

Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Learning and LGES Scrutiny

Date / Timing	Overarching Item/Issue	Why is this on the work programme?	Cabinet Member & Officer	How will this be scrutinised?	Scrutiny Focus – What are we trying to achieve?
20 th June 2022	Draft Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (FWP)	Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-being Objective Best Start to Life Recovery, Transformation & Improvement (RTI) Plan Raising Aspirations Raising Standards (RARS) Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education Chair of Education Scrutiny	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting	Ensure FWP includes the 4 r's of scrutiny and add value through critical friend challenge and ensure the work programme is robust for the year ahead.
12 th September 2022	Community Focussed Schools Workshop	Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-being Objectives Best Start to Life RTI Plan	Head of ALN and Inclusion Head of school planning and Improvement Head of Achievement and Wellbeing	Scrutiny Type: Workshop	Work in groups to undertake a SWOT Analysis and explore the impact on learners, the wider community and to use the information to feedback and ask questions at Scrutiny.
	Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (FWP)	Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-being Objectives Best Start to Life RTI Plan	Chair of Education Scrutiny	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting	Adding value through critical friend challenge and ensuring a robust work programme is in place. This will adhere to the 4 principles of scrutiny and 4R's model and enable

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12 th September 2022	Community Focussed Schools	RARS Strategy			feedback to Council in our Annual Report.
		Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-being Objectives • Best Start to Life RTI Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education Director of Education	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting	Provide critical friend challenge of the work being undertaken regarding Community Schools. Explore the impact on learners, the wider community and the future funding and planning arrangements for schools. Feedback can be used to inform decision makers.
17 th October 2022	Vulnerable Learners – provision for those Educated other than at school (EOTAS) to consider the use of Reduced Timetables	Links to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-being Objectives • Best Start to Life • Living Well RTI Plan RARS Strategy Identified as an area for improvement by Estyn.	Cabinet Member for Education Director of Education Head of Prevention	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Explore the opportunities the local authority provides for vulnerable learners in particular those EOTAS. Members will also consider how the LA monitors the use, and the effectiveness of reduced timetables and the impact on learners. Findings can be used to inform service provision to improve performance addressing ESTYN Findings. Outcomes to be used to inform future decision making and planning.
		Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting	Explore the opportunities the local authority provides for vulnerable learners in particular those EOTAS. Members will also consider how the LA monitors the use, and the effectiveness of reduced timetables and the impact on learners. Findings can be used to inform service provision to improve performance addressing ESTYN Findings. Outcomes to be used to inform future decision making and planning.		

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5 th December 2022	Welsh Medium Secondary Provision	Links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Start to Life • wellbeing RARS Strategy Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Official recommendation made by Estyn to address the provision of Welsh medium learning at secondary level.	Cabinet Member for Education Head of School Planning and Improvement Director of Education	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Workshop – Feedback in Scrutiny Meeting	Add value through robust challenge in relation to the plans and proposals to enhance the provision of Welsh Secondary Education in the Local Authority. Outcomes to be used to inform decision making and planning. Workshop before the Scrutiny Meeting

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5 th December 2022	<p>To consider pupils standards and wellbeing and links to the poverty agenda</p> <p>Impact of the changes to the Universal credit system and the Pupil Development Grant i.e., the impact on pupil eligibility and learning outcomes</p>	<p>Links to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing Objectives • Best Start to Life • Living Well <p>RTI Plan RARS Strategy</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>Director of Education</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Joint Workshop Social Services and Learning</p>	<p>To consider pupils standards and wellbeing and links to the poverty agenda</p> <p>Joint workshop before the Scrutiny Meeting with Members of the Social Services Scrutiny, in relation to Wellbeing and Standards with specific links to the poverty agenda.</p> <p>Workshop – 21 November 2022</p>

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<p>23rd January 2023 Meeting cancelled date changed</p> <p>7th February 2023</p>	<p>New Curriculum – Readiness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to legislative duties placed upon Local Authorities by Welsh Government. • Part of the Local Authority’s challenge framework to hold Central South Consortium (CSC) to account for our schools’ preparation and readiness for the new curriculum. <p>Captured in the Operational risk register for Education</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>Director of Education CSC Representative</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting and site visit(s).</p> <p>Site visits to take place in the Autumn Term - To meet school staff to have first-hand experience of the changes to the Curriculum and the impact on learners.</p>	<p>To hold CSC to account and provide critical friend challenge in relation to schools’ readiness to meet the requirements of the new curriculum.</p> <p>Outcome can be used to inform decisions regarding future challenge and monitoring.</p>

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6 th March 2023	ALN & Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Attendance 	Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-being Objectives • collaboration • Best Start to Life • Living Well RTI Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education Director of Education Head of ALN and Inclusion	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting	Gain assurance that key requirements of the ALN Act are being met and to explore how resources are being used within the service to ensure there is sufficient capacity to comply with new duties set out in the Act. Examine and consider progress made against the targets identified in the Attendance Improvement Plan (previously shared)- Outcomes will be used to provide challenge and inform decisions going forward.

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10 th May 2023 (New date due to Coronation)	Self-evaluation (Corporate Framework)	Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-being Objectives cross-cutting across all wellbeing themes/Directorates. 	Cabinet Member for Education Director of Education Head of ALN and Inclusion Head of school planning and Improvement Head of Achievement and Wellbeing	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Workshop(s) and feedback to Scrutiny Meeting – prior to this meeting, Members will be invited to a series of workshops on each question of the corporate framework for self-evaluation.	Provide critical friend challenge. Review and challenge self-evaluation outcomes and judgements to inform future plans to support continuous improvement. Secure assurance that these plans are robust, and judgements are appropriately evidenced.
	CSC Annual Academic Scrutiny Report for 2021/2022 (Merthyr specific).	Link to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-being Objectives collaboration Best Start to Life RTI Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education Director of Education CSC Representative	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting	To scrutinise the Annual Report for 2021/2022 and provide critical friend challenge in relation to the contribution of CSC working in partnership to raise standards in schools. Outcome can be used to inform decisions regarding future challenge and monitoring.

Additional Items for Consideration

- **Consider Food Waste in Schools – item to be added to the next FWP – to look at the is a Workshop setting (agreed 5/12/22 Scrutiny)**
- Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) Inspection Feedback, Goetre Primary School Inspection, Gellifaelog Primary School – **(Estyn Inspection Report** are now published. Members agreed to arrange a Workshop to consider the Reports. Item will be added to the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (FWP) **(agreed 7 Feb 2023 Scrutiny)**
- Consider the Report from the Children’s Commissioner (England) on protecting children and keeping them safe while online – looking at this from a local perspective in the FWP next cycle **(agreed 7 Feb 2023 Scrutiny)**
- Central South Consortia (CSC) Challenge framework: Chair and Vice Chair of Scrutiny to meet with their equivalents across all of CSC to explore how they are holding CSC to account. This can be used to inform this work going forward.
- **Tertiary Education: Potential to meet with Board of Directors of the College of Merthyr Tydfil to get an understanding of the work that is ongoing and the trends around transition, post education etc. Also, an opportunity to explore how scrutiny may be able to add value through robust challenge and engagement. This could be facilitated through an ‘Inquiry Day’.**
- Whole school approach: Cross-cutting theme which links to our Living Well Objective, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS), wellbeing, school transport etc. (this could be a proposal to the Social Services Chair).
- Raising Aspirations Raising Strategy (RARS): To be added to Work Programme for next year – need another year of implementation to determine its effectiveness of delivery; additional time is also needed in order to evaluate the impact of objectives set out in the RARS. Critical Friend challenge addressing the ‘so what’ element of the RARS Strategy.
- Hold a series of workshops with Members from other scrutiny areas regarding self-evaluation under the corporate framework (linking into the Business Improvement Plans).

FWP ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION NEXT CYCLE

Report on MAT Pupils

Effectiveness of Governing Bodies (Reported last 3 years ago) Consider the impact since ALN Tool Kit – How is this progressing.

Consider the ALN Task & Finish Report/Recommendations shared at Scrutiny on 6/3/2023.

School Balances and MTFPs

Recent School Estyn Inspections (schools causing concern) – Scrutiny Meeting (invite HTs into the Chamber in the next cycle)

Transition Plans

Joint Scrutiny Committee with Social Services on pathways to employment (inc. non-vocation courses)

Partnership Working

Capita One – how can data be used to challenge and target service improvement

Pupil Voice

CSC Annual Report to Scrutiny – holding CSC to account

