

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

Task and Finish Group 2019/20

Additional Learning Needs: Changes to the funding structure

Planning & Scoping Document

Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development within their remit. • The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee agreed in principal to undertake a review into the current ALN Funding structure • Elected Members, School Governors, Headteachers and Officers have raised this as a concern. • Our financial support for Additional Learning Needs has experienced much pressure and strain for some time due to increasing demands on the current level of resources available. Schools and officers warmly welcome the opportunity to undertake this detailed and timely review to ensure the implementation of the most effective 'allocation model' in support of Carmarthenshire pupils' needs. • The review's work will further support implementation of the ALN Transformation programme in a strategic, practical and sustainable manner.
Membership	<p><u>Elected Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be agreed at 04/07/19 ECS Scrutiny Committee 3 Members – Plaid Cymru 1 Member – Labour Party 1 Member – Independent Group 1 Member - New Independent Group/Unaffiliated <p><u>Co-opted Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be agreed at 04/07/19 ECS Scrutiny Committee <p><u>Advisors / Support Officers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required

The main aims of the review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse and review costs of the current Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in place giving due consideration to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remaining SEN Statement individual timescales - impact of cost / resource demands on key school transition points e.g. primary to secondary - implications for implementation / transfer to Individual Development Plans (IDPs) 2. Analyse and review current School Action and School Action Plus demand & required levels of appropriate support 3. Research a range of funding models to provide a menu of models for consideration based on detailed modelling exercises e.g. reduced percentage of a SEN element and further increase funding towards SA+ / IDPs, consideration of practice across other LAs etc 4. Agree proposal for a revised ALN funding model which will embrace and provide for all levels of support in an equitable and sustainable manner
Scope of the study	<p>The study will embrace all elements of ALN Funding for all sectors and settings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEN Statement funding - School Action / School Action Plus funding - SAPA funding - ALN supplement support (note: funding for the relatively small ALN supplement for schools is based on the PLASC register)
How it will contribute to achieving corporate / community objectives and priorities	<p>The review will wholly support the wide range of strategic goals and ambitions of the Local Authority. In particular, the following elements of our 2018 – 2013 Corporate Strategy:</p> <p>Carmarthenshire's Wellbeing Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences: 'We will ensure that every child with identified additional learning needs (ALN) in all Carmarthenshire schools will have access to delegated ALN funding and appropriate integrated support services – e.g. Educational and Child Psychology, Sensory Impairment support and Advisory Teachers.' 3. Continue to improve learner attainment for all: 'We will ensure a relentless emphasis on improvement in education outcomes for all children and young people across all learning phases, with a particular focus on vulnerable learners and those entitled to Free School Meals.'
Initial list of key officers, stakeholders, partners or other agencies to involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Children's Services Officers (ALN & Inclusion/ School Improvement / Education Psychology) • School Strategy and Budget Forum Members • School-based Staff (HTs / ALNCos etc) • School Governors • Democratic Services • Other partners as identified during the review period

What information / documents are required to inform the work of the study?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALN Funding models (CCC) • ALN Code of Practice • ALN Transformation Programme
Timescale for completion of the review	<p>July 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping and Planning • Introduction and overview <p>September 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development <p>October 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development <p>November 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development <p>December 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of draft report <p>January/February 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of draft report