

EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 MARCH 2023

INTERIM REPORT ON POST 16 EDUCATION REVIEW

Purpose:

Carmarthenshire's Education and Children's Service Business Plan states as one of its four key themes the creation of strong and inclusive schools and services committed to excellence, equity and well-being and in achieving this the need to: 'review our Post 16 provision to create a sustainable provision and curriculum which meets the needs of our learners and Carmarthenshire's local needs'.

The Scrutiny Committee Is Asked To:

Review and assess the information contained in the report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason(s)

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet / Council for consideration.

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Glynog Davies, Cabinet Member for Education and Welsh Language

Directorate: Education

Name of Head of Service:

J. Aeron Rees

Report Author:

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Designations:

Head of Strategy and Learner Support

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERIM REPORT ON POST 16 EDUCATION REVIEW

Executive Summary

Learners in Carmarthenshire's secondary schools have identified what they value in their educational experience and what provision and experiences they want developed and reinforced at Post 16 to enable them to be thriving, independent and have a voice in developing pathways for success in employment and life and be active ethical citizens in the local and wider community.

Purpose

Carmarthenshire's Education and Children's Service Business Plan states as one of its four key themes the creation of strong and inclusive schools and services committed to excellence, equity and well-being and in achieving this the need to: 'review our Post 16 provision to create a sustainable provision and curriculum which meets the needs of our learners and Carmarthenshire's local needs'.

This interim report builds upon the fieldwork undertaken in schools and further education, basing many of its early conclusions and recommendations on the testimony of learners. The report will outline progress so far in: establishing overarching principles for evolving the post 16 landscape in Carmarthenshire; establishing initial findings from young person interviews & school and college leaders whilst also proposing interim recommendations and a proposals for a remodelled governance structure.

Further work is required to consider alternative models of delivery, allowing also some time to complete desktop research into data and other sources of information.

Scrutiny members are invited to provide commentary on findings so far to assist in completing the final report, which is anticipated to be completed before the end of the current academic year.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED YES**

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: *J. Aeron Rees*

Head of Strategy and Learner Support

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

2. Legal

The interim recommendations require no changes to governance which require statutory authority. However, some conclusions might be challenged by some stakeholders.

3. Finance

It will be possible to apply to the Skills and Talent Fund for funding to develop vocational pathways. The recommendations will provide opportunities to rationalise provision in line with strategic priorities and improve value for money and financial sustainability.

4. ICT

There is a need to develop ICT resources to support collaboration on hybrid learning; however, this should be covered by savings from collaboration and existing funding.

All ICT development is in line with County's existing and future education ICT provision and needs.

5. Risk Management Issues

There is a risk learners may find the prospect of hybrid collaboration less desirable than complete face to face provision and move to other providers but in our Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg (PAG) schools, this fear has been overcome and there is a risk, if we don't prepare and develop the independence associated with hybrid working, learners will be at a disadvantage in Higher Education and future workplace arrangements.

Failing to undertake the strategy will risk our sixth forms and Post 16 more generally being unable to have the strategic oversight and collaborative mindset to meet the need to develop more options but especially Welsh Language and Vocational options for learners in a flexible and sustainable way.

Without collaboration and co-creation of options and pathways we are faced with the prospect of some of our sixth forms being financially unsustainable and/or being unable to meet the statutory measure of offering 30 subjects at Post 16 including 5 vocational subjects. There is a perceived increased risk around this with the advent of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research from April 2024 having been bestowed powers over Post 16 education including sixth forms by the Education Minister.

6. Staffing Implications

Over time, there may be a possibility that collaboration will release teaching staff from a school where staffing costs could be rationalised. Staff could be redeployed to undertake duties across institutions such as supporting hybrid learning.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	Include any observations here
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE