



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LGES MEETING

TUESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

PRESENT: Councillors L Mytton (Chair)
G Lewis (Vice-Chair)
C Tovey and A Williams-Price

Cooptees:
L Matuszczyk, J Beard & P Phillips

Guests of Central South Consortium:
H Power, K Lewis and C Seery

Officers:
S Walker (Chief Education Officer) J Jones (Performance and Scrutiny) and E Galeozzie (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
597	Apologies for absence	Apologies received from Cllr J Scriven and Cllr C Jones
598	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were received
599	New Curriculum	Presented by Cllr M Jones The following questions were raised and answered by relevant officers S Walker and members of Central South Consortium C Seery, H Power and K Lewis; Why did Penydre not accept the new curriculum? What was in the syllabus and how did it allow schools to

		<p>develop their own framework? What is the criteria to take part in BETP? Who are the community partners? Have opportunities been developed for parents and governors to understand changes?</p> <p>What is the impact of the cost of the school day on families? i.e extra-curricular How will you ensure pupils from lower income backgrounds can access the curriculum? In terms of curriculum development, what specific support is being given to schools? – How will you preserve school budgets in the next financial year? Is there a risk of failing to deliver the new curriculum with budget constraints? What representations have been made to Welsh government to achieve more clarity on assessments for schools? What is Impact on teachers workload?</p> <p>How can we ensure consistency in assessments? Which schools are confident in assessment? Who has been supporting the project in the North of the borough to ensure its success? Which partners are we working with for curriculum changes? Why is it necessary to create a programme to share best practice? Is there a plan to address some of the concerns raised? i.e promoting pupil wellbeing. How are we able to help practitioners facing barriers?</p> <p>The following comments were raised;</p> <p>P Phillips expresses that Curriculum for Wales has been discussed at termly meetings and a new technology block will be completed in September.</p> <p>Cllr A Williams-Price highlights positivity surrounding new curriculum with pupils at the heart of teaching and thanks CSC for their answers.</p> <p>J Beard requests that detailed examples be included in future reports.</p> <p>L Matuszczyk extends thanks to CSC for their enlightening report.</p>
600	Forward Work Programme 2022/2023	<p>The Chair reminds members of a planned workshop on school inspections.</p> <p>A Price raises the matter of the tertiary changes and the importance of Welsh medium education.</p> <p>A request from the committee that the (England) Children's Commissioner report be shared with members.</p>

601	Report Recommendations	Chair thanks members for excellent level of scrutiny.
602	Feedback on Scrutiny Activities	
603	Scrutiny Referrals	
604	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair