

# CABINET

## 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

#### Primary School Admissions Review (Rising 4s)

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

It is recommended that Cabinet considers the contents of the report.

**Reasons:**

To provide information on a gap analysis of early years provision across the county to inform a decision on whether to consult on a change to primary school full time admission arrangements (Rising 4s Policy).

**Preliminary Cabinet Consulted:** YES

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted:** NO

**Cabinet Decision Required** YES

**Council Decision Required** NO

**Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)

**Directorate:**  
Education & Children

**Name of Head of Service:**  
Simon Davies

**Report Author:**  
Allan Carter

**Designations:**

Head of Access to Education

Schools Transformation and  
Change Manager

**Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:**

01267 246518  
[SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

01267 246518  
[acarter@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:acarter@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## CABINET 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS Primary School Admissions Review (Rising 4s)

#### **Background**

In 2018/19 the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee completed a Task & Finish Review of the current provision for early years education, childcare and play opportunities.

One of the conclusions identified in the report was that that the Authority's 'Rising 4s' policy is markedly different to other neighbouring local authorities' and that the 'Council undertake a formal review of its current admissions policy for full time education for 4-year-olds (the rising 4s policy).'

Cabinet has already considered a report into the rationale for this and requested an assessment of the implications of removal of the Rising 4s Policy in individual schools.

#### **Purpose**

This document takes the form of a gap analysis of education provision for 3- and 4-year-old children should the Policy be amended. It highlights where removal of the Policy will have limited or no impact and those schools (all 4-11 schools) where removal will leave gaps in provision in some schools and geographical areas. Potential solutions where gaps in provision have been identified has been proposed. However, any financial implications of changes resulting in increased expenditure would make them contingent on the removal of the Rising 4s Policy.

The attached document presents the gap analysis, and summarises schools into different types according to their current provision.

It is important to highlight the potential implications of any changes to current arrangements in terms of parental perception, equity of provision, redistribution of funding consultation requirements and accommodation issues.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Cabinet considers the contents of the report, and its recommendations as follows:

That Carmarthenshire as the Admissions Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools:

- During the annual admissions consultation exercise in January 2024, for potential implementation in September 2025, consults on the removal of the Rising 4s Policy.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES: Report**

# 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:  Head of Access to Education

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO

## Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Any changes to primary school admission arrangements will affect Carmarthenshire's School Admissions Policy and require the appropriate consultations as laid out in the Welsh Governments School Admissions Code.

## Legal

Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and amended by Section 40 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced the requirement for the Welsh Ministers to issue a Code in respect of the discharge of admissions functions. In particular, the Code also sought to safeguard the interests of parents, children and young people by ensuring that school admissions are administered in the fairest and most equitable way possible.

The most recent School Admissions Code was issued in 2013 and is intended to clarify the process for everyone with an interest in school admissions and school admission appeals, help admission authorities to fulfil their duties correctly and improve working practices.

## Finance

There is an opportunity to explore altering the full-time admission of pupils, creating more 3-11 schools to offer part time nursery provision in their locality, provide more business opportunities to the non-maintained sector to provide early years provision/wrap around care and make budget efficiencies. This would require further detailed financial modelling as recommended by the task and finish report.

## Staffing Implications

A change to the primary school's admissions policy and a more detailed review into the impact on each school may have staffing implications which will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Policy and Procedures.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:  Head of Access to Education

<b>1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date the report was considered:-</b>	
<b>Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-</b>	

**2. Local Member(s)** – Not applicable at this stage.

**3. Community / Town Council** – Not applicable at this stage.

**4. Relevant Partners** – Not applicable at this stage.

**5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Not applicable at this stage.

<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED</b> YES	N/A
---	-----

**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
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS Admissions Review (Rising 4s)</b>	<a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=405&amp;Mid=7154&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=405&amp;Mid=7154&amp;Ver=4</a>
<b>SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - Primary School Admissions Review (Rising 4s)</b>	<a href="https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=131&amp;Mid=5719&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=131&amp;Mid=5719&amp;Ver=4</a>
<b>Carmarthenshire County Council School Admissions Policy 2021-22</b>	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1225137/school-admissions-policy-2021-22.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1225137/school-admissions-policy-2021-22.pdf</a>
<b>School Admissions Code (Wales) 2013</b>	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf</a>