

CABINET MEETING

31st January 2022

Subject- 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 vision for the role that education services play in the future development of vibrant communities and a prosperous economy in Carmarthenshire.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. Agree that the Strategy and 20 Purpose Pieces meet the agreed aims and the Cabinet's aspirations for Education Services.
2. To agree to the final version for launching and publishing.

Reasons: We need a strategy that-

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

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted YES

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee- November 30th, 2021

The Committee UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- that the report be received;
- that reference to parents and carers be included in Aspiration 18 within the strategy;
- that the observations made above be relayed to the Cabinet for consideration.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- **Cllr. Glynog Davies**

Directorate- Education and Children's Services

**Name of Head of Service:
Gareth Morgans**

Report Author: Gareth Morgans

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CABINET MEETING
31st January 2022

Subject- Education Department's 10 Year Strategy

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: *R. Dymally*

Director of Education and Children's Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal YES	Finance YES	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues YES	Staffing Implications YES	Physical Assets YES
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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: *R. Dymally*

Director of Education and Children's Services

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee was consulted on 30th November 2021.

Recommendations / Comments: The Committee considered the Education & Children's Services Department's 10 Year Strategy which brought together the department's strategic thinking, collective vision, mission statements and priorities over the next 10 years. The department's new proposed vision was "*Making sure every child and young person is valued and valued equally*".

The Committee was asked to consider and comment upon the following issues and to formulate views thereon for submission to the Cabinet for consideration:-

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

The following questions/observations were raised on the report:-

- Asked how officers consulted with schools on the strategy, the Committee was informed that consultation was undertaken on two levels – three workshops were held with headteachers and consultation was also undertaken with secondary school councils;
- Reference was made to the fact that over the next 10 years a significant cohort of children who have been affected by the pandemic will pass through the school system and the need to ensure that no children slip through the system was stressed. The Director explained that Aspirations 2,4 and 5 within the strategy have been specifically written with that in mind. Many of these high level aspirations have been written bearing in mind that we will be dealing with the repercussions of the pandemic for a long time;
- Reference was made to the fact that the availability of staff with relevant experience and bilingual skills continues to be a challenge for the Authority. With regard to the 10 Year Strategy and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, officers were asked how the Authority is going to address these issues i.e. how will we recruit all the staff with necessary language skills and how will we retain those staff. The Director explained that beneath these strategies sit the departmental business plans which contain the details in relation to how we support the strategies. Lots of staff have engaged in online learning during the pandemic and teaching still remains an attractive occupation with a high number currently undertaking teacher training;
- Asked how the strategy will be linked to measurements which can be monitored such as KPIs and timescales, the Director explained that officers are currently in discussion regarding the best way to measure progress on the 20 high level aspirations;
- With regard to Aspiration 3, reference was made to the fact that we need to ensure that children have the right skills to succeed in particular entrepreneurship and innovation. With regard to Aspiration 18, the importance of the role of parents and carers was stressed as it was felt that schools need supportive parents and parents need supportive schools;
- If WG is serious about reaching 1m Welsh speakers then the next 10 years are going to be instrumental in that, officers were asked if there will be specific targets in place in relation to the number of children being taught in Welsh streams etc. The Director explained that the WG has set targets for each Local Authority and for Carmarthen the target is that 68%-74% of children in Year 1 will be taught through the medium of Welsh by the end of the WESP. The figure is currently 58% and we have to respond to that challenge.

Local Member(s); The Strategy was shared with School Governing Bodies for comment- as Members of Governing Bodies local Members would have had the opportunity to contribute/comment.

Community / Town Council; N/A

Relevant Partners

- The Strategy has been drafted as a result of workshops with Senior Managers within the Education and Children’s Services Department. A further comment was made in relation to the photographs needing to represent all sectors i.e. primary and secondary aged learners.
- 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.

Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations- Draft shared with Trade Union representatives in the Employee Forum Meeting on the 9th December.

**CABINET MEMBER
PORTFOLIO HOLDER
AWARE/CONSULTED- YES**

Cllr. Glynog Davies has been instrumental in developing this strategy and his introduction in partnership with the Director outlines the commitment to the children and young people of Carmarthenshire.

**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>