

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019

### Mental Health Provision in Education

**Purpose:** To identify any areas of concern or possible areas of improvement, with a view to recommending policy changes to the Executive Board.

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

For Members to review available data on the following:

- Emotional wellbeing - in relation to youth suicide.
- What schools are doing to support young people at risk of developing significant mental health issues?
- Are teaching staff sufficiently skilled/trained to identify 'at risk' pupils?
- What schools are doing at present - noting the range of schools and demographic.
- Overview of good practice and national overview.

#### Reasons:

- During the forward planning process the Committee identified this area as one of interest and Members have requested a report on the matter.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: to be decided**

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

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children	<b>Designations:</b>	Tel No.: 01267 246532
Name of Head of Service:	Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing	E Mail Addresses:
J. Aeron Rees		<a href="mailto:JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Report Author:		
J. Aeron Rees		

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The report aims to address the purposes laid out in the Scrutiny Forward Programme brief and template & covers the following areas:

- Issues of Definition and Context
- Policy Context
  - National
  - Carmarthenshire
- Salient National and County data
- Provision in Carmarthenshire Schools
  - Pastoral Structures
  - Case Study material/evidence
  - Screening and Baseline Assessment
  - Training Delivery for schools
- Support Services for Schools
- Wider Support Services
- Groups and Fora
- Issues arising
- Plans already in place
- Possible further recommendations

**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:** *J. Aeron Rees* Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
--	-------	---------	-----	------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------

YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE
-----	-----	-----	------	-----	-----	------

### **Policy, Crime and Disorder**

The 2018 publication of the Children, Young People and Education Committee's 'Mind over Matter' report called for a step change in the way in which the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people are met. The report also sets out the view that schools should play a much greater role in supporting children's emotional and mental health needs. Minsters have responded to the report, with The Minister for Education indicating in June 2019 that she would be consulting on framework guidance for schools to support them in embedding a whole school approach.

### **Legal**

The New Curriculum for Wales will be statutory from September 2022 for nursery years to year 7. The Health and Wellbeing area of learning will be a statutory component of that new curriculum.

### **Finance**

There are likely to be growth pressures on this area of provision towards the future – e.g. for additional staffing and training. These pressures will become clearer when further Welsh Government guidance is issued.

### **Risk Management**

There are many risk factors when dealing with young people who display vulnerabilities. School staff are being required to play a more prominent role in the mental and emotional needs of pupils, an area in which they may not necessarily have been afforded rigorous initial training. Realistic expectations of the teaching profession and support workers are required, coupled with clear referral pathways and unambiguous signposting from the profession to specialist services – for those pupils who present as acute cases.

### **Staffing Implications**

There is a demand for additional training and a requirement for greater specialism. Sourcing this from present staffing capacity needs to be carefully considered.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: *J. Aeron Rees*

Head of Learner Programmes

### 1. Scrutiny Committee

**Scrutiny Committee to be consulted on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**

### 2. Local Member(s)

N/A

### 3. Community / Town Council

N/A

### 4. Relevant Partners

### 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Various colleagues have assisted in amalgamating information for the report.

The report is underpinned by two other strategies which have previously gone through the Corporate Process:

- Equity and Wellbeing Strategy
- Behaviour Support Review

(There were appropriate consultations for these reports)

## 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
Equity and Wellbeing Strategy		On request from ECS or <a href="#">link</a>
Behaviour Support Review		On request from ECS or <a href="#">link</a>
Services and support for children and young people with mental Health Issues		Social Care & Health Scrutiny 17.4.19 <a href="http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/documents/g2181/Pe cyn%20adroddiadau%20cyhoeddus%2017eg-Ebr-2019%2010.00%20Pwyllgor%20Craffu%20Gofal%20Cymdeithasol%20ac%20Iechyd.pdf?T=10&amp;LLL=1">http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/documents/g2181/Pe cyn%20adroddiadau%20cyhoeddus%2017eg-Ebr-2019%2010.00%20Pwyllgor%20Craffu%20Gofal%20Cymdeithasol%20ac%20Iechyd.pdf?T=10&amp;LLL=1</a> pages 5-16
References for paper		See final page of main report