



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

MONDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2018

PRESENT: Councillors H R Jones (Chair)
C Davies (Vice-Chair)

Councillors D Chaplin, L Davies, S Jago and D Sammon

Cooptees:

C Brown (Parent Governor-Primary), R Lazell (Parent Governor-Secondary/Special), A Rees (Public) and R Crowley (Youth Forum Representative)

Other Councillors in Attendance:

L Mytton (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

S Walker (Chief Education Officer), J Colsey (Head of School Improvement) and A McCafferty (Research and Monitoring Officer)

Outside Bodies:

Mike Glavin (Central South Consortium)

H Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and K Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
926	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Anne Roberts, Maureen Harris and Mary Lynne-Lewis (co-optees).

		<p>The Committee were also advised that we have received resignation letters from Maureen Harris and Mary Lynne-Lewis and the Chair advised that a letter of thanks be sent to them.</p>
927	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.
928	Merthyr Secondary School Key Stage 4 Performance	<p>The Chair welcomed Joe Colsey and Mike Glavin from the Central South Consortium to the meeting.</p> <p>Mike Glavin referred to the report which identified changes to the curricula, GCSE specifications and performance measures which contributed to the changes in pupil outcomes at the end of key stage 4, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New specifications for GCSE English Language and Welsh Language with a greater emphasis on literacy. • A new specification for GCSE mathematics along with the introduction of GCSE mathematics-numeracy, both with a greater emphasis on numerical reasoning. • Introduction of a cap of 40% to the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 2 inclusive measures for vocational/non GCSE qualifications. • Literacy component for performance measures. • Introduction of the capped points score measure. • Additional factors. • The support provided to schools across the region to manage the changes. • Modelled results. • What has been put in place to support schools to raise pupils outcomes. <p>Councillor Lisa Mytton (Portfolio Member for Learning) came into the meeting at 4.25 pm.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the Authority being put in special measures after the Estyn Inspection in November 2012, is the Local Authority in any danger of being placed under special measures again? • Changes to GCSE's and the dip in results.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support programmes available to Schools, and are they being accessed? • Support provided to Schools across the region - What is different to this LEA compared to others in the Central South Consortium or indeed across Wales? • Changes to the accountability measures. • The loss of support through the Schools Challenge Cymru, and the impact on young people. • Examples on improvements to be made to meet with the LEA's ambition to be ranked within the top ten local authorities. • Clarification on the period of time taken to identify when a School is under performing or not improving and how quickly can Schools receive the help required? • Feedback from Schools on the support provided by the Central South Consortium. <p>The Chair thanked Mike Glavin and Joe Colsey for their attendance.</p>
929	Estyn Inspection Areas	<p>Sue Walker gave members an overview to the Estyn Inspection Areas report and advised members on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous judgements. • Service Area Priorities. • Effective support for vulnerable learners. • Areas for improvement, which will form part of the business plans for each section of the department during the next year. <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Areas for Improvement" - Clarification on whether the financial and staffing resources are in place to deliver on these. • Clarification on the collaboration requirements. • Looking at the recommendations put in place in 2016 following Special Measures and where we are now with regard to these recommendations.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership within Schools - how successful has previous attempts been at improving leadership and what is in place to move things forward? <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
930	Best Start To Life - Children and Young People are Equipped With The Skills They Need To Be Successful Learners and Confident Individuals	<p>Sue Walker referred to the report which is a summary of what has been done over the last year in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evaluation of the five projects identified to help deliver wellbeing improvements. • Outcomes • Where we want to be by 2020 - attainment of children and young people in Merthyr Tydfil to be ranked within the top 10 of local authorities in Wales. <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with the Public Services Board? • Support given by the members on the Public Services Board? <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
931	Best Start To Life - Children Get The Best Start To Life	<p>Alan Rees (Co-optee) left the meeting at 5.10 pm.</p> <p>Sue Walker gave members an update on the Best Start to Life (Children get the best start to life) report and outlined to the Committee where we were, where we are now together with the plan on where we want to be and do next.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>

CLOSED SESSION

Exempt

Resolved that:

The public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 15 under Part 4 of Schedule 12A Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

932	Additional Learning Needs (ALN) - Review of Learning Resources Bases Across the Authority	<p>Sue Walker provided members with an update on the Review of Learning resource bases across the Authority in relation to Additional Learning Needs.</p> <p>Questions were asked my members of the committee and responded to by officers.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contents of the report be noted by the members of the Committee. • A more detailed report be scheduled to a future committee as soon as possible.
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RE-OPENED SESSION

933	Developing a Work Programme for 2018/19	<p>The Scrutiny Manager advised members that the Committee will now need to start developing the work programme for 2018/19.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Task and Finish Group be arranged with Councillors Harvey Jones and Chris Davies and Rosa Lazell (Co-optee) to look at the work programme for 2018/19. • Arrangements be made for the Task and Finish Group to meet with the Portfolio member for Learning and the Chief Education Officer to look at ideas for the work programme for next year. • The Scrutiny Manager liaise with the Committee members by e-mail on ideas for the work programme. • Arrangements be made for the Headteachers of Trelewis Primary School and Heolgerrig Community School to attend the meeting scheduled for the 4th June.
934	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there were no referrals, feedback or follow up actions to discuss.
935	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items discussed at the meeting.
936	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.