



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

**MONDAY, 21ST MARCH, 2016**

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

Councillors S Williams, M Davies, G Lewis, S Slater and  
C Tovey

**Cabinet Member:**

Councillor H Jones (Portfolio Member for Learning)

**Co-optees:**

C Brown, M Harris, A Rees, R Lazell and A Roberts

**Officers:**

Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education  
Officer) and Joe Colsey (Head of School Improvement)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Karen Vokes (Democratic  
Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
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The Chair welcomed Anne Roberts, Co-optee, to her first meeting of the Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee

1189	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor K Moran.
1190	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.

1191	Strategy to improve Outcomes for more Able and Talented Pupils	<p>Dorothy Haines took the Committee through the report and gave an update on the key areas for improvement which were identified by the Learning Performance Board including the attainment of more able and talented pupils.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does each of our Schools have a co-ordinator responsible for MAT pupils?</li> <li>• Is there a standard protocol across all schools on how they address more able and talented pupils? What is the involvement of Headteachers?</li> <li>• In relation to the Capita One Information System - is the collection of data and analysis now simple to produce and widely used in Schools across the Borough?</li> <li>• The transition arrangements from primary to secondary schools to ensure that students maintain their academic momentum into Year 7.</li> <li>• In relation to the department's ambition to be ranked within the top 10 local authorities in Wales by 2017 - should you have an ambition more specific to the MAT pupils, and how are we to promote this in Schools to raise targets?</li> <li>• In relation to Appendix 1 (Foundation Phase) - although it has been identified that we have made improvements in personal and social development but we still 22 out of 22 Authorities. What strategies could we put in place to improve this?</li> <li>• Clarification on people performance data.</li> <li>• Taking forward Parental Engagement.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The Committee notes the contents of the report.</p>
1192	Education Services - Strategy on a Page	<p>Dorothy Haines advised members on the current position against the Strategy on a page for the theme Raising Standards and outlined the progress against the aims, measurable outcomes and the desirable outcomes included in the Strategy on a page.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification on the review and challenge of the effectiveness and composition of governing bodies.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will the re-profiling of the Education Welfare Service impact on our aspirations to raise attendance?</li> <li>• How many schools have bought into the new service? How will we be able to monitor the effectiveness of schools' own strategies and initiatives?</li> <li>• The process of holding to account schools where standards remain below the median.</li> <li>• Are we on target to be ranked within the top 10 Local Authorities in Wales across all the key indicators by 2017?</li> <li>• Clarification on the strategic review of LRB classes and the remodelling of the Local Authority's ALN and Inclusion Services in response to the new legislation.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The committee notes the contents of the report.</p>
1193	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised the Committee of the referral from the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee in relation to Carbon Management Activities and the impact that it has and also the availability of SALIX interest free loans.</p> <p>Dorothy Haines gave an update to the Committee in relation to several schools who have previously accessed the SALIX funding and also how to progress this across Schools within the Borough.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>Committee notes the contents of the referral.</p> <p>Councillor H Jones left the meeting at 4.55 pm.</p>
1194	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the meeting, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capita One.</li> <li>• Targets set for different groups.</li> <li>• Commission additional training for boys' writing.</li> <li>• Strategy under Additional Learning Needs (ALN).</li> <li>• Concerns over strategic review.</li> <li>• Effectiveness of Governors.</li> </ul>

1195	Forward Work Programme	The Chair to liaise with the Scrutiny Officer on the Forward Work Programme.
1196	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.