

# EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 8th July 2021

**Subject:** Education Department Stepping Forward

**Purpose:** To provide the scrutiny committee with an overview of the Education Department's Covid response and how findings are shaping strategic plans for moving forward.

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

To consider the findings of the report and the strategic direction of the department in moving forward.

**Reasons:** To reassure the scrutiny committee that schools are being supported to meet the needs of vulnerable learners and address any gaps in learning

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-  
Cllr. Glynog Davies, Education and Children's Services

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel: / Email addresses:
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Aneirin Thomas  <b>Report Authors:</b> Elin Forsyth  Aeron Rees  Aneirin Thomas	Head of Education Services and Inclusion  Interim Head of School Effectiveness / Principal Education Support Adviser  Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing  Head of Education Services and Inclusion	01267 246506 <a href="mailto:ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  07584004000 <a href="mailto:EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 246532 <a href="mailto:JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  01267 246506 <a href="mailto:ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">ARThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

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### 8th July 2021

#### SUBJECT

#### Education Department Stepping Forward

#### 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

This report is written in response to a request for information from CMT and the subsequent request that this is shared with PEB and the scrutiny committee.

It provides an overview of how the Education Department has worked with schools and pupil referral units to promote learning and support vulnerable pupils during the COVID-19 period.

It captures the ways services in the department adapted their work to respond to the challenges resulting from COVID-19. It also considers key learning that will form our strategic response in moving forward.

Key to the report is the work of the department's strategic groups in ensuring a clear drive and commitment to ensure that as a local authority we are focused on:

**Promoting learning** – the quality of the learning offers and how this has, and can be supported through further guidance and professional learning

**Supporting vulnerable pupils** – how did and can the local authority targeted services support vulnerable pupils to assist them to engage in learning. What barriers still exist

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

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

We will have to consider and implement Welsh Government's plan to support education recovery (LEARNING FORWARD) which is due to be published as well as the Review and Renew Guidance. In addition, we will need to ensure schools comply with grant conditions and requirements in regard to WGs support programmes.

### **Finance**

As noted in the report substantial additional funding has been provided by the Welsh Government to support education recovery. We need to ensure that this funding ensures high quality interventions and value for money.

### **Staffing Implications**

Welsh Government to support education recovery will require schools to secure additional staff members with the appropriate skill set to support our learners. There is some concern in the availability of staff especially those with experience/bilingual skills.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Aneirin Thomas**

Head of Education and Inclusion

**1. Local Member(s)** - N/A

**2. Community / Town Council** - N/A

### **3. Relevant Partners**

We have engaged with school leaders on our plans and priorities for recovery.

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - N/A

### **5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

We will engage with ERF on our plans and priorities for recovery in our next meeting on the **10th July**.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD 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