



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

MONDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor L Mytton (In the Chair)

Councillors S Williams, S Slater and C Tovey

Cooptees:

Claire Brown, Alan Rees and Anne Roberts

Officers:

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

Michelle Hemmings (Democratic Services Officer) and Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
849	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor G Lewis, Councillor M Davies and Maureen Harris and Rosemary Lazell (Co-optees).
850	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.
851	Summary of judgments in the Self Evaluation Report	<p>The Chair advised the Committee that items 3, 4 5 and 6 overlap in most of the areas within the reports. She outlined that as there are cross cutting themes, questions will be asked at this point in relation to all 4 items.</p> <p>Firstly, Dorothy Haines made the Committee aware that Goitre Primary School has been inspected and officially published as coming out of a category of concern. Also no School within the County Borough is in a category and no School in receipt of red support.</p>

Dorothy Haines took the Committee through the report in detail in respect of the summary position against each of the key questions, as follows

- Future Local Authority Inspections by Estyn.
- Areas that require further improvement.
- Key Stage 4 Indicators.
- Where we are now in relation to outcomes, rates of attendance and prospects for improvement.
- Where we want to be to continue the improvement provision and standards.
- The priority to improve overall rates of attendance.
- Support being given in relation to unauthorised holidays, unauthorised absences, fixed penalty notices etc.

In relation to the Forward Work Programme, Dorothy Haines suggested to Committee that they consider focusing on key questions 2.2 and 2.3, namely support for Additional Learning Needs and Promoting Social Inclusion at their next scheduled meeting.

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

- In relation to attendance, are there any good examples of effective strategies in other Authorities and, if so, could they work at this Authority?
- Clarification on the number of fixed penalty notices that have been issued to parents, and does the issuing of these notices have a positive effect on these pupils?

Dorothy Haines to send this detail to the Committee following the meeting.

- The improvement of persistent absenteeism rates.
- Clarification on the summary position statement targets for 2017.

RESOLVED that:

The contents of the report be noted.

Dorothy Haines to send to members the number of fixed penalty notices issued to parents.

852	Key Stage 4 Standards 2015 to 2016	<p>Dorothy Haines gave an update to the Committee on the performance of Schools at Key Stage 4 in public external examinations for 2015/16, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in standards at Key Stage 4. • Areas that we need to continue to improve. • Rate of progress. • Performance compared to all Local Authorities. <p>Discussion ensued and Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following question from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on the decline in 3 out of 5 indicators at Bishop Hedley High School. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
853	Performance of Groups of Pupils in 2015 to 2016	<p>Dorothy Haines gave an update to the Committee on the performance of groups of pupils in 2016.</p> <p>Discussion ensued and Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the achievement levels of Looked After Children remaining some way below that of all other pupils, why are we still in this position and what is the plan? • Clarification on the performance of Looked After Children educated outside of the borough? How do other Authorities cooperate with providing this information? <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
854	Performance Report - Corporate Plan. Priority Area 1 - Raising Standards of Attainment	<p>Dorothy Haines gave an overview of the report on raising standards of attainment as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The common format for performance reports. • Challenge sessions, in particular the strategies that have been implemented. • The facility of School Challenge Cymru coming to an end, and the continuation of the Accelerated Improvement Board in the 3 Schools that have been supported by School Challenge Cymru. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The Committee note the judgements and evaluations outlined in the report.</p>

855	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.
856	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> <p>The following be scheduled for the April meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Evaluation Report - A detailed report on key questions 2.2 (support for Additional Learning Needs) and 2.3 (Promoting Social Inclusion and Wellbeing).
857	Scrutiny Work Programme	<p>The Chair advised the Committee on the visit to Troedyrhiw Primary School on the 17th March, and the following members agreed to make this visit:</p> <p>Councillor Lisa Mytton, Councillor Sian Slater, Clare Brown and Alan Rees</p> <p>Councillor Clive Tovey and Anne Roberts agreed that they could possibility attend if required.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The Scrutiny Manager to provide members with 3 year cohort of data prior to the School visit, confirm the time and also confirm via e-mail who will be attending.</p>
858	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.