

Education and Children Scrutiny Committee

23rd November 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire's Children and Young People

Purpose: To provide the Scrutiny Committee with information in regard to impact of Covid-19 on our children and young people and the Department/ Council's response to the challenges.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the report is accepted, and that the short, medium and long term implications are considered.

Reasons:

To take stock of the impact of the pandemic on the Community and the Council's response.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Glynog Davies

Directorate Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans Report Author: Robert James	Designations: Director of Education and Children's Services Performance Management Officer	Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses: 01267 246 522 EDGMorgans@sirgar.gov.uk 01267 224486 RNJames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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Executive Summary
Education and Children Scrutiny Committee
23rd November 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire

This document is a Community Impact Assessment of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Council's response over the last six months.

There are four interlinked categories of impact that individuals and communities will need to recover from:

- Impact on the **Community**
- Impact on the **Economy**
- Impact on the **Infrastructure and Environment**
- Impact on **Health and Welfare**

The nature of the impacts and whether and at what level action needs to be taken will depend in large part on the nature, scale and severity of the emergency itself. This assessment should inform the reset and re-prioritisation of resources and services.

The section most relevant to this Scrutiny Committee's responsibility is the **Community Section** specifically the following items-

- *Children*
- *Wellbeing of pupils and students*
- *Free school meals*
- *Continuation of Learning*
- *Modernising Education Services*
- *Children's Services*
- *Young People*

In addition the following sections will be of interest to Members-

- *Building a Better Council*
- *Reset*
- *The Well-being of Future Generations Act*
- *COVID-19*

The report will not cover all aspects of the Department's work since March but will give an insight into some of the challenges faced and the solutions developed to address those challenges. It has to be noted that our services and schools continue to be under pressure as a result of Covid-19.

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: Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

1. We must make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities. We must identify our key learning points at an organisational level and across the breadth of our services. To achieve this our Transformation and Innovation and Change Team is undertaking a strategic evaluation.
2. We will also need to reset our '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire 5 Year Plan*', *Corporate Strategy* and revisit our *Well-being Objectives*.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to inevitable widespread changes to the way in which services are delivered by local authorities. This means that it is even more critical that Local Authorities respect the needs of all service users and equalities.
4. We will need to reprioritise services and our resources in budget setting.

3. Finance

We are in an unprecedented position due to a combination of additional irrecoverable costs due to COVID-19 activity, foregone income from closed services which may not be fully recompensed by Welsh Government (WG) and planned savings proposals which have been undeliverable due to the pandemic.

6. Staffing

In May, **2,543 (32%)** of our staff across all departments took part in a survey on the new way of working following the COVID-19 outbreak, the results will help shape the future way of working.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services

1. Local Member(s)- N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

During the Pandemic the following consultations took place:-

- Parental survey with 4,433 responses
- 574 businesses responded to our questionnaire and 422 businesses were contacted
- 2,543 responded to our staff survey

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

This report has been considered by the Executive Board Member for Education and Children.

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire		See page 53 of report