**

Budget Monitoring 2022/23 for the period April 2022 to February 2023	Budget Outturn position for 2022/23 at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to August 2023	Budget monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to October 2023	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to December 2023	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April 2023 to February 2024
	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to June 2023				
	10 year social services strategy				
Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications

**Items to be added to the FWP:**

**Quarterly Performance Management Update reports** – to be circulated outside meeting process via email. Dates TBC

**Workshops / Development Sessions:**

- **Review of processes regarding the transfer of pupils between schools** - Education department to determine appropriate date in the Autumn 2023.
- **School Federations.** Outline of the arrangements for grouping schools – to include the different types / models of and Governance arrangements. Education Department to determine appropriate date in the Autumn 2024
- **Outdoor Education Offer Overview** – possible joint session with Communities, Homes and Regeneration (portfolio holders). Communities division to determine appropriate date in the Spring 2024

**Site Visits**

- Programme for school visits to be provided by the Education department



## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JUNE 2023

### FORTHCOMING ITEMS

**Purpose:**

To provide background information on the forthcoming items to be considered by the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

**The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:**

Note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee to be held on 09 October 2023.

**Reason:**

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports which will be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

**To be referred to the Cabinet for decision:**

No.

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)

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

## EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 JUNE 2023

### FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. When formulating the Forward Work Plan the Scrutiny Committee will take into consideration those items included on the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan.

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the latest version of the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at its next meeting.

The published Cabinet Forward Work Plan, at the time of publication of this meeting pack, is attached to this report. However, as the Cabinet Forward Plan is updated on a regular basis, the most recent version is available to view in the following link:-

<https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=131&RD=0>

Also attached for information is the provisional 2023/24 Forward Work Plan for the Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee.

DETAILED REPORT  
ATTACHED?

YES:

- (1) List of Forthcoming Items
- (2) Cabinet Forward Work Plan
- (3) Education, Young People and Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan



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## FORTHCOMING ITEMS – TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 09 OCTOBER 2023

In order to ensure effective Scrutiny, Members need to be clear as to the purpose of requesting specific information and the outcome they are hoping to achieve as a consequence of examining a report. Limiting the number of agenda items may help to keep meetings focused and easier to manage.

Agenda Item	Background	Reason for report
Outcome of Estyn's Inspection of Carmarthenshire County Council	Carmarthenshire's Local Government Education Services will be inspected by Estyn between the 10th and 14th of July.	To review the council's current position and be assured that arrangements are in place to address any identified recommendations / areas for improvement.
Update on Estyn's review of the Welsh for Adults provision	Estyn completed an inspection of Welsh for Adults provision within the County.	To provide information including Census information, the current provision of courses in the county and an update on Actions emanating from the inspection.
Update on the current position regarding admissions policy for full time education for 4 year olds (Rising 4's Policy)	In 2018/19 the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee completed a Task & Finish Review of the current provision for early years education, childcare and play opportunities. One of the conclusions identified in the report was that that the Authority's 'Rising 4s' policy is markedly different to other neighbouring local authorities' and that the 'Council undertake a formal review of its current admissions policy for full time education for 4-year-olds (the rising 4s policy).	To provide information on a review into primary admission arrangements.
Budget Outturn position for 2022/23 at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023. (circulated by email)	To appraise Committee of the Budget Outturn position for 2022/23 at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.	To allow members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to the report.

Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to June 2023 . (circulated by email)	To provide the Committee with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 30th June 2023, in respect of 2023/24	To allow members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to the report.
10 year social services strategy	To provide members with a vision on how the /council will provide the statutory social services functions over the next decade. The report is scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet on 17 July 2023.	To allow members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to the report.
Update on Estyn Report publications	To ensure that the Committee are kept abreast of the latest Estyn report publications.	To enable Committee to kept abreast of the latest Estyn report publications and raise items to be added to the Committee's Forward Work Plan.
Actions and Referrals Update	This item will provide details on the progress made in relation to actions and requests arising from previous meetings.	To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.

## **CABINET/COUNCIL – FORWARD PLAN**

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JUNE 2023 TO 31 MAY 2024

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director  Report Author</b>
STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY	The report seeks to update on the preparation of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy. It sets out the responses received as part of the formal consultation on the policy and officer recommendations ahead of its formal adoption.	Cabinet  County Council 22 May 2023  21 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ian R Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk  Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
BURRY PORT HARBOUR PETITION TO FULL COUNCIL – UPDATE POSITION	The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the position at Burry Port Harbour, following a petition presented to full Council on the 25th January 2023.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
CARMARTHEN WEST LINK ROAD	To approve the deed of variation	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEM FOR WEST WALES: HOW FAR, HOW FAST?	The report outlines a response in West Wales to progressing integration. Specifically, the paper outlines an opportunity in Carmarthenshire to develop and implement a health and care system for older people based on 'what matters' to this population and will be fit for purpose now and into the future. It also considers alignment to the Ministerial Discussion Document known as 'Further, Faster' and its expectations.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Rhian Matthews, Acting County Director, Hywel Dda University Health Board Rhian.Matthews@wales.nhs.uk
MODEL TEACHERS' PAY POLICY 2022/23	In order to comply with the requirements of the School Teachers Pay and Conditions (Wales) Document 2022, which requires every school to have a pay policy setting out how pay decisions are taken.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Director of Education & Children, Chief Executive Julie Stuart, Senior Business Partner (HR) jstuart@carmarthenshire.gov.uk



<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
TACKLING POVERTY ACTION PLAN	The Council has prepared a tackling poverty action plan which incorporates its response to the cost of living crisis. The plan outlines actions to be taken by a range of Council services and steps to further our involvement with a range of external stakeholders.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Chief Executive Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy ndaniel@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
THE MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022	This Annual Report provides an overview of the objectives and achievements of the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards. It outlines the progress made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of the Joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2021-2022.	Cabinet 19 Jun 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Jake Morgan, Director of Community Services jakemorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
BURRY PORT PLACEMAKING PLAN	Work has been commissioned to undertake a Placemaking Plan for Burry Port in order to develop a plan which supports the growth and resilience of the town.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Nicola Evans, Business Support Manager njevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATION	To provide Cabinet with an update on the latest position of the Development Fund, and to seek Cabinet approval of a recent application to the Fund.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
					Services RHemingway@car marthenshire.gov.u k
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY TASK & FINISH GROUP (BLACK, ASIAN, AND MINORITY ETHNIC) REPORT	A report to cabinet on the findings and recommendations of the Equality and Diversity Task	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Chief Executive Llinos Jenkins, Cabinet Support Officer LISJenkins@carma rthenshire.gov.uk
PLOT 3 TROSTRE RETAIL PARK	Report outlining a revised development proposal for plot 3 Trostre Retail Park and sale terms for consideration.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@carmarth enshire.gov.uk
PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND HELD IN TRUST SITUATED NORTH OF AMMAN ROAD, LOWER BRYNAMMAN	To consider whether the disposal, by way of lease, of an area of land situated on the north side of Amman Road, Lower Brynamman, which the County Council holds upon trust for the purposes of a Charitable Scheme created on the 4th May, 1972 is in the best interest of the charity and, if so, to grant consent to the disposal.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthe nshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: TACKLING TOWNS	To approve the projects earmarked for delivery through the Shared Prosperity Fund – Place Anchor - Tackling Towns project.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Chief Executive Jason Jones (Head of Regeneration), Head of Regeneration JaJones@car-marth-enshire.gov.uk
TENANT COMPENSATION POLICY	The report sets out our approach to when it may be appropriate to compensate a tenant who has suffered loss or inconvenience due to service failure. The policy will guide officers when dealing with council tenants ensuring a consistent approach.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection JMorgan@car-marth-enshire.gov.uk
TENANT RECHARGE POLICY	Occasionally it may be necessary to recharge a tenant for work that we have carried out to the property which was the tenant responsibility under the tenancy agreement. The policy will guide officers when dealing with council tenant recharges, ensuring a consistent approach.	Cabinet 3 Jul 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection JMorgan@car-marth-enshire.gov.uk
STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT	As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, a standards committee of a relevant authority must make an annual report to the authority in	County Council 12 Jul 2023	No		Chief Executive Robert Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	respect of that year.				RJEdgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
10-YEAR SOCIAL SERVICES STRATEGY (PRE-CONSULTATION)	To provide members with a vision on how we will provide the statutory social services functions over the next decade. The document will detail the following areas; Introduction, Vision Statement, The services people receive, Social Work Models of care, Safeguarding, Integration and Partnerships , Workforce and an Action Plan	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Silvana Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager ssauro@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)	The Carmarthenshire 2022-32 WESP became operative on 1.9.22. The Local Authority is required to submit an annual progress report to Welsh Government. It's deemed pertinent to present this report to the Scrutiny process prior to WG submission.	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language	Director of Education & Children Aeron Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support jarees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS	This report sets out the work being undertaken to review ten designated Conservation Areas across the County. It identifies the outcome of the review and the subsequent consultation exercise including on the: •A character appraisal;	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Place & Infrastructure Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability RDGriffiths@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•A boundary review and</li> <li>•A management plan.</li> </ul> <p>The report in setting out the above identifies the outcome of the public consultation exercise and the next steps including the processes required to amend any of the Conservation Area designations.</p>				
COVID 19 IMPACT ON CONTRACTORS - MAJOR WORKS	<p>A report will be produced to explore the financial impact on Contractors as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report will establish the current contract provisions being enforced by the Authority compared against various government advice and relief procedures. To further inform stakeholders, the report will capture the potential implications for adopting and seek a decision on implementing contractor support mechanisms to mitigate the financial impact of Covid-19.</p>	Cabinet 17 Jul 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Jason G. Jones, Property Maintenance Manager JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2022-	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities for 2022-2023	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
2023					enshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23	The Annual Report provides an overview of Council performance during 2022-23. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 we are required to publish an Annual Report on our Well-being Objectives. In addition, under the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 we have a duty to report on performance, based, on a self-assessment approach. This report aims to meet both these requirements in one document.	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Gwyneth Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
LOCAL TOILET STRATEGY	To consider the information contained within this report and to endorse Carmarthenshire County Council's draft Local Toilets Strategy. Approval is also sought to undertake a formal public consultation exercise with respect to the draft Local Toilets Strategy in line with statutory requirements.	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Daniel John, Interim Head of Waste DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
MINOR WORKS SCHEDULE OF RATES INCREASES	The report considers the inflationary increases applied on the Minor Works Framework from commencement and the impact on budgets	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Jason G. Jones, Property Maintenance

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
					Manager JGJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)	<p>The PSPO, which gives police powers to address alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and crime in Llanelli town centre, expires 30 September 2023.</p> <p>It is proposed to extend the Order. Its impact will be evaluated and consideration given to the current geographical boundary following consultation with key stakeholders between now and September 2023.</p>	Cabinet 4 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Gwyneth Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
ALTERNATIVE OUTDOOR EDUCATION OFFER	The purpose of this report is to review Carmarthenshire County Council's current Outdoor Education offer and to explore options for a re-modelled service within existing resources.	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SECOND HOMES AND HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE	To present a report highlighting the background and legislative and policy changes on the second homes and holiday accommodation and to highlight the consideration, evidence requirements and next steps in identifying and addressing the challenges for	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs and Planning Policy	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ian R Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager IRLlewelyn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	Carmarthenshire's communities.				
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN-2; AN UPDATE ON ITS DELIVERY.	As a member of the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group and a coastal risk management authority, Carmarthenshire have a duty to deliver actions within the SMP2. This report highlights CCC actions, the action owners and our progress and approach being taken to manage our coastline.	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ben Kathrens, Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager BKathrens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 30TH JUNE 2023	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2023 to 30th June 2023	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Anthony Parnell, Treasury & Pension Investments Manager aparnell@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2023-2026	Our Workforce Strategy describes how we plan to develop our current and future workforce to ensure they have the right skills, environment, and core values to deliver our Corporate Strategy.	Cabinet 18 Sep 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Organisation & Workforce	Chief Executive Paul R Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance) prthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL	To provide an update of the latest	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of



Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
PROGRAMME 2023/24 UPDATE	budgetary position for the 2023/24 capital programme as at 30th June 2023	2 Oct 2023		Resources	Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT	To provide the Cabinet with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 30th June 2023, in respect of 2023/24	Cabinet 2 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
10-YEAR SOCIAL SERVICES STRATEGY (POST-CONSULTATION)	To provide members with a vision on how we will provide the statutory social services functions over the next decade. The document will detail the following areas; Introduction, Vision Statement, The services people receive, Social Work Models of care, Safeguarding, Integration and Partnerships , Workforce and an Action Plan	Cabinet 16 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Silvana Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager ssauro@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
LEISURE, CULTURE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY – POST CONSULTATION	The document provides a framework for the service to work with key stakeholders to deliver a strategically aligned Leisure, Culture and Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the next 10 years.	Cabinet 16 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Director of Communities Ian Jones, Head of Leisure IJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SERVICE CHARGE POLICY	The purpose of this report is to introduce a new Service Charge Policy. This Policy sets out our approach to setting and collecting service charges. The aim is to make sure that Service Charges are clear and shown to be reasonable, accountable and reflect actual costs.	Cabinet 16 Oct 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Jonathan Morgan, Head of Housing and Public Protection JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES' ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23	The Report examines each Service area within Social Care and shows how service strategies, actions, targets and service risks will be addressed and delivered operationally. It comprises an overview on how we have performed in 2022/23 and an assessment on the future, together with our strategic priorities for 2023/24.	Cabinet 16 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services	Director of Communities Silvana Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager ssauro@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MANAGING OUR	To adopt pollinator-friendly land management practices on Council-managed land where there is no conflict	Cabinet 30 Oct 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Rosie Carmichael,

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
LAND FOR POLLINATORS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE	between these and the existing land use, and as agreed with clients (e.g. Housing) and the contractor (Grounds Maintenance). We will ensure the way we manage our grasslands is consistent with the climate and nature emergencies.				Rural Conservation Manager racarmichael@car marthenshire.gov.u k
INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR TENANTS	The use of incentive and reward schemes by social landlords underpins the wider approach to tenancy management. Incentives may be considered to encourage desired behaviour while rewards recognise such behaviour. The report sets out our approach to how we will reward tenants but also introduce an incentive scheme.	Cabinet 30 Oct 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Les James, Contracts and Service Development Manager LesJames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - CARMARTHENSHIRE REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 - 2033	To present a series of draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to elaborate on and support the content of the Revised LDP for formal public consultation. Draft SPG to potentially include (subject to timing), but not limited to: Welsh Language, Landscape Character Assessments, Sites of Importance for nature Conservation	Cabinet 30 Oct 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ian R Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager IRLlewelyn@car marthenshire.gov.uk
WASTE	The report provides an overview of the	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of Place &

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Decision Making Body and Dates</b>	<b>Is Exempt?</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)</b>	<b>Responsible Director / Report Author</b>
STRATEGY UPDATE	first phase implementation of Carmarthenshire's Waste Strategy 2021-2025, providing detail on the changes that have been implemented, recycling performance and strategy progress to date.	30 Oct 2023		Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Infrastructure Daniel John, Interim Head of Waste DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
BULKY WASTE REVIEW	This report will propose a cost effective, efficient bulky service for residents that will incorporate the waste hierarchy to ensure that more bulky waste can be reuse ahead of recycling and disposal. A review of the cost, number of bulks collected per item size, appointment management system and collection vehicle requirements for such a service.	Cabinet 13 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Director of Place & Infrastructure Daniel John, Interim Head of Waste DWJohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2023/24 capital programme, as at the 31st August 2023	Cabinet 13 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET	To provide the Cabinet with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st August 2023, in respect of 2023/24	Cabinet 13 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
MONITORING REPORT					Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 UPDATE	To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2022/23 capital programme	Cabinet 27 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023	To provide members with an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023	Cabinet 27 Nov 2023	No	Cabinet Member for Resources	Director of Corporate Services Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services RHemingway@car-marthenshire.gov.uk
EQUESTRIAN	The Carmarthenshire Rights of Way	Cabinet	No	Cabinet Member for	Director of Place &

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Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
STRATEGY	<p>Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2019-2029 has been produced and published in accordance with section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000).  The ROWIP details Carmarthenshire’s plan for the strategic management, development, and improvement of the County’s Public Rights of Way network up until 2029.  During consultation with the Local Access Forum, The Forum identified a need for the local authority to commit to producing a Carmarthenshire Equestrian Strategy to recognise the access opportunities and challenges for horse riding and carriage driving across the County.  An Equestrian Strategy to ‘promote and develop an accessible network for equestrian use’ has therefore been published in the Carmarthenshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2019-2029.  The report sets out the proposal to adopt an Equestrian Strategy for Carmarthenshire.</p>	11 Dec 2023		Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services	Infrastructure Steve Pilliner, Head of Transportation & Highways SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2024-2027	THE HRA BUSINESS PLAN SETS OUT OUR PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR NEW AND EXISTING COUNCIL HOMES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. IT ALSO SETS OUR CAPITAL AND	Cabinet 11 Dec 2023	No	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes	Director of Communities Dawn Rees, Business Support Officer

Subject	Report Summary	Decision Making Body and Dates	Is Exempt?	Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Responsible Director / Report Author
	REVENUE BUDGETS AND CONFIRMS RENTAL LEVELS FOR TENANTS.				(Communities) dkrees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN-2	S10.7 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires all Local Authorities to publish their Local Flood risk management strategy and plan. The strategy and plan (referred to as the flood risk management plan, FRMP-2) will clarify where we are now in terms of flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM), where we want to be in 2030 and how we will get there.	Cabinet 19 Feb 2024	No	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability	Director of Place & Infrastructure Ben Kathrens, Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager BKathrens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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## Education, Young People and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2023/24

23rd June 2023	9th October 2023	1st December 2023	21st February 2024 (TBC)	3rd April 2024 (TBC)	17th May 2024 (TBC)
Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23	Outcome of Estyn's Inspection of Carmarthenshire County Council	Music Service provision for schools	Divisional Service Delivery Plans (date TBC)	Progress update on the roll-out of Free School Meals across Carmarthenshire	
Annual Report for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	Update on Estyn's review of the Welsh for Adults provision	School recruitment and staffing update	Corporate Strategy (date TBC)	ALN update	
Post-COVID review of pupil's attendance and behaviour (including input from Coedcae School)	Update on the current position regarding admissions policy for full time education for 4 year olds (Rising 4's Policy)	Review of Supply Staff arrangements in Carmarthenshire	Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2024/25 to 2026/27 (date TBC)		
Approval of the Forward Work Plan 2023/24		Scrutiny Actions Update	Update on the 30hr Childcare Offer for Wales		Scrutiny Actions Update
Scrutiny Actions Update					
Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items	Forthcoming Items
Page 137					

**Scrutiny Committee Members to scrutinise the following reports via e-mail**

Budget Monitoring 2022/23 for the period April 2022 to February 2023	Budget Outturn position for 2022/23 at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to August 2023	Budget monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to October 2023	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to December 2023	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April 2023 to February 2024
	Budget Monitoring 2023/24 for the period April to June 2023				
	10 year social services strategy				
Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications	Update on Estyn Report publications

**Items to be added to the FWP:**

**Quarterly Performance Management Update reports** – to be circulated outside meeting process via email. Dates TBC

**Workshops / Development Sessions:**

- **Review of processes regarding the transfer of pupils between schools** - Education department to determine appropriate date in the Autumn 2023.
- **School Federations.** Outline of the arrangements for grouping schools – to include the different types / models of and Governance arrangements. Education Department to determine appropriate date in the Autumn 2024
- **Outdoor Education Offer Overview** – possible joint session with Communities, Homes and Regeneration (portfolio holders). Communities division to determine appropriate date in the Spring 2024

**Site Visits**

- Programme for school visits to be provided by the Education department

Agenda Item 11

**EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, 5 MAY 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor A.C. Jones (Chair)

**Councillors (In Person):**

P. Hughes-Griffiths                      E. Skinner

**Councillors (Virtually):**

S.M. Allen                                  K.V. Broom                                  J.M. Charles                                  M. Donoghue  
(substitute)                                  (substitute)

B.W. Jones                                  D. Jones                                  M.J.A. Lewis                                  S.L. Rees

M. Thomas

**Co-opted Members (In Person)**

A. Enoch, Parent Governor  
V. Kenny, Roman Catholic Church Representative

**Co-opted Members (Virtually)**

F. Healey-Benson, Parent Governor

**Cabinet Members (In Person)**

G. Davies, Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language

**Cabinet Members Virtually)**

G. John, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism

**Also Present (In Person):**

G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services  
A Thomas, Head of Education Services and Inclusion  
E. Forsyth, Strategic Lead for School Effectiveness  
M. Morgan, Senior Educational Support Adviser  
F. Gordon, Additional Learning Needs Advisory Teacher (Process)  
M. Davies, Additional Learning Needs Advisory Teacher  
T. Davies, Early Years Additional Learning Needs Lead Officer  
D. Livingstone, Post-16 Transition Officer  
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer (Note Taker)

**Also Present (Virtually):**

S. Davies, Head of Access to Education  
G. Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager  
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator  
M. Runeckles, Members Support Officer

**Chamber - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP and remotely - 10.00 am - 12.34 pm**

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Bowen, L. Davies and H. Jones.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.**

There were no declarations of personal interest including any party whips.

## **3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)**

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

## **4. POLICY ON AWARDING GRANTS AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE**

The Committee considered the Council's Policy on Awarding Grants and the Welsh Language which had been prepared in order to comply with the provisions enshrined within the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Policy provided a consistent approach in the handling of the Welsh language across the Council's various grants, ensured compliance with the Welsh Language Standards in the allocation of grants and equipped Council employees to assist third party bodies to promote the Welsh language in their operations effectively. In this regard, it was noted that the Policy was aligned to the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-28 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

The issues/observations raised by the Committee were addressed as follows:-

In response to a query regarding approval of the Policy and the eligibility criteria for awarding grants, the Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager clarified that the document, following approval by the Cabinet, would form a central part of the grant allocation process across all departments of the Council. Furthermore, central support would be provided to the relevant departments throughout the operational period of the grants and would enable the impact of the Policy on the Welsh language to be measured.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism assured Committee that bespoke support and assistance would be afforded to applicants during the enquiry stage of the application process to ensure that Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) would not be disadvantaged. In this regard, it was acknowledged that the Council's expectations would differ according to the type of organisation, the activity and amount of grant funding being awarded.

In response to a suggestion that previous grant applications be reviewed to ensure that SMEs would not be excluded from the process, the Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager explained that the proactive offer of support would add value to the activity of the relevant organisation as a whole and aimed to provide a developmental approach to enable organisations, through the Council's influence, to utilise the Welsh Language and ensure its viability.

Committee Members commended the Policy as a means of clearly stipulating the Council's expectations within the grant awarding process to ensure a positive impact on the activities of third-party bodies on the Welsh Language.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Policy on Awarding Grants and the Welsh Language be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet for consideration.**

## **5. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS UPDATE**

The Committee received for consideration a progress update on the Council's implementation of the provisions enshrined within the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, which aimed to transform the expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

The Committee received a presentation which detailed the progress of transition from Statements of Special Education Needs (SEN) to Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for pupils with ALN. It was reported that implementation would be undertaken on a phased basis up to August 2025 and would result in three potential categorisation outcomes for children and young people. Consideration was also given to the feedback on the level of success of the transition into the new ALN system, which included an overview of the areas that are working well and those that need to be addressed in terms of the role of the ALN Officers and Co-ordinators, Early Years and Post-16 Provision for children and young people with ALN, training and support, and also the ongoing partnership working with health professionals. The Committee reviewed the statistical data on pupils with ALN in mainstream schools and those requiring specialist setting support whereby it was recognised that there had been a significant increase in demand for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision since September 2021.

The issues/observations raised by the Committee were addressed as follows:-

In response to a query, the process and criteria for the transfer of SEN Statements to ALN IDPs was explained to Members. In this regard it was confirmed that all pupils with existing SEN Statements would be considered for an IDP, with new pupils proceeding directly to the ALN IDP process. Furthermore, legislation prescribed that Statements to IDPs were expected to be completed within a period of 12 weeks using a 'person-centred' approach and information gathering from a variety of sources / appropriate stakeholders. This timeframe was considered to be manageable on the whole, and an improvement on the SEN system, though it was acknowledged that delays could be incurred when awaiting key learner information from stakeholders.

Following concerns regarding potential inconsistencies in the quality of IDPs, an assurance was provided to the Committee that central support was provided by way of close working arrangements with schools to ensure consistency in the standard of IDPs. Furthermore, to address potential disparity in the quality of IDPs across schools of different sizes, it was noted that a comprehensive programme of support and training was provided according to the identified school clusters. In this regard, the progress made by the ALN co-ordinators in the transition from SEN to ALN was highly commended. The Director of

Education and Children's Services referred to recently completed Estyn inspections and a separate report which confirmed that the ALN provision within Carmarthenshire schools was excellent.

The Committee was informed that the notion of IDPs was that they were flexible documents which would transfer with pupils who moved schools. In respect of the Carmarthenshire learners attending out of county schools and settings, it was confirmed that IDPs would be produced by Carmarthenshire following close partnership working and relevant information gathering with the relevant ALN co-ordinator of the school/setting and in accordance with the person-centred approach. Furthermore, it was confirmed that whilst a re-charge facility to the origin Authority was in place for looked-after children, cross border IDP funding was yet to be determined.

Reference was made to the impact on schools in terms of the time pressures on the ALN co-ordinators, and budgetary pressures in accordance with the changes to the formula funding allocation. However, the new person-centred approach was welcomed by ALN coordinators in terms of IDPs being more meaningful, with improved outcomes for learners with ALN.

In response to a query, an overview of the support available for those Educated Otherwise than a School (EOTAS) and Electively Home Educated (EHE) was provided to the Committee. It was agreed that statistics pertaining to the number of EOTAS and EHE children within the county be circulated to the Committee.

In response to concerns raised in respect of capacity issues within specialist settings, the ALN Advisory Teacher clarified that the Council's priority going forward was to enhance the capacity within mainstream schools meet the needs of pupils with ALN in order to provide learners with the opportunity to attend schools within their locality.

Reference was made to the significant footprint of Post 16 specialist provision within the county which afforded a 3-year entitlement to funding and support under the SEN framework. However, it was noted that the ALN code directed a 2-year entitlement for education and training Post 16 where there is a reasonable need which will necessitate a review of the local FEI and LA specialist provision offer. An assurance was provided that discussions were ongoing with Welsh Government to seek clarity on whether the county's existing post-16 provision within the mainstream schools would continue to be funded and the implications of this model, compared with Welsh Government's current preferred route of funding via independent providers. The Committee requested an update on the outcome of the discussions with Welsh Government in due course.

Concerns were raised by the Committee in terms of the lack of parity between Welsh-medium schools in being able to access a wide range of standardised assessments and resources to support the early and accurate identification of ALN, compared with English medium schools. An assurance was provided that this was a priority area for the Council and work was ongoing to address the issue nationally.

Reference was made to the statistical information set out within the report whereby the Director of Education and Children's Services duly clarified that

more secondary school children needed to be transferred to the ALN IDP framework as they had initially been provided with a Statement of SEN, whereas a number of primary school children had been provided with current IDPs, issued prior to the statutory requirement to do so, in instances where parental consent had been provided.

The Committee commended the implementation of new systems and processes to meet statutory requirements and acknowledged the need identified by the Division for additional core funding to ensure a sufficient ALN provision in the long-term. The unprecedented pressures faced by schools to improve attendance and support the academic, social and emotional well-being of learners was also noted.

**RESOLVED that:-**

- 5.1 Statistics pertaining to the number of children ‘Educated Otherwise than a School’ (EOTAS) and Electively Home Educated (EHE) within the County be circulated to the Committee.**
- 5.2 An update on the outcome of discussions with Welsh Government pertaining to funding of post-16 provision be circulated to the Committee in due course.**
- 5.3 The report be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet for consideration.**

**6. WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2023-28**

The Committee received for consideration the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2023-28, which had been prepared in conjunction with the Welsh Language Strategic Forum as part of the Council’s responsibilities through the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 and the subsequent Welsh Language Standards. The strategy detailed how the Council proposed to promote the Welsh language and facilitate the use of the Welsh language across the county.

The Strategy sought to instigate an increase in the number of Welsh speakers, pride and confidence in the Welsh language, increased use of Welsh in the workplace and workforce as ‘a norm’ and thriving Welsh speaking communities. A total of 9 workstreams would be implemented as an action plan to deliver the aims of the strategy during its period of operation. The Strategy would be formally launched at the National Urdd Eisteddfod 2023 in Llandovery.

Reference was made to paragraph 6 of the foreword whereby the Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language clarified that the wording would be revised as follows:

*“Our desire in Carmarthenshire is not **only** to increase numbers and encourage use, but **also** to welcome people into Welsh confidently and without apology.”*

The issues/observations raised by the Committee were addressed as follows:-

A request was made for the graphical representation on page 57 of the meeting documentation to be labelled appropriately. This was agreed.

A concern was raised regarding the lack of physical Welsh Language classes being offered in local areas to enable learners to use and develop their Welsh language skills. The Director of Education and Children's Services reported that the Welsh for Adults provision operated on a franchise arrangement with Coleg Sir Gar and work was ongoing to enhance and expand the provision. In this regard, it was noted that Committee's feedback and input on the Welsh for Adults provision would be welcomed by the division.

Committee welcomed the strategy as a means of positively impacting upon the viability of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire and highlighted the importance of residents being given the opportunity to hear and use the Welsh language within their daily lives.

### **RESOLVED that the**

- 6.1 The graphical representation on page 57 of the meeting documentation to be labelled appropriately.**
- 6.2 Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2023-28 be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet for consideration.**

## **7. AN EVALUATION OF ESTYN INSPECTIONS ACROSS CARMARTHENSHIRE SCHOOLS, PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS AND SPECIALIST SETTINGS**

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of Estyn inspection outcomes within the county for the past five years. The report concluded that standards and leadership were judged good or better in the majority of schools, with only a minority of schools placed in a follow-up category for improvement. An overview of new inspection framework adopted by Estyn in March 2022 was provided to the Committee, together with a summary of the strong or effective practice identified by Estyn inspectors to be shared with others.

The Committee reviewed the school improvement recommendations provided by Estyn since March 2022 and an assurance was provided to the Committee that all Estyn outcomes influenced the division's improvement strategies for schools, ways of working and the Professional Learning support programme.

The issues/observations raised by the Committee were addressed as follows:-

A concern was raised regarding the Estyn Inspection Programme in light of the transition to the new curriculum, coupled with the adverse impact on the development of learners as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The Strategic Lead for School Effectiveness explained that the shift in focus from learners' outcomes to the progress made by learners enabled Estyn, schools and the Authority to take a holistic view of learners, to better meet the needs of individual learners.



**RESOLVED that the report be received.**

**8. SCRUTINY ACTIONS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report which detailed the progress achieved in relation to requests or referrals emerging from previous meetings during the 2022/23 municipal year.

**RESOLVED that the report be received.**

**9. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 24TH MARCH 2023**

**Subject to the inclusion of relevant co-opted members' attendance, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 March 2023 be signed as a correct record.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

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