



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP **MEETING**

4.00 pm MONDAY, 16TH JULY, 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBER

Please note that today's meeting will be recorded.

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The Public Seating areas will be in view of the Camera and, by entering the Chamber and using the Public Seating Area, Members of the Public are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings as outlined above.

This Agenda has been prepared by the Democratic Services Department. Any member of the public requiring information should contact the department on (01685) 725284 or email democratic@merthyr.gov.uk.

Any reference documents referred to but not published as part of this agenda can be found on the Council's website or intranet under Background Papers.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)

Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 relating to Council Tax, the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct

Note:

- (a) Members are reminded that they must identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest and
- (b) Where Members withdraw from a Meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chair when they leave

- 3. The work of the Public Service Board and links with Education
To consider report of the Chief Officer Education **5 - 8**
- 4. Overview of the progress of Youth Support Services since the ESTYN Monitoring Visit 2015
To receive report of the Chief Officer Education **9 - 16**

CLOSED SESSION

Exempt

In order for the following to be considered in private, it is suggested that the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph/s 15 under Part 4 of Schedule 12A Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 5. Additional Learning Needs (ALN) – Review of learning resource bases (LRBs) across the authority - revised
To consider report of the Chief Officer Education **17 - 20**

RE-OPENED SESSION

- 6. Annual Work Programme
To consider the attached report **21 - 32**
- 7. Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions

8. Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting
To receive an update from the Chair
9. Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair

<p>COMPOSITION: Councillors: H R Jones (Chair) C Davies (Vice-Chair)</p> <p>Councillors: D Chaplin, L Davies, S Jago and S Thomas</p> <p>Co-optees: C Brown, R Lazell, K Phelan, M Symonds, A Rees, A Roberts and R Crowley</p> <p>together with appropriate officers</p>
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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	2 nd July 2018
Report Author	Sue Walker
Service Area	Learning
Committee Date	16 th July 2018

To: *Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD AND LINKS WITH EDUCATION

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides members with information regarding how the priorities outlined in the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan align with the work of schools and the Learning Department.
- 1.2 It also outlines the other key drivers for schools – The National Mission and Successful Futures and considers how these link with the Cwm Taf Wellbeing plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The report is discussed and noted.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Wellbeing plan 2018-2023 was published in March 2018.
- 3.2 The Public Service Board (PSB) set out its statement of intent *“The members of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board are committed to developing a collaborative public service that puts the people in our communities at its centre.”*
- 3.3 The ambition being *“We work as One Public Service, with communities, to support the development of resilient communities that are informed, connected, active and resourced and have the ability to adapt to and influence change and improve wellbeing.”*

There are three objectives within the plan:–

- Thriving Communities
- Healthy People
- A Strong Economy

with one cross-cutting objective – Tackling Loneliness & Isolation.

- 3.4 Schools are also expected to reference their work within the aims of Education in Wales : Our National Mission. The key priorities in this are developing a high quality education profession, supporting and developing inspiration leaders, ensuring excellence, equity and wellbeing for all, and developing robust and rigorous assessment, evaluation and accountability systems.
- 3.5 Alongside this schools are preparing for the introduction of the Successful Futures Curriculum which has as its four enablers the need to develop learners who are ambitious and capable, are enterprising and creative contributors, being ethical informed citizens and who are healthy confident individuals.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 4.1 Underneath the PSB sits a Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) which is tasked with drawing up the delivery plans for each of the objectives.
- 4.2 The delivery plans include actions, timescales, key milestones, performance and outcome indicators and accountability for delivery.
- 4.3 The Chief Officer (Learning) for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has been the Education representative on this board since its inception.
- 4.4 The Head of Community Wellbeing also sits on the SPB as do other officers from other service areas within the Council.
- 4.5 The Learning Department officer for inclusion and well-being has been part of a number of the work streams relating to Healthy People.

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 5.1 Schools and the Learning Department are involved in ensuring the success of the delivery plans.
- 5.2 In March 2018, the Learning Department arranged a Young People’s Conference to look at the impact of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act on their local community. The work from this conference is available as a background paper.
- 5.3 Within **Tackling Loneliness and Isolation** one of the immediate actions involves connecting people interested in volunteering “*e.g. linking opportunities for young people doing the Welsh Baccaulaureate or Duke of Edinburgh awards with local volunteering opportunities.*”

- 5.4 A session has been arranged with all secondary schools and colleges across Cwm Taf, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT), Interlink (the equivalent of VAMT in Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT)) and other interested parties, to look at how schools can improve their Welsh Baccalaureate offer to include as wide a range of voluntary organisations as possible.
- 5.5 Further work will be undertaken with cluster primary schools to see how links can be made for volunteering from an early age.
- 5.6 The objective relating to **Thriving Communities** gives education the opportunity to become involved in the development of the Community Zone on the Gurnos. Pupils from Goetre Primary School and Pen y Dre High School have identified how they would wish the community zone to support them and their wellbeing.
- 5.7 The plan refers to raising awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- 5.8 The Learning Department accessed money from the Central South Consortium (CSC) to purchase 'Resilience', a film which outlines research into the biological effects of ACES.
- 5.9 This film has been shown as part of a training session to Headteachers. It has also been shown to staff within the Learning Department and will be rolled out during the Autumn Term to further teachers and governors.
- 5.10 CSC are also supporting schools to understand this agenda and the Children Looked After (CLA) team also support schools.
- 5.11 Other initiatives that support this priority are – the Healthy Schools Agenda, Eco Schools & Mile a Day.
- 5.12 Working with The College, Merthyr is key to developing education links with the **Strong Economy** objective.
- 5.13 In September 2018, for the second year, there will be a cohort of learners undertaking junior apprenticeships in construction.
- 5.14 New standards for teachers have been co-constructed and are being rolled out from September 2018.
- 5.15 The National Academy for Educational Leadership (NAEL) has been launched and an agreed All Wales programme for leaders is being introduced.
- 5.16 New accountability measures are being introduced at Key Stage 4 from Summer 2019, and changes in reporting at the other key stages have also been made.
- 5.17 The CSC are supporting school in their preparation for the roll out of Successful Futures.

6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

6.1 The local authority's ambition is to be ranked in the top ten performing local authorities in Wales by 2020 – we also have the ambition that children and young people are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals. Understanding priorities of the community and how these are met through formal education will support this ambition.

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT






- 7.1 In order to achieve our ambition the local authority will:
- work with The College, Merthyr and other partners to develop a 14+ strategy to support learners in making a considered career pathway;
 - link with the work undertaken for The Crucible with activities being undertaken in schools (see below in Background Papers);
 - ensure schools are aware of the PSB and its aims and objectives considering how they link to the National education priorities; and
 - continue to involve pupils in discussion around this agenda.

8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The contents of this report relate to the following Wellbeing Objectives:
- Best start to life: Children and young people are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.
 - Living Well – tackling adverse childhood experiences and developing community resilience; improving emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - Working well – preparing learners for the life of work

SUE WALKER
CHIEF OFFICER (LEARNING)

COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON
PORTFOLIO LEAD FOR LEARNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Cwmtaf Wellbeing plan	March 2018	 CWMTAF WBP.pdf
WFG Act: Children and young people conference	July 2018	 CYP conference
Our National Mission	December 2017	  170926-education-in-wales-en.pdf 171218-education-in-wales-key-dates-cak
Successful Futures	Ongoing	 151021-a-curriculum-for-wales-poster.pdf
Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Heritage – Design Charette Report	October 2017	https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/dcfw-cdn/DCFW_MerthyrCharrette_web.pdf
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		NO

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE INFORMATION REPORT

Date Written	25 th June 2018
Report Author	Chris Hole/Samantha Morgan
Service Area	Community Wellbeing
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	16 th July 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES SINCE THE ESTYN MONITORING VISIT 2015

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the progress of the wider youth support services across Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. The scale of Youth Support services encompasses any service for young people between 11-25 that supports individuals to participate in education or training, to take advantage of opportunities for employment or to participate effectively and responsibly in the life of their communities.
- 1.2 This report focuses on the critical areas highlighted within the Estyn Monitoring visit in 2015 and outlines what has been achieved since then to improve the identification of needs and the strategic planning of services through Multi Agency Partnership approaches working across a number of different areas.
- 1.3 The impacts of this have also been identified and are set out, along with the priority areas for development over the next 12 to 18 months.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to 'provide, secure the provision of or participate in the provision of youth support services' (section 123 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000) and, as such contributes to the Estyn inspection process of local authority education services to children and young people.
- 2.2 In the Estyn Monitoring Visit in November 2015, the local authority Youth Support Services was judged to have 'made strong progress' in addressing Recommendation

7 to 'evaluate the impact of Youth Support Services in order to adjust provision and rebalance resource allocation where necessary.'

- 2.3 The report noted that partnership arrangements and changes to the corporate structure had improved strategic planning; a comprehensive needs analysis had identified gaps in services; a review of externally funded local authority services had led to improved working across the service; young people's views were taken into account when planning programmes and improved use of data and co-ordination of services had led to an evaluation of impact and improved engagement in learning and employment prospects of young people.

3.0 SINCE THE ESTYN MONITORING VISIT 2015

- 4.1 Restructures which took place prior to the previous inspection and which created better collaboration across service areas focused on young people have continued to be developed further by the Local Authority. A restructure at head of service level has now brought together a department which focuses on Community Wellbeing and poverty, which now not only looks at the needs of children and young people but also these needs within the wider family and community context. This has strengthened further the approach to ensuring children and young people's needs are met through a range of support services working in a more collaborative way.

- 4.2 The local authority, in accordance with its duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, has undertaken a range of needs assessments that have further identified the needs of young people to inform the future development of services both locally and on a regional basis. This has been further supplemented with local needs assessments and community consultations when examining the future services provided through programmes such as Substance Misuse, Families First, Communities First Legacy arrangements etc. and the priorities identified for specific strategies focused on young people.

4.0 PROGRESSING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The approach of the Youth Support Services plan 2017- 20, which was developed in partnership with third sector partners, mirrors the approach the organisation has taken within the poverty agenda. This approach focuses resources on early intervention and prevention, through both universal and targeted services, in order to reduce the reliance on specialist support services. A key priority within this approach is to ensure young people are supported to influence and shape services that are provided for them.

- 4.2 The priorities within the plan were identified from a number of sources. During the start of the process, a transition was taking place between the local authority Corporate and Single Integrated Plans and the development of the initial Wellbeing Plan. These plans identified a range of priorities for future service delivery to meet young people's needs. The priorities within the wellbeing plan were also reflected in the views expressed in the Youth Service consultation with young people that took place in the autumn of 2016 and reinforced the views that young people had provided in consultations in previous years. The priority areas are Raising Attainment; NEET's and Youth Unemployment; Healthy Living; Active Citizenship and Safeguarding and Quality, all of which are embedded within the strategies focused on supporting young people.

- 4.3 Since the Estyn monitoring visit in 2015 and through the work of the Corporate Safeguarding Reference group, safe recruitment practices have been enhanced and a template safeguarding policy has been developed for commissioned services and third sector partner to use. Also, as part of the Corporate Safeguarding Action Plan, WRAP training has been delivered.
- 4.4 Last autumn, the Youth Support Services Steering group undertook a review of more recent consultations involving young people in order to ensure that, in this changing strategic landscape, the YSS Plan remained relevant. As a result of this review the group concluded that the themes identified in the various consultations supported the YSS Plan in its current form, but a decision was made to update the mapping of provision during the early part of 2018. The group, conscious of the changing landscape and financial pressures on services were keen to further improve their understanding of any potential gaps in services that may have arisen and of how services are continuing to meet needs, so that this informs future planning of provision leading into 2019.

5.0 SHAPING SERVICES TO MEET NEEDS

Youth Services

- 5.1 The Local authority restructured its Youth provision a number of years ago in response to young people's needs and consultations. These provisions have now embedded and continue to be the mainstay of universal youth provision across the county borough. Access to provision is further improved by the range of open access youth provision provided through the voluntary sector, either individually or in partnership with the local authority. Good examples of this partnership approach can be seen at Georgetown, Treharris, or in the existing contract for Participation with Safer Merthyr Tydfil.
- 5.2 Through targeted work, the Youth Service continues to support the preventative agenda and significant developments have taken place in this area in relation to the provision of formal qualifications in educational settings which contribute to young people achieving their threshold point score. For example, the successful delivery of BTEC Personal Social Development at Penydre High School has been expanded to Afon Taf High School. In 2017 100% of young people successfully achieved their BTEC Level One qualification. In recognition of its importance, and due to grant reductions from Welsh Government in 2018, elements of the resource which enable the delivery of this programme are now funded from core resources.
- 5.3 The Youth Service is also now a main deliverer of qualifications to learners attending the EOTAS programme, with some considerable success. In 2017 all Year 11 learners attending this provision achieved a range of recognised qualifications. During 2017-18 the service has also been piloting the delivery of the Welsh Baccalaureate to this client group in response to the changes in performance measures at Key Stage 4.
- 5.4 In recognition of the responsibilities assigned to the statutory youth service through the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the challenges of the NEETs agenda, the local authority has secured additional external resources. These European resources enable the allocation of lead worker support to young people pre 16 to prevent them becoming NEET and young people aged 16-24 to reengage

them in education training or employment, thereby decreasing long periods of unemployment through providing an effective safety net support system.

- 5.5 More recently, within the wider service areas of Community Wellbeing there have been several examples of how the local authority has reviewed and reshaped service provision and allocation of resources in order to ensure that the needs of young people are being met:

Young People's Participation

- 6.6 A decision was made in the summer of 2016 to commission out the Participation service and this has proved beneficial as the service has gone from strength to strength. This approach has enhanced partnership working with young people and the wider youth support services sector, including third sector providers, in order to increase learner voice. In response to the views of young people, MTBWYF has developed an award winning Mental Health DVD, which now forms part of a local authority mental health toolkit aimed at supporting teachers and other front line staff to help young people to deal with these issues.
- 6.7 The approach has also provided more of a challenge to the local authority with the young people feeling that they are in a stronger position to speak independently and not therefore constrained by the internal workings of a Local Authority. This has enabled MTBWYF as a group to prepare and submit proposals to council to shape their own service and other services for the future benefit of young people.

Families First Funding

- 6.8 In response to the recent review of Families First funding, a model has been approved which sets out to widen access to services through ensuring providers can offer single interventions in response to needs, alongside meeting the needs of families with multiple needs. This reshaping of Families First funding will widen access, within the preventative approach, to critical areas of support before families develop the need for multiple service support.
- 6.9 A targeted youth support pathway has been developed, with the intention that this will improve efficiency across contracted projects that support young people and their families, through a graduated, co-ordinated response. The aim is that these projects should add value to existing services and focus on the reduction of risk, prevent escalation and support young people to make better choices.

Communities First Legacy Funding

- 6.10 In addressing the closure of Communities First the local authority implemented a review with the Community First cluster organisations and a consultation with the wider community to establish future priorities for legacy funding. These priorities, alongside the wellbeing plan information and the Families First review, identified a range of potential investment areas.
- 6.11 It was recognised during this process that, with the ceasing of Communities First funding, significant gaps in services for children and young people were going to be created and therefore, these service areas were prioritised for funding. In order to develop greater collaboration with the voluntary sector and to maximise impact of current youth strategies, the services commissioned and the objectives within have

been developed by the youth service, who will also be responsible for contract management of these provisions. Through this approach the opportunity to standardise priorities across the borough has been adopted in what were previously independent services.

Regional Developments

- 6.12 Community Zones: Cwm Taf were successful in being approved as one of the pilots across Wales for the development of the Childrens First initiative. However within the region it was recognised that to change a child's life means having to influence the wider family and the community. Therefore, within the region, the term 'Community Zone' has been adopted. Within Merthyr Tydfil the area that has been agreed as a Community Zone is the Gurnos. A number of services are already available within this community. However, the challenge now is for integrated working to be developed across the community in order to support the resilience of that community. Therefore, through legacy funding, a small budget has been made available to support this initiative.
- 6.13 It is recognised across the region that this approach is not a quick fix and that working in partnership with the community is essential to finding long term solutions to issues identified. An immediate positive of engaging the community has been noted through the focus on addressing issues of the use of 'spice', which is now being led on by the Cwm Taf Integrated Substance Misuse Service.
- 6.14 Integrated Substance Misuse Service: Cwm Taf has recently undertaken a review of its substance misuse services and is in the process of agreeing its new model which will enable a greater focus on a more holistic approach to supporting those with substance misuse issues. This approach will also enable a greater focus on legal highs as well as illegal substances, ensuring a far more responsive service to the needs of young people.

7.0 IMPACT OF YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

7.1 Youth Service

- 7.1.1 The Youth Service continues to perform above the Welsh average for the achievement of national accreditations. In 2016-17, 15% of young people engaged with the youth service achieved an accredited outcome, against a Welsh average of 10%, with the engagement of young people between the ages of 11-25 at 22%, also above the Welsh average of 16%.
- 7.1.2 Whilst the accreditation data for 2016-17 is reduced from that available at the time of the inspection, it is noted that in that year (2015) a spike in the achievement of national accreditations occurred due to significant investment in employment related programmes. This, however, did not result in a significantly higher engagement of the youth population due to the very targeted nature of this work.
- 7.1.3 Targeted provision has provided the opportunity for vulnerable learners to gain accreditation. For example, 100% of Year 11 EOTAS learners completing their courses with Youth Service gained nationally recognised BTEC and ASDAN qualifications. As a pilot, BTEC Personal Social Development (PSD) is currently being delivered to a group of vulnerable Year 11 learners in Afon Taf and they are due to complete their course in summer 2018, with promising progress being made.

7.1.4 The closer collaboration across youth support services has resulted in an improved strategic focus and co-ordination of services, which has enabled the service to achieve High Sheriffs Awards and, more recently, the Bronze Quality Mark for Youth Work.

7.2 NEETs

7.2.1 The annual Destination Survey shows that the NEET figure in Merthyr Tydfil for 2017 was 1.3%, with no unknown destinations for the fourth year in a row, placing the authority joint fifth and above the Welsh average of 1.6%. This has been sustained through a continued focus on the co-ordination of services and tracking of learners, which has resulted in a steady improvement in the NEET figure since 2012 when it was 6.2% and 2015 when it was 1.6%.

7.2.2 At year ending 31st March 2018, youth unemployment for 16-24 year olds was 13.5%, equalling the Welsh average. The improvement since 2012 of 23.4% was at an accelerated pace in comparison to the rest of Wales, which improved at a rate of 10.4% over the same period.

7.3 Participation

7.3.1 The local authority can demonstrate effective and sustained commitment to listening to young people across many service areas and this good progress was acknowledged in a letter to the local authority following submission of the Participation progress report to Welsh Government and subsequent visit that took place in the summer of 2017.

7.3.2 There have been several notable impacts in relation to young people's participation. These are identified as:

- The revised election process saw the number of young people voting in youth mayor elections rising from 37 votes in 2016 to over 2500 in 2017.
- Membership of MTBWYF has also increased from 28 members to 137, with representation from 16 different organisations.
- Production of a mental health toolkit and DVD by young people, which is now used in the training of adults, including teachers, and has been awarded the High Sheriff's Cup award.
- Full Council agreeing to move the inauguration of the Youth mayor to fall in line with the local authority Mayor; passing of a motion to support voting rights for 16 year olds and young people holding positions on Scrutiny Committees

7.4 Families First

7.4.1 Whilst the reshaping of Families First is still in its initial stage, notable impacts have been identified including:

- Joint commissioning of therapeutic and school based counselling which, it is anticipated, will reduce previous waiting lists and provide better value for money.
- A 'Resilience Programme' delivered by the Youth Support team in local secondary schools.

- Creation of an emotional health and wellbeing focus and pathway to address an identified priority and reduce escalation into more specialist mental health services.
- Improved support for parents, including additional availability of support to fathers.
- Organisations and individuals supporting families across the county borough being trained in how to recognise and promote play within the family in order to promote child development.

7.5 Communities First Legacy Funding

7.5.1 Whilst the introduction of the Legacy Fund is still in its initial stage, notable impacts have been identified including:

- Improved strategic and partnership approach between statutory and voluntary sector provision.
- Joint commissioning of services for early language development and domestic violence awareness.

7.6 Play

7.6.1 Investment has been secured from Welsh Government to increase the use of play spaces across the county borough in response to the Play Sufficiency Assessment. Sustainable play provision has been instigated in partnerships with schools and parents in identified communities through the 'Ziggies' programme, further involving parents in school life.

8.0 AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

8.1 A mapping exercise is being led by the Youth Support Services Steering group to refresh information currently held on services for young people. The requirements for YSS go beyond the information which is held on DEWIS or on the Family Information Service databases. The exercise may identify gaps, but could also support a proposed youth service sufficiency assessment that may be required by Welsh Government in the near future and add to the directories already held.

8.2 Development of the Capita One database is currently being looked at from a number of services. However critical areas identified include: developing vulnerability profile down to key stage 2; implementing a new Youth Service module which will enhance data analysis across service area; piloting of key/lead working approaches using the system to be able to identify impacts on outcomes for children and young people.

8.3 Refresh the Welsh Audit Office data regarding the support available to NEET's and the impact of a reduction in unemployment figures for providers. Further develop quality frameworks for lead working and the development of a joint workforce development plan across service areas. This will improve use of training resources, but also allow the local authority to begin to plan for the ending of European funding of lead worker projects and upskill staff to undertake the lead worker role.

8.4 A Wellbeing Tool will be piloted within Youth Service and several third sector organisations in order to assess learner wellbeing and distance travelled. If worthwhile, this would supplement other sources of evidence to demonstrate the

impact of services and contribute to an overall picture of wellbeing of young people in Merthyr Tydfil.

- 8.5 The School Sport Survey 2018 is being rolled out between April and July and a report for each participating school and the local authority will be published in October 2018. This report will inform progress since the last survey was undertaken in 2015, when 48% of young people in Merthyr Tydfil reported the they were 'hooked on sport', which was in line with the Welsh average.
- 8.6 Several multi agency partnership strategies will be instigated or renewed over the next year including the Parenting Strategy, Play Strategy, and a refreshed Early Years Strategy which will include the new 30 hour childcare offer from Welsh Government.

SUE WALKER
CHIEF OFFICER (LEARNING)

COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON
PORTFOLIO LEAD FOR LEARNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Civic Centre, Castle Street,
Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8AN

Main Tel: 01685 725000

www.merthyr.gov.uk

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

SCRUTINY REPORT

Date Written	2 nd of July 2018
Report Author	Scrutiny Section
Committee Division	Scrutiny
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	16 th July 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with its work programme for consideration and to prepare in advance of the next scrutiny committee meeting.
- 1.2 To remind scrutiny committee members that they need to consider the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in all aspects of scrutiny work.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Committee considers the attached draft work programme and approves, revises or amends it as deemed appropriate.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The attached work programme identifies the topics and issues under consideration by the Scrutiny Committee and allows an opportunity for additional subjects to be identified and included on the programme.
- 3.2 Scrutiny committees are required to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.
- 3.3 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires each Public Service Board (PSB) and Council to work with their communities to develop local objectives. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) and the Cwm Taf PSB have acted on this.

- 3.4 MTCBC has four local Wellbeing Objectives, each having clear outcomes that will help the Council to respond to local community needs and contribute to the seven national wellbeing goals. The four Wellbeing Objectives are:-

BS Best Start to Life - Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals. The key outcomes (or components) for Best Start to Life are:

- Children live in a nurturing and stimulating home environment
- Children have access to high quality pre-school and school education
- Improve the educational outcomes for all children and young people
- Children and young people have good health and wellbeing

WL Working Life - People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses, with a developing, safe infrastructure that establishes Merthyr Tydfil as an attractive destination. The key outcomes (or components) to support the response to this objective include:

- Making skills work for Merthyr Tydfil: developing the workforce of the future;
- Developing the environment and infrastructure for business to flourish;
- Communities protect, enhance and promote our heritage and cultural assets;
- Developing safer communities; and
- Supporting and accommodating those most disadvantaged in the housing market.

EW Environmental Wellbeing - Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside. The key outcomes (or components) for communities to protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside include:

- Minimise environmental damage through prevention of pollution;
- Maximise efficient use of materials and resources by means of the waste hierarchy;
- Developing good quality, biodiverse and connected green infrastructure and open spaces; and
- Promoting and supporting the use of renewable and low carbon energy.

LW Living Well - People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health. To ensure a holistic approach is met in this objective, the key outcomes (or components) for Living Well will include:

- Safeguarding children and adults who are at risk of harm;
- Tackling adverse childhood experiences and developing community Resilience;
- Promoting healthy behaviours and increased levels of physical activity;
- Promote good emotional wellbeing and improved mental health;
- Clear and accessible information and advice; and
- Services that provide people with the ability to live in their own home

- 3.5 The Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to identify issues that reflect these priorities that are within your remit and/or are a priority for local people and communities. If a matter is a recurring issue for the people you, as Councillors, represent, the likelihood is that it is something that the Committee should consider. The more relevant the issue is to local communities then the greater the likelihood of engaging those communities in the scrutiny process and of producing outcomes that will be visible to those communities you represent.
- 3.6 MTCBC has developed an 'Our Shared Vision' document (Appendix I). This makes the connections from the seven national Wellbeing Goals through to the local objectives and political priorities. This document is contained within one page and acts as an easy to understand guide. When considered with service area strategies and operational plans a thread is created that can be extended down to individual tasks. This helps staff members see how they are contributing to the Act and the 'Wales We Want', and will assist Scrutiny members better understand the connections with the Act.
- 3.7 The work programme is a dynamic document and is reviewed at every meeting of the Committee to ensure that its contents are still relevant and will add value to what the Council and partners are doing. At each meeting the committee will agree the agenda items for their next meeting and in preparation may in advance wish to ask itself the following questions.

Q) Why has the item been placed on a scrutiny work programme?

- a. Does this item/topic contribute to the delivery of the Council's Wellbeing Objectives and priorities?
- b. Is this item/topic relating to service performance concerns?
- c. Is this item/topic of significant public interest?
- d. Has the item/topic got budgetary implications?
- e. Is this a item/topic where Scrutiny involvement will make a significant difference and achieve tangible outcomes?
- f. Can effective Scrutiny of this issue be delivered from within available resources?

Q) What is the specific role of the committee?

This will depend on the item – for example the role could be:

- a. to determine if performance levels are acceptable in relation to a particular department
- b. to determine if a specific policy is fit for purpose
- c. to satisfy itself that the Authority is working well with its partners in tackling a major issue
- d. to gather the views of specific stakeholders as part of an on-going scrutiny investigation / review
- e. to explore possible solutions to an issue

Q) What outcome is the committee seeking from the consideration of this item?

- a. To comment on the proposed budget and make suggestions to cabinet regarding the proposed budget's ability to deliver the priorities of the council
- b. Identification of any causes for concern and note successes.
- c. To receive an overview presentation.
- d. To gain an understanding of and to comment on a policy / strategy

- e. To explore ideas around the setting of budgets while considering the pressures facing each service. This also helps provide an overview of the policy frame work.
 - f. For the scrutiny committee to gain an overview and refresh their knowledge of the wellbeing objectives / other plan / other strategy.
 - g. Improvement in service delivery
- Q) What information does the committee need to fulfil this role / achieve this outcome?**
 What is the Committee trying to do? You might be trying to do some or all of the following i.e. establish facts; gather opinions; or explore new ideas / solutions.
- Q) Who should be invited to the meeting to provide the information?**
 Depending on the information you need you might want to hear from a range of witnesses – e.g. Cabinet members, Senior Officers, Service users, and External partners – e.g. Police, Strategic Partners etc
- Q) Does the committee need to ask for written representations?**
 The Committee may wish to pose some questions to the Directorate / Cabinet member / External Partner etc prior to the meeting. This may help in instances when the committee is looking for something specific to be addressed. This will assist whoever is attending ensure that they have the information / answer ready for the meeting.
- Q) Which meeting format / venue would be most appropriate for the item and for the witnesses that will be invited to attend?**
 Meetings do not have to be held in a formal committee room environment. You may wish to hold occasional meetings out in the community e.g. community centres, sports facilities etc. It depends on the subject. Some people find the formal setting intimidating. Site visits for example may be more appropriate to see first-hand what the committee is investigating / obtaining information on e.g. waste sites, regeneration projects etc.
- Q) Method of Scrutiny?**
 Once Members have identified the matters they wish to scrutinise, consideration should be given to scoping the subject in more detail including the timing and method of scrutiny to be used. Support in this process will be given by the Scrutiny and Support Manager and Officer. Members may wish to:
- a. Consider an item at a single meeting;
 - b. Consider an item over a series of meetings;
 - c. Allocate the work to a small working group of Members (Task & Finish group) to investigate the issue over a period of 2-3 months (this may involve visits to see how services are working in practice);
 - d. Undertake an Inquiry Day (or days);
 - e. Undertake joint scrutiny with members of another Scrutiny Committee;
 - f. Invite expert witnesses to give their views;
 - g. Seeking the views of service users/carers and/or the general public (public calls for evidence).

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Statement of Wellbeing & Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community	4 th April 2018	MTCBC Website Full Council 4 th April 2018
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

OUR SHARED VISION

“ACTING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW”

The Wales we want:

A prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A healthier Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A globally responsible Wales
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The shared vision for Merthyr Tydfil to get there:

To strengthen Merthyr Tydfil’s position as the regional centre for the Heads of the Valleys, and be a place to be proud of where:
 People learn and develop skills to fulfil their ambitions,
 People live, work, have a safe, healthy and fulfilled life,
 People visit, enjoy and return

How will Merthyr Tydfil CBC work?

Long Term Prevention Integration Involvement Collaboration

How will we work together to deliver the Our Shared Vision and achieve our goals?

<p>Focus on the Future</p> <p>Best Start to Life Children and young people have the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.</p> <p>Working Life People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil as an attractive destination.</p> <p>Environmental Wellbeing Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.</p> <p>Living Well People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p>	<p>PSB Wellbeing Plan</p> <p>Community Resilience and Wellbeing To promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.</p> <p>Lifestyles, health and vulnerability To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.</p> <p>Economy and Infrastructure To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.</p> <p>Tackling loneliness and isolation (Cross cutting objective) We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteers to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.</p>	<p>Political Priorities</p> <p>We will look after all our citizens by providing an affordable quality education and social care enabling everybody to lead their lives to their full potential.</p> <p>We will encourage active lifestyles and promote wellbeing.</p> <p>We will support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful environment and economy.</p>
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Merthyr Tydfil ... a place to be proud of
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2018/19

(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)

Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Linked to MTCBC's Wellbeing Objectives (Corporate Objectives)?	Officer & Cabinet Member	(Other) Scrutiny Focus
4 th June 2018	Changes in the ESTYN Inspection Reporting Framework for schools	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker / Joe Colsey	Scrutiny and Challenge: - to receive details of Changes in the ESTYN Self Evaluation Reporting (SER) Framework.
	FIRST DRAFT Scrutiny Report - Review of Attendance & Attainment in Primary & Secondary Schools	BS Best Start to Life	Task & Finish Group. Cllr H Jones, Cllr C Davies, and Cllr S Jago	Scrutiny and Challenge: - The Task and Finish Group has prepared its report for consideration by the full Committee. Once agreed it will be progressed to Cabinet for consideration
	Draft Annual Work Programme 2018/19	n/a	Task & Finish Group. Cllr H Jones, Cllr C Davies, and Mrs R Lazell	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To consider the draft Annual Work programme for 2018/19 as prepared by the Task and Finish group of Cllr H Jones, Cllr C. Davies, and Mrs R Lazell.
	Heolgerrig Community School and Trelewis Primary School.	BS Best Start to Life	Head teachers of Heolgerrig Community School and Trelewis Primary School.	Scrutiny and Challenge:- The Head teachers of these schools will be attending the meeting to share good practice in their respective schools.
16 th July 2018	Public Services Board and its role in Education	BS Best Start to Life	Lesley Lawson RCT Partnerships team / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge: - Focus on Wellbeing and how this has an impact /have an effect on Schools. How this delivers educational outcomes.
	Learning Resource Bases (LRB's) and Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) Update	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- To further discuss and consider any changes to the provision and re-alignment of Learning Resources Bases in the County Borough; and of EOTAS provision.

Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2018/19

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	Overview of the Progress of Youth Support Services since the Estyn Monitoring Visit 2015	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton/Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge: For information only
3 rd September 2018	Data Report – Foundation Phase, KS1, KS2 and KS3 (to also include a verbal update on KS4 results, which are only being made available on 23rd August)	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- to receive a report on the attainment in Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 in 2018.
	School budgets and Overview of Building Stock (school buildings and estates) and future plans	BS Best Start to Life	Anthony Lewis / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- A report providing details of School budgets and an overview of building Stock (school buildings and estates) and future plans.
	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) – Future Plans	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Local authorities are under a duty to prepare a plan explaining how it will improve the planning of Welsh-medium education, and improve standards, together with its targets for improvement and progress reports. To debate and challenge.
15 th October 2018	Value for money report on education services	BS Best Start to Life	Steve Jones/Anthony Lewis	Scrutiny & Challenge:- A focus on value for money in Education Services. The Chief Finance Officer to attend the meeting together with the Head of School Planning & Improvement
	Central South Consortium	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker / Mike Glavin (Managing	To meet with Mike Glavin (Managing Director of Central South Consortium). The Focus is yet to be

Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2018/19

(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)

			Director of Central South Consortium)	decided by the Committee.
	ESTYN Self Evaluation Reporting (SER) Framework (Inspection Area 1)	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge: - The Scrutiny Committee will receive a report from the Chief Education Officer on a specific Local Government Education Services Inspection Framework element.
26 th November 2018	Update on Nursery Sufficiency and 30 Hour Childcare	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- Local authorities are required to undertake Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (CSAs) under Section 26 of the 2006 Childcare Act on the understanding that local authorities are best placed to understand and respond to local needs. To receive progress report on Nursery Sufficiency and 30 Hour Childcare.
	NEETS Strategy 2018 - 2021	BS Best Start to Life	Chris Hole / Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To Inform the Scrutiny Committee of the Not in Education, Employment or Training Strategy (2018-21) and the progress that has been made against this agenda in line with the previous strategy. The NEETS Strategy identifies some critical areas to be progressed if the authority is to continue its progress.
	ESTYN Self Evaluation Reporting (SER) Framework (Inspection Area 2)	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- The Scrutiny Committee will receive a report from the Chief Education Officer on a specific Local Government Education Services Inspection Framework element.
14 th January 2019	Report on the final verified KS4 data and results.	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- to update Scrutiny on the performance of schools at key stage 4 (KS4) in public external examinations 2017/18

Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2018/19

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	Categorisation of schools	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- In January 2015, the Welsh Government introduced a new categorisation system that considered each school's standards alongside the school's capacity to improve so as to understand the level of support the school needed. To receive a report detailing the latest categorisation of schools and improvement progress.
	Report on Exclusions and Attendance	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- The Scrutiny Committee will receive a report from the Chief Education Officer on local and national statistics / figures on Attendance and Exclusions.
	ESTYN Self Evaluation Reporting (SER) Framework (Inspection Area 3)	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- The Scrutiny Committee will receive a report from the Chief Education Officer on a specific Local Government Education Services Inspection Framework element.
4 th March 2019	Central South Consortium	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge: - Theme to be agreed. KS4 results will have been finalised by now.
	Self-Improving Schools	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker/Joe Colsey/Schools	Scrutiny and Challenge: - The Scrutiny Committee will receive a report from the Chief Education Officer and schools on how schools support and challenge each other to improve
8 th April 2019	Update on Additional Learning Needs Services (ALN) to incorporate PIU's, LRB's.	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker	Scrutiny and Challenge:- This meeting will have an (Additional Learning Needs) ALN focus.

Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2018/19

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	Greenfield School Outreach service update	BS Best Start to Life	Cllr Lisa Mytton / Sue Walker / Greenfield School	Scrutiny and Challenge:- During the visit to the school in December 2017, the school raised a number of points which the scrutiny committee took forward on the schools behalf and these were responded to by the Chief Education Officer. The Chair and Vice Chair have agreed that the school will be invited to attend a meeting once the new work programme is prepared after the AGM in May 2018. Areas of concern were - Continuity of Funding. Current number of INSET days per year is insufficient. Eligibility / criteria for admission to Greenfield. Future accommodation needs of Greenfield to be considered as well. To also receive details of the Outreach Service.
Additional items to consider for Work				
Date to be confirmed	To invite / visit Heads and Chairs of Governance at the following schools :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Santes Tudful • Pen-y-dre High School • Ynysowen Community Primary School • Visit Educated Other Than at School (EOTAS) to see what provision is available (before 8th April). • Visit LRB's (Learning Resource Basis) as part of the programme of visits. 			
Date to be confirmed				
Date to be confirmed				
Date to be confirmed				

Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme Descriptors 2018/19
(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)