

# EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

## Subject: School Engagement Session

### Purpose:

- To allow members of scrutiny to engage directly with the school community.
- To be provided with first-hand evidence of school preparedness for, and the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act.

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

- How schools have been preparing for the implementation of the new Code from September 2021
- How the Education Service have been supporting schools  
Current issues arising from early implementation

### Reasons:

- Current limitations mean that scrutiny visits to schools are not possible. Education Services have therefore provided a new structure to allow scrutiny to ensure that evaluation and improvement is functioning effectively.
- The sessions will help scrutiny members to oversee the quality of delivery by the local authority and, in doing so, to fulfil their democratic accountability functions.
- Scrutiny members wish to understand the impact of the new ALN act on schools.

### To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision:

No

### Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:-

Cllr Glynog Davies

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Directorate:</b><br>Education and Children Services                         | <b>Designations:</b>                                     | <b>Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses:</b>  |
| <b>Name of Head of Service:</b><br>Aneirin Thomas                              | Head of Education Services and Inclusion                 | 01267 246506<br><a href="mailto:arthomas@sirgar.gov.uk">arthomas@sirgar.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Report Authors:</b><br>Aneirin Thomas<br>Rebecca Williams / Elinor Williams | Head of Education Services and Inclusion<br>ALN Managers |  |

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### The ALN system in Carmarthenshire

We are determined to deliver a fully inclusive education system for learners in Carmarthenshire, a system where needs are identified early and addressed quickly, and where all learners are supported to reach their potential.

To prepare for the implementation of the ALN system officers have been working, together with ALNCo to increase the skills and understanding of school staff to improve outcomes for children and young people with ALN.

### We want to make sure that:

- children, their parents and young people's views, wishes and feelings are listened to when decisions are being made about how to help children and young people;
- the right support is put in place quickly to help children and young people with ALN
- everyone works together to help children and young people with ALN, including education and health services;
- most children and young people with ALN are able to go to their local nursery, school, PRU or college, if it is right for them;
- children and their families are able to access learning support even before they start school or nursery;
- children, their parents and young people understand the additional learning provision (ALP) being offered;
- if children, their parents or young people are not happy with decisions about statements, there are rights in law to help them do something about it;
- children and young people with ALN get help in Welsh wherever possible if they need it.

**To this end we have engaged with schools to ensure that schools have:**

- An organisational culture that affirms 'ALN is everyone's business'.
- A sound universal understanding of high-quality differentiated teaching amongst the workforce.
- Embedded inclusive practice which makes appropriate reasonable adjustments to enable access to the school environment, curriculum and facilities and a culture the encourages a sense of belonging;
- Good leadership and management that reflects an understanding of the Act and embeds ALN within the school development plan and the capacity building activity of the school.
- An Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) with a recognised strategic role who influences school policy and the curriculum offer as well as encouraging person-centred approaches in the culture of the school.
- A person-centred approach to meeting the needs of learners that shows evidence that participation in decision making has been encouraged and the views, wishes and feelings of the child and their parents/carers and the young person have been seriously considered.
- Sound arrangements and assessment for identifying ALN early.
- Arrangements to provide targeted support and intervention using person centred tools and approaches.
- Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing progress and the effectiveness of interventions including clarity around how delegated funding is used to promote progress for learners with ALN (value-added). Roll out of provision mapping tool to support progress monitoring.
- Arrangements for avoiding or resolving disagreements or disputes early and avoiding escalation of needs and provision.
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**DETAILED REPORT  
ATTACHED ?**

School Presentation.

## 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>NONE</b>                             | <b>NONE</b> | <b>NONE</b> | <b>NONE</b> | <b>NONE</b>            | <b>NONE</b>           | <b>NONE</b>     |

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Not Applicable

**(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)**

**1. Local Member(s)**

Not Applicable

**2. Community / Town Council**

Not Applicable

**3. Relevant Partners**

Not Applicable

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

Not Applicable.

**CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)  
AWARE/CONSULTED**  
NO

**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.