

# Learning & LGES Scrutiny Committee

## Feedback on Workshop: Self Evaluation Review (SER)



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### Background & Purpose

Self-evaluation is a rigorous process that is undertaken annually by Directors, Heads of Service and Officers to critically reflect on outcomes, service provision and leadership and management. The key purpose of the process is to consider good practice, areas for development and to identify key priorities for improvement for the coming year, to further strengthen the service and continue to meet the needs of our communities.

To support the department to meet the expectations of Estyn each key question of the corporate framework has been adapted to provide relevant evaluation against the Estyn framework (What we inspect - Local Government Education Services September 2022).

The self- evaluation report (SER) has been drawn together using team self-evaluation and has been subject to scrutiny at both the departments senior leadership team meetings and as part of the Learning Away Day sessions.

### Scrutiny Focus of the Workshop

- Provide critical friend challenge of the self-evaluation process.
- Review and challenge self-evaluation outcomes and agree with the judgements to inform future priorities to support continuous improvement.
- Secure assurance that these plans are robust, and judgments are appropriately evidenced.
- Reflect on the workshop as a Scrutiny Committee to inform the Forward Work Programme.
- Reflect on whether the priorities for improvement identified will address the key areas of development.

### Outcomes of workshop and how did Scrutiny add value?

The workshop allowed members to have a greater understanding of the key issues and the process undertaken to develop the self-evaluation report. Officers presented the three key questions and members proceeded to ask probing questions and challenge the judgements put forward, and following a discussion, members agreed that officers were able to appropriately evidence their rationale and members therefore supported the overall judgements made.

During the workshop officers had the opportunity to share areas of good practice, areas for development and there was an open and honest conversation about the challenges ahead and members were satisfied that the priorities identified would support improvement within the service. Officers provided assurance that Self-evaluation is aligned to strategic planning across the council, and this helps to ensure that there is a golden thread which links the priorities and performance objectives to deliver against the outcomes.

*‘Making a difference together.’*

Members noted and supported the following overall judgements made within the SER for each of the three key questions:

<b>Overall Judgements</b>		
KQ1	Outcomes	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>
KQ2	Provision and Service Delivery	<b>Adequate</b>
KQ3	Leadership & Management	<b>Adequate</b>

## Key Priorities identified

### Key Question 1 - Outcomes

To improve standards for all learners as set out in the RARS strategy in particular:

- A\*-A at GCSE
- A\*-G at GCSE narrowing the gap between MTBC and Wales
- Welsh literacy levels for all learners, bringing GCSE outcomes in line with Welsh averages
- Maths/Numeracy levels for all learners
- Science outcomes at GCSE

Develop a shared understanding of progression in line with development of assessment in Curriculum for Wales.

Improve outcomes for ALN learners, focusing on the Capped Point Score.

Improve the performance of efsm learners across all phases, including a focus on science, Capped Point Score, A\*/A and A\*-C at Key Stage 4.

Improve rates of attendance particularly that for persistent absenteeism.

Reduce the number of young people NEET.

Reduce the number of fixed term exclusions.

### Key Question 2 - Provision

Develop robust partnership arrangement with third sector organisations through Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil.

Set up a pilot programme with businesses for SEAL (BETP).

Ensure partnership working between CSC and LA officers is effective and ensures school improvement is managed in a timely manner.

Continue to develop the pilot of CFS across all clusters and plan future roll-out and evaluation.

Further develop the role of the school-based Family Liaison Officers.

Further develop processes for managing exclusions and reduced timetables in school.

Ensure plans are agreed to support the increase in Welsh Medium school places required by the WESP.

Further develop the use of Capita One to evaluate the impact of services and interventions.

Develop a MTCBC approach to Community Schools.

### Key Question 3 – Leadership & Management

Hold CSC to account more effectively to help deliver improvements in pupil outcomes.

Strengthen the review and challenge of the VfM and impact provided by the CSC including formal scrutiny of the CSCs annual effectiveness report.

Complete the review of specialist provision in mainstream and prioritise any resource implications.

Further develop the involvement of stakeholders in the self-evaluation process.

### Way Forward

Drawing on the information contained within the SER, members identified a number of key priorities for the next cycle of scrutiny meetings. Members noted that a meeting with the Chair, Vice Chair, Director, and cabinet Member was scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 to consider the Forward Work Programme for the next municipal year. It was also noted that the FWP was a fluid work document that would continue to be developed over the coming year to meet any emerging needs/issues and would run in parallel with the Quarterly Cabinet Work Programme.