



## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
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Service Area	Learning
Committee Date	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

# **Raising Aspirations, Raising Standards Strategy (RARS)**

## **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report outlines the purpose of the Raising Aspirations, Raising Standards Strategy.
- 1.2 The report considers how this strategy will be consulted on during the Spring Term.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The contents of this report are discussed and comments provided to officers for consideration and deliberation.

## **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Standards of attainment at the end of KS4 continue to decline across the County Borough.
- 3.2 The previous Raising Standards Strategy was out of date and there was a need to review the way forward
- 3.3 A Headteacher working group was established in the Summer Term 2019 to consider the aims and objectives of this key strategy
- 3.4 The working group was expanded to include officers from Early Years and the Youth Service.

## **4.0 WHERE WE WERE**

4.1 The previous strategy was written when the local authority was in Special Measures and was judged against the performance measures that were pertinent at that time.

## **5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW**

5.1 There is a draft strategy in place which has been put together by headteachers, officers from early years, youth services and representation from Merthyr College (Appendix 1).

5.2 The strategy outlines the four high level objectives for success.

5.3 The actions to meet the objectives will be finalised as part of the consultation process.

## **6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

6.1 It is the ambition of the local authority to be closer to or above the Welsh averages in all performance measures by 2022 and at or above the modelled outcomes in 2021.

## **7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**

7.1 Undertake a robust consultation process on the objectives within the strategy to include:

- Learning Department staff
- Wider Council staff
- Elected Members
- All headteachers
- All teaching staff
- Parents
- School Councils
- Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum
- Governing Bodies
- The College
- Local Employers
- Central South Consortium

7.2 Following the consultation process the strategy will be finalised and published for September 2020.

## **8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES**

8.1 The contents of this report relate to the following Wellbeing Objectives:

Best start to life: Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals

There is a strong relationship between wellbeing and attainment. The improvement activities detailed in this report to help raise standards contribute directly to our wellbeing objective.

**SUE WALKER**  
**CHIEF OFFICER, LEARNING**

**COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		No