

Education and Children Scrutiny Committee

30th November 2021

Education Department's 10 Year Strategy

Purpose: We need to build on the improving practice which is already evident within the Education Service in order to deliver the same opportunity for all learners and consistently excellent outcomes. This strategy sets out a clear, shared vision for the role that education services play in the future development of vibrant communities and a prosperous economy in Carmarthenshire.

It will also:

- Provide an overview of **strategic thinking** over the next 10 years.
- Bring together our collective **vision**, mission statements and **priorities**.
- Provide a steady steer during a **time of change**.
- Provide **insight** into the golden thread from international, national and corporate policy
- **Reside as a high-level summary which contextualises our Business Planning processes and documentation.**

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. Does the Strategy meet the aims as noted above?
2. Are the 20 Purpose Pieces relevant and reflect the County Council's aspirations?
3. Can the Strategy be improved in any way?

Reasons:

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet for consideration

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: YES

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Glynog Davies

Directorate - Education and Children's Services

Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans

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Local authorities have many roles and responsibilities in relation to the provision of education services. The powers and duties of a local authority are in some cases general and in other cases quite specific. In regard to Education, Local Authorities operate within a statutory framework that places upon them, amongst others, the following general powers:

- Local authorities must contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the people in its area
- Local authorities must secure that their education and training functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential.
- Local authorities must also secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for its area.
- Local authorities play a key role in the financing of schools.
- Local authorities have statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for children's special educational needs.

The primary statutory role of safeguarding the welfare of children in Wales lies with local authorities as defined by Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Inspections of **Local Government Education Services** are carried out under Section 38 of the Education Act 1997 which provides that Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (HMCI) 'may, and, if requested to do so by the Secretary of State, shall, arrange for any local authority to be inspected'. Such an inspection '*shall consist of a review of the way in which the authority are performing any function which relates to the provision of education for (a) persons of compulsory school age (whether at school or otherwise) or (b) for persons of any age above or below that age who are registered as pupils at schools maintained by the authority*'.

The starting point for inspection is the local authority's evaluation of its own performance, supported by relevant evidence including a clear strategy. Honest and thorough self-evaluation, alongside diligent risk assessment, enables local authorities to sustain and further develop good services, plan for improvement where necessary and make informed decisions about the efficient use of resources.

Our new proposed vision is ***Making sure every child and young person is valued and valued equally***. This vision is hopefully clear and concise and based on the principles of equality and equity.

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: 

Director of Education and Children's Services

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

Legal- there is a requirement to adhere to Welsh Government legislation in regard to maintaining standards and safeguarding. In addition, Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, and CSSIW will be inspecting us.

Finance- The strategy is to be delivered within our current resources.

Risk Management Issues- If we do not meet our duties and responsibilities in regard to children and young people, there are risks in regard to the inspection by Estyn and CSSIW.

Staffing Implications- The strategy is to be delivered within our current resources.

Physical Assets- our aspirations in regard to the school footprint will be delivered via our MEP.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: 

Director of Education and Children's Services

1. Local Member(s)- NA

2. Community / Town Council- NA

3. Relevant Partners

- The Strategy has been drafted as a result of workshops with Senior Managers within the Education and Children's Services Department.
- Headteacher Workshops were held
- A Chairs of Governors workshop was held on the 4th of November.
- It has been shared with our regional service- PARTNERIAETH- in order that it impacts on their Business Plan.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations- Draft shared with Trade Union representatives in the Employee Forum Meeting on the

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
YES

Cllr. Glynog Davies is supportive of the Strategy and has developed the introduction included in the document.

**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
Inspections of Local Government Education Services		<u>What we inspect - Local government education services for inspections from 2021</u>
Education Act 1996		<u>Education Act 1996 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
Moving Forward Carmarthenshire		<u>Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5-years (gov.wales)</u>