

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30.11.2021

WELLBEING: EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Purpose: To provide the scrutiny committee with an overview of how the Education and Children's Services Department is supporting the Wellbeing of learners and staff across our schools, pupil referral units and specialist settings.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To consider the findings of the report and presentation and to challenge and support the strategic direction of the department in moving forward.

Reasons:

- To inform the scrutiny committee of the challenges that our schools are currently addressing and how they are being supported by the Education and Children's services department in addressing these concerns.
- To ensure that the council is well informed in their decision making in relation to the wellbeing needs of learners and staff in our schools.
- To inform the scrutiny committee from an educational perspective, supporting the council to respond in a collaborative manner when addressing the wellbeing needs of the learners, the workforce and the residents of Carmarthenshire.

To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: No

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

Directorate:	Designations:	Tel: / Email addresses:
Education & Children		
Head of Service: Elin Forsyth	Interim Head of School Improvement, Curriculum and Wellbeing	07584004000 EMForsyth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Authors: Angharad Jones	Education Support Advisor	07584143725 aemjones@sirgar.gov.uk
Angela Davies	Principal Educational and Child Psychologist	07813 393770 adavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Nia Tilley	Health and Wellbeing Coordinator	01267 246131 (ext 6131) NTilley@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Elinor Jones	ALN Manager (Process)	(01267) 246455 ERWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Rebecca Williams	Additional Learning Needs Manager (Provision)	01267 246455 rawilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30TH NOVEMBER 2021

Wellbeing: Education and Children's Services Department

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is written to provide an overview of the extensive ways in which the Education and Children's services (ECS) department is supporting our schools, pupil referral units and specialist settings in relation to the wellbeing of learners and staff.

The report summaries how the ECS Department continues to work alongside our schools responding to the changing needs of learners, families and staff, as we continue to address the COVID pandemic.

The Wellbeing challenges faced by our schools are increasingly pronounced and complex, adding additional pressures on staffing across our schools.

Additional support and training opportunities continue to be provided adapting the learning offer Aiming to meet the demand from our schools.

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: Elin Forsyth Interim Head of School Improvement, Curriculum and Wellbeing

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

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

We continue to respond to the:

- Welsh Government's Renew and Reform: supporting learners' wellbeing and progression, Covid 19 recovery plan for education.
- Welsh Government guidance: Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Framework

Finance

Additional funding has been provided by the Welsh Government to support education recovery. We continue to ensure that this funding is utilised in line with the terms and conditions of this funding and that it impacts positively on pupils' Wellbeing and Learning experiences.

Staffing Implications

To support education recovery, schools may be required to secure additional staff members with the appropriate skill set to support our learners and their wellbeing, utilising the appropriate grants.

The availability of staff with the relevant experience and bilingual skills remains challenging.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Elin Forsyth, Interim Head of School Improvement, Curriculum and Wellbeing

1. Local Member(s) - NA

2. Community / Town Council - NA

3. Relevant Partners

We continue to engage with school leaders through their headteacher business meetings and on a 1 to 1 basis, ensuring that their views inform our strategic focus, provision and learning offer.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Updates are provided for our Educational Relations Forum.

**CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S)
AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE