

## Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-2024

### Learning and LGES Scrutiny

Date	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?	Impact/Outcome/Actions From: Report Item
19 <sup>TH</sup> June 2023	<b>Forward Work Plan 2023/2024</b>	<p>Link to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil Focused on learning.</li> <li>• A Safe &amp; Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil</li> <li>• A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil</li> <li>• A Clean &amp; Green Merthyr Tydfil</li> </ul> <p>Corporate Plan RARS Strategy</p>	Chair of Education Scrutiny	<p><b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams</p> <p><b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting</p>	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.	FWP to be considered at Quarterly Technical Meetings to ensure that the Cabinet and Scrutiny FWP are aligned and to consider any emerging need including public voice.
	<b>Effectiveness of Governing Bodies including their democratic accountability</b>	<p>Link to Well-being Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> <p>Corporate Plan RARS Strategy</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>Head of Service Achievement and Wellbeing</p>	<p><b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams</p> <p><b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting</p>	Provide critical friend challenge of the work being undertaken by Governing Bodies and consider their effectiveness (including their democratic accountability). Feedback can be used to inform priorities going forward.	<p>Provide an updated list of the school governor vacancies.</p> <p>Agreed that Scrutiny Members would have access to the Gov Training Session on Democratic Responsibility</p> <p>Agreed Task &amp; Finish Leads.</p>

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18 <sup>TH</sup> September 2023	<b>School Balances and MTFPs</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	To receive a report on school balances at year end and consider schools MTFPs and budget position and identify budget pressures to inform future priorities.	Agreed to look at the Report and re-phrase before it goes to Cabinet/Council to reflect the financial position for Merthyr schools.
	<b>North Cluster Community School Focus Pilot (CFS)</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education  Lead Officer for CFS	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	To receive a progress review on the Pilot and to debate this and ask questions on the impact this has had on pupil/community learning and wellbeing and use this to inform future priorities.	Lessons learned from the North CFS Pilot was to engage with Governors in the roll out of CFS in the Mid/Southern Valley Cluster going forward.

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6 <sup>TH</sup> November 2023	<b>School Estyn Inspections:</b>  Goetre PS Gellifaelog PS Ty Dysgu	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education  Head of Service Achievement and Wellbeing	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	To receive a presentation from the Headteacher/Chair on the progress school has made against their Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) since the ESTYN Inspection. Members will ask questions to support future priorities.	Ty Dysgu agreed to bring this back to the Committee for a progress update.  Chair commented that a number of Scrutiny Referrals had been received and these would be considered at the Quarterly Technical Meeting.
11 <sup>TH</sup> December 2023	<b>Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy WESP	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education  Head of Service Achievement and Wellbeing	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	Scrutiny members to receive a report on the progress made against the targets in the WESP Strategy and to scrutinise this information to identify any pressure points, barriers and to inform future priorities.	Members recommended that consideration is given to how we can make most of a template, so information/data is not duplicated when providing information/data to the Welsh lang commissioner.  <b>Actions going forward:</b> Need a site for the new Welsh primary school. Feasibility study for Secondary Welsh school. Welsh Primary LRB

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11 <sup>TH</sup> December 2023	<b>RARS Strategy</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy WESP	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education  Head of Service Achievement and Wellbeing	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	Scrutiny members to receive and progress report on the RARS Strategy and scrutinise this information to identify any impact on pupil progress to inform future priorities.	Following the RARS update Members asked that Attendance be looked at prior to the Meeting in March. Consider FPNs and a deep dive to look at Attendance in relation to barriers/interventions. (Maybe a Workshop)
22 <sup>ND</sup> January 2024	<b>Whole School Approach</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	To consider a report on the Whole School Approach to inform future priorities. <b>Whole School Approach. And the impact on pupil progress and standards.</b>	Members suggested that young people are involved the re-development of the Toolkit.

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22 <sup>ND</sup> January 2024	<b>CSC Annual Report to Scrutiny</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration.</li> <li>• Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	To scrutinise the Annual Report for 2022/2023 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.	Continue to hold CSC to account by attending Scrutiny and reporting annually on the services delivered and the impact that the partnership has on raising standards in our schools.
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>Review of ALN</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> <li>• Healthier Merthyr Tydfil.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	Scrutinise the progress made to comply with duties set out in the ALN Act and use this information to inform future priorities.	Members asked for additional information on <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) ALN steering group plan of action.</li> <li>2) Copies of the written processes produced in the past year.</li> </ol>

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4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>Attendance Report</b>	RARS Strategy Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> <li>• Healthier Merthyr Tydfil.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	Examine and consider progress made against the targets identified in the Attendance Improvement Plan to inform decisions going forward.	Members emailed additional questions on: FPNs, CLA Pupils and FPNs. and grant funding and SLA funding for the service.
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024	<b>Transition Arrangements across all key stages</b>  <b>Site Visit to College 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	Link to Well-being Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collaboration</li> <li>• Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focused on learning.</li> </ul> Corporate Plan RARS Strategy	Cabinet Member for Education  Director of Education	<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber/MS Teams  <b>Scrutiny Type:</b> Scrutiny Meeting	To receive a report on transition arrangements and use this information to inform future priorities - Members will scrutinise Transition Plans from early years to nursery, from Yr6 to High School and from Yr11 to College.	

## Scrutiny Activities 2023 2024

<u>Workshop Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Workshop- LRB Capacity - (Cabinet 6 Dec 2023)</b>	<b>21<sup>ST</sup> Nov 2023 (Committee Room 3)</b>
<b>Whole School Approach – Joint Scrutiny Workshop</b> with Social Services	<b>Report going to Scrutiny 22 January 2024 – consider Workshop next cycle</b>
<b>SER Workshop</b> (Prior to Scrutiny Meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024)	<b>14<sup>TH</sup> May 2024 2:00PM- 5:00PM (Committee Room 3)</b>

<u>Task and Finish Groups</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Consider food waste in schools</b> (Lead Scrutiny Member- Cllr Clare Jones)	<b>TBA</b>
<b>MAT Pupils</b> (Lead Scrutiny Member - Jeff Beard) (First meeting -19 September 2023)	<b>Agreed to postpone the Task &amp; Finish Group and wait for the completion of the work by CSC and the Department on this topic.</b>
<u>Scrutiny Visits</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>College – Meet the Team, Learning Walk, Transition</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b> (Prior to Scrutiny Meeting 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024)

## Additional Items for consideration

**Ty Dysgu** – to be added to the FWP for a progress update (in the new cycle 2024 2025)  
**Review of Catchment Areas for schools** (to be added to the next FWP cycle of meetings)  
**Safeguarding**

**Education Psychology Service**