



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

MONDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2018

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

Councillors D Chaplin, C Davies and S Jago

Cooptees:

R Lazell (Parent Governor-Secondary/Special), K Phelan
(Diocesan Representative) and A Rees (Public)

Other Councillors in Attendance:

L Mytton (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

S Walker (Chief Education Officer), A Lewis (Head of School
Planning Performance and Resource), A McCafferty
(Performance and Scrutiny Officer) and S Jones (Head of
Finance)

K Reddy (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
548	Apologies for absence	The Chair advised that Councillor Chris Davies had decided to step down as Vice Chair of this Committee and this position has now been taken by Councillor Lee Davies. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair wished to thank Councillor Chris Davies for the work he has done as Vice Chair.

		<p>The Chair also advised Members that there is a vacancy on this Committee for a Co-opted Member and that this vacancy will be filled during the course of the next month.</p> <p>Councillor Chris Davies advised members that Ryan Crowley will no longer be the Youth Forum Representative on this Committee due to his busy timetable at University, but that there is currently a review of young people engagement on Scrutiny Committees being carried out.</p> <p>Apologies for absence received from Councillor Brent Carter, Claire Brown and Anne Roberts (Co-optees).</p>
549	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	<p>Councillor Chris Davies declared an interest in Item 4 (Nursery Sufficiency and 30 hours Childcare Offer) as he is the registered person for Plant Bach Pre School but has dispensation to speak and vote on this matter.</p>
550	Inspection Area 3 - Leadership and Management	<p>Sue Walker led the Committee through the report on Inspection Area 3 - Leadership and Management.</p> <p>Sue Walker advised the Committee that the original judgement for Inspection Area 3 was 'good' because there were 'strong features with minor aspects that may require improvement'. However following the Learning awayday, reflecting on where we were, the judgement will change from 'Good' to 'Adequate' and needs improvement.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on the current absence of a robust corporate self-evaluation system which is acknowledged as a significant weakness. • Requirement to share knowledge across departments so that staff have the opportunity to keep up to date with regard to their areas of responsibility. • The possibility of further opportunities for immediate access to training for all staff in relation to safeguarding. • Clarification on the Child Safeguarding Policy. • In relation to the use of resources, how will the Authority demonstrate sustained impact from the allocation of resources and spending decisions on supporting positive outcomes for all learners. • The role of the Central South Consortium. • Local Government Educational Services Framework. • Future focus of this Committee.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on the outcome of the Capita One Review. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
551	Nursery Sufficiency and 30 Hrs Childcare Offer	<p>Anthony Lewis gave members an update on the progress made by the Local Authority in relation to Nursery Sufficiency and 30 hours Childcare Offer and advised that following the conclusion of the Sufficiency Review, a report will be taken to Council recommending a way forward for nursery education across the County Borough and advising of the likely impact on the 30 hours childcare offer.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the Local Authority not yet formally determined a sufficient provision of nursery education for its area? • Why is the Authority commissioning work to undertake an assessment. Can this be carried out in house? • Clarification on the significant number of children from Flying Start settings experiencing delays of one or two terms before accessing FPN2 in September. • Short supply of places in Welsh Medium (WM) Nursery Education. • Clarification on the remaining 9% or 97 pupils that were delayed entry to nursery education in January or April 2018 until September 2018. • Childcare Offer - how many potential providers have been identified in Merthyr Tydfil and how many have signed up to the 30 hours offer to date? <p>Alan Rees (Co-optee) left the meeting at 4.55 pm.</p> <p>Councillor Chris Davies left the meeting at 5.15 pm</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
552	Scrutiny Committee Work Programme	The Committee considered and agreed the Work Programme.
553	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there were no referrals, feedback or follow up actions to discuss.

554	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the items that had been considered at the meeting.
555	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair referred to the additional report on the ISB Funding Reductions for 2019/2020 which was handed out to members at the pre-meeting. Due to the short timescales, it was agreed by members that in order to give this document due consideration, a Special Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee be convened for Monday, 17th December 2018 at 2.00 pm.