



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

MONDAY, 16TH MAY, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor L Mytton (In the Chair)

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

Co-optees:

Claire Brown, Alan Rees and Rosemary Lazell

Portfolio Member:

Councillor H Jones

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
1390	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor K Moran and Maureen Harris (Co-optee).
1391	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.
1392	Performance Board Area for Improvement - School Governance and Governing Bodies	Joe Colsey took the Committee through the report and highlighted the key points as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">School Governance Strategy.

- The key areas identified for development:
 - Governing bodies focus on key priorities of school improvement.
 - Appropriate and effective level of challenge by Governors through questioning.
 - Quality of information provided to Governors by Headteachers.
- School Governance Strategy Action Plan.
- The position in 2012 regarding School Governance in Merthyr Tydfil.
- Key actions currently undertaken to support Governing Bodies and their impact.
- Where we want to be to ensure that the leadership, including Governance, of all Schools is good or better.
- What we need to do next to develop the key areas identified.
- Termly Headteacher Report.

Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:

- In relation to members of Governing Bodies being involved in developing the strategy to improve the effectiveness of governing bodies - have you been involved with any member of the Governing Bodies and, if so, what was their contribution?
- Clarification on the E-Learning Training for Governors.
- Clarification on the effectiveness of Governors.
- Does the Authority have an overarching Policy for Attendance?
- Reasons for non attendance of Governors and receiving feedback on these non attendance.
- A breakdown of the percentage of attendance for the different categories of Governors, e.g. Community Governors, LA Governors, Parent Governors etc.
- Clarification on the Governors' Wales Bronze Quality Mark.
- Information for New Governors.

		<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contents of the report and the School Governance Strategy attached at Appendix 1 be noted. • Members receive a breakdown of the percentage of attendance for the different categories of Governors.
1393	Performance Board Area for Improvement - Collaboration	<p>Dorothy Haines took the Committee through the report and highlighted the key points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key areas identified for development on improving partnership working, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaboration between service providers within MTCBC. ➤ Collaboration with other Councils and Organisations. ➤ Collaboration between Schools as a key driver for improvement • Where we want to be to ensure that co-production, collaboration and partnership working gives the greatest impact to improving outcomes. • What we need to do next in relation to the key areas for development. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The Committee notes the contents of the report.</p>
1394	Preparation of Work Programme for 2016/17	<p>Dorothy Haines took members through the draft Work Programme for 2016/17 which was handed out to members at the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair advised that an informal meeting be arranged for Committee Members to discuss and develop the Work Programme for 2016/17.</p>
1395	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised there was no update in relation to this item.</p>
1396	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered.</p>
1397	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>