



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

**MONDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor L Mytton (**In the Chair**)

Councillors S Williams, M Davies, G Lewis, K Moran and S Slater

Councillors B Toomey, P Williams and L Matthews - Cabinet

**Cooptees:**

Maureen Harris

**Officers:**

Lorraine Buck (Corporate Director (People and Performance) - Lead Director for Children and Young People), Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education Officer) and Richard Parry (Consultant for School Improvement)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Mair Morgan (Scrutiny / Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
610	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Tovey, Councillor H R Jones Cabinet Member and Mrs T Bradley Co-opted Member.
611	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

612	LAESCYP Self-Evaluation against the Common Inspection Framework	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor B Toomey, Councillor P Williams, Councillor L Matthews, Lorraine Buck and Dorothy Haines to the Meeting.</p> <p>Dorothy Haines referred the Committee to the 'Report on LAESCYP Self Evaluation against the Common Inspection Framework' report.</p> <p>Mrs M Harris entered the Meeting at 4.15 pm.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Member, Lorraine Buck and Dorothy Haines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key question judgements – Has a moderation panel agreed the judgements</li> <li>• Do the judgements meet the criteria</li> <li>• Wording of the judgements</li> <li>• Definition of adequate</li> <li>• What were the prospects for improvement</li> <li>• Can it stand alongside the evidence</li> <li>• Youth Support Services – issues and how they are being addressed</li> <li>• Dashboard – Progress against the PIAP</li> <li>• Improving quality – Priorities for Improvement</li> <li>• Surplus places – Primary Schools</li> <li>• Build Capacity</li> <li>• What can be done to halt surplus places</li> <li>• Will the Authority be able to maintain the current improvement trends seen over the last three years for say the next three years</li> <li>• Support for ALN – Why is this judgement adequate</li> <li>• Inaccurate data – What has changed</li> <li>• Priorities for Improvement –Definition - enable all schools to use Performance Management - to tackle underperformance – absenteeism</li> <li>• What do we need to do to enable</li> <li>• Priorities for Improvement – To review and challenge the effectiveness and composition of Governing Bodies so that their practice is in line with the standards Committees in the Schools with high attainment and good progress – Effectiveness of Standards Committees – Governing Bodies</li> <li>• More information on Impact and Leadership – What Performance Management was being done</li> <li>• Expense of Courses – Finance considerations</li> <li>• CSC – Value for Money – Training for Schools</li> <li>• Need for culture change</li> <li>• Flying Start – Quality assurance procedures increase from 78% in 2014 to 83% in 2015 – percentage of families who can access Flying Start – Impact of attendance for Flying Start only</li> <li>• Partnership Working – Facilitated through the LSB and the SIP – What have the improved outcomes been and what they are</li> <li>• Departmental Risks – Budgets – How long will the current formula funding be in place</li> <li>• What procedures have been put in place for</li> </ul>
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		<p>Schools to prepare for future changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Gathering from various sources – Challenging schools on information provided – previous inaccurate data</li> <li>• Reading ages for children entering secondary school – are differences being noticed</li> <li>• Explanation of Learning – Raising Standards Chart</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the report and the responses to the Committee.</p>
613	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.
614	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair, Committee and Richard Parry reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.
615	Forward Work Programme	The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.
616	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.