



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

**MONDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2016**

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

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

**Cooptees:**

Claire Brown, Rosemary Lazell, Alan Rees and Anne Roberts

**Officers:**

Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education Officer)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
436	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillors Kate Moran and Sian Slater.
437	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Councillor Simon Williams declared an interest in relation to item 4 (SLA's for Local Authority Services to Schools) as his wife is on the HR Steering Group.  Rosemary Lazell, Co-optee, declared an interest in relation to item 4 (SLA's for Local Authority Services to Schools) as she is the Chair of Governors in one of the Schools that opted out of the HR SLA.
438	Self-Evaluation of Partnership Working	Dorothy Haines took the Committee through the report in relation to the Self Evaluation of Partnership Working and highlighted the following key points to members:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profile of judgements.</li> <li>• Partnership working with a range of partners.</li> <li>• Action Plan to progress partnership working.</li> <li>• Partnership working and collaboration.</li> <li>• Focusing on further improvements to key partnerships that will have the greatest impact on improving outcomes.</li> <li>• Principles of partnership working.</li> </ul> <p>Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of how you plan to improve partnership working, e.g. parents, carers, schools and governors.</li> <li>• As you know the Council is facing continuous pressure on funding. Do you think you can continue to improve bearing in mind the budget pressures, both on the department and your partners?</li> <li>• Clarification and update on the Public Service Board.</li> <li>• One of the priorities for improvement is to ensure that the views of children, young people and their families are used to inform service delivery in all areas. How do you intend to undertake this priority for improvement?</li> <li>• Are there any partnerships that need more development?</li> </ul> <p><b>Councillor Lisa Mytton left the meeting at 4.30 pm and Councillor Simon Williams took the Chair.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The contents of this report be noted by the Committee.</p>
439	Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for Local Authorities Services to Schools	<p>Dorothy Haines took the Committee through the report on Service Level Agreements (SLA's) for Local Authority Services to Schools and updated members on where we are with the SLA's with regard to the number of changes over the last year.</p> <p>Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification if there are any current issues ongoing in respect of HR.</li> <li>• Clarification on the Schools that have opted out of their SLA's, e.g the quality of service from private companies, future responsibility of the Authority and the role of Governors.</li> <li>• The requirements of the Peripatetic Music SLA and the involvement of Merthyr College.</li> <li>• In relation to the Breakfast Club SLA, if the recommendation is rejected following the consultation, are there any other areas being considered for financial services or is it the intention to await the result of the Breakfast consultation.</li> <li>• Clarification on what the restrictions could be in relation to Schools' Breakfast Clubs, the impact to parents and how potential savings could be achieved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alan Rees (Co-optee) left the meeting at 5.00 pm.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification on the Procurement Board.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The Committee accepts the contents of the report.</p>
440	Performance Report - Corporate Plan	<p>Dorothy Haines took the Committee through the report in relation to the Corporate Plan Priority Area 1 (Raising Standards of Attainment) and updated members on the up to date position on existing/new initiatives.</p> <p>Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As listed in the Projects at Appendix 2, the Basic Skills Strategy is due to finish on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 - do you think this will continue after that date?</li> <li>• It has been identified that the Governor Support Services to Schools have been reviewed and improved in order to enable governing bodies to provide strong governance.</li> </ul> <p>What has been done and what are your aspirations for stronger governance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of Governors.</li> <li>• The performance indicators in respect of pupil attendance in Primary Schools do not reflect where we rank nationally. Do we have these figures?</li> </ul>

		<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The judgements and evaluations, as detailed in the report, are noted.</p>
441	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.
442	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the meeting.
443	Scrutiny Work Programme 2016-17	<p>The Chair to liaise with the Scrutiny Officer on the Forward Work Programme, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The attendance of a School at a future Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>• The Scrutiny Committee Members to agree a visit to a School in the County Borough in February 2017.</li> </ul>
444	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.