



MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LGES MEETING

MONDAY, 22ND APRIL, 2024

PRESENT: Councillors L Mytton (Chair)
G Lewis (Vice-Chair)

Councillors C Tovey and A Williams-Price

Cooptees:

J Beard (Public Appointment), Jones (Parent Governor (Primary)), L Matuszczyk (Merthyr Tydfil Governor Association), P Phillips (Parent Governor (Secondary)), O'Neill (Public Appointment) and K Lewis (Diocesan Rep Catholic)

Other Councillors in Attendance:

G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

S Walker (Director of Education), S Poloha (Children's Services) and J Jones (Scrutiny Officer)

E Galeozzie (Democratic Services Officer) and O Moore (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
908	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Scriven, Cllr C Jones, L McClean and J Bridges.

909	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
910	Transition Arrangements across all key stages	<p>Councillor G Thomas introduced the 'Transition Arrangements across all key stages' Report.</p> <p>The Chair then notified the Committee that the visit to The College Merthyr Tydfil had been an informative visit.</p> <p>The following questions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to 5.5, why is it only two of the four schools? • In relation to 5.6, who's involved with it in Merthyr Tydfil? Are these real-world businesses? • Regarding 5.8, can you explain what the series of deep dives are? • In relation to 4.4, do we know how many schools are actually following the guidance in the document? • Regarding 5.4, to what degree do the College anticipate the type of courses that future students might want? Is that an area they look at? • Do the pupils get asked what sort of things they might want? • In relation to 5.8, do we know why that might be? • What consideration has been given to children who attend special schools in terms of transitioning into that school? When they leave are we confident that there's suitable destinations for them? • In relation to 3.5, do the governing bodies that partner primary schools have visibility of and input into those plans? Do the schools have a consistent view of the commitments that are in that and are there measurements of the effectiveness of the commitments in the plan? • In relation to 6.4, what community groups and how do they support? • Is there a transition offer for the students in the PRU setting? Do they go back and engage with their own schools? Or is there a bespoke offer? <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RARS strategy is not online. • The report is extensive but it's still dependent on parents engaging with the health professionals and then engaging with schools.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments were made regarding parental engagement in other authorities. • Do we have data that looks at the successfulness of transitions at each stage with learners? • Comments were made regarding toileting. • It is important that the Welsh medium sector is included in the review. <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and for the update to the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Members discuss and debate the content of the report and identify if there are further aspects of this agenda that need scrutinising.</p>
911	Forward Work Programme 2023/2024	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Forward Work Programme 2023/24 report and reminded the Committee that this was the last meeting in this cycle.</p> <p>The Chair then reflected on previous meetings and Task & Finish groups and noted the following items to be revisited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding • Education Psychology Service • Estyn feedback • SER workshop 14th May • Task & Finish Group – MAT Pupils • Ty Dysgu • Review of Catchment Areas for schools <p>The Chair asked for any suggestions going forward. The following items for consideration were then proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRB capacity - will that report come back to the Scrutiny Committee for further evaluation? • Budget - impact on schools. • Community schools and how the roll out across the Borough has made progress and ensure that its adding value to what schools are already doing. • Progress relating to feasibility for Welsh Medium secondary schools. • Whole school approach • Curriculum for Wales – where are we with that? • ALN Act – how are schools dealing with this? • Middle tier review with Welsh Government – how that can impact support for Merthyr Tydfil?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success of destinations for learners going into further education. • RARS Strategy - we need to understand the additional elements. <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Scrutiny Members agree the items set out in the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.</p>
912	Scrutiny Referrals	There were no referrals.
913	Report Recommendations	The Committee agreed that the reports had been discussed and the contents noted.
914	Feedback on Scrutiny Activities	<p>The Chair reminded the Committee of the invitation to the SER workshop on the 14th of May.</p> <p>The Chair then referred to the visit to The College Merthyr Tydfil and how it was a useful and informative visit, and it could be revisited in the future.</p> <p>A comment was made regarding the responses from Officers and whether it could be followed up.</p>
915	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair notified the Committee that the next meeting is on the 10 th of June.