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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Julie Lloyd
(Tel: 01443 864246 Email: lloydj4@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 6th March 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 12th March, 2024 at 5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy'.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

Pages

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



2 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes:-

- 3 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 30th January 2024. 1 - 6
- 4 Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.
- 5 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. 7 - 20
- 6 To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports*:-
1. Support for Pupils Unable to Attend School (Formerly Known as Home Tuition) – 21st February 2024;
 2. Whole Authority Revenue Budget Monitoring Report (Month 9) – 27th February 2024;
 3. Update on Reserves – 27th February 2024.

**If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet reports to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Julie Lloyd 01443 864246, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 11th March 2024. .*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports:-

- 7 Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme - Statutory Objection Report: Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School. 21 - 40
- 8 School Organisation Code 2018 - Statutory Objection Report: Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infant School. 41 - 46
- 9 Winter Pressures. 47 - 56
- 10 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan - Annual Report. 57 - 74

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, D. Cushing, Mrs P. Cook, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C.J. Gordon, T. Heron, A. Leonard, B. Miles (Vice Chair), T. Parry (Chair), J.E. Roberts, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, J. Winslade and K. Woodland

Co-opted Members:

Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan Commission for Education Representative (with voting rights on educational matters)
Mr M. Western

Parent Governor Representatives (with voting rights on educational matters) Tracy Millington (Parent Governor Representative) and Mr G. James (Parent Governor Representative)

Outside Body Representatives (without voting rights)
Mrs P. Ireland (NEU) and Mrs K. Cole (NEU)

Caerphilly Governors Association (without voting rights)
Mr D Davies

Users and Carers - Vacant

And Appropriate Officers

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Agenda Item 3



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2024 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor T. Parry – Chair
Councillor B. Miles - Vice Chair

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth, C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, P. Cook, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C. Gordon, T. Heron, A. Leonard, J. Roberts, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, J. Winslade, and K. Woodland.

Cabinet Members:

Councillors C. Andrews (Education and Communities), and E. Forehead (Social Care).

Together with:

Officers: D. Street (Deputy Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), K. Cole (Chief Education Officer), G. Jenkins (Interim Director of Social Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director – Adult Services), T. McMahon (Caerphilly Cares Manager), A. Griffiths (Service Delivery Manager), D. Boucher (Service Support Manager), S.J Irish (Cost of Living Co-Ordinator), C. Quinn (Healthy Schools Practitioner), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) and J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer).

Also in attendance:

E. Pryce (Assistant Director: Policy and Strategy, Education Achievement Service), S. Speedy (School Improvement Partner, Education Achievement Service), S. Ellington (Citizens Advice Bureau), C. Morgan (Citizens Advice Bureau), R. Owen (Headteacher – Idris Davies School), and J. Duggan (Assistant Head – Idris Davies School).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click Here To View](#).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Cushing, and Mr M. Western (Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan Commission for Education Representative), Mrs T. Millington (Parent Governor Representative), Mr G. James (Parent Governor Representative), Mrs P. Ireland

(NEU), Mrs K. Cole (NEU), and Mr D. Davies (Caerphilly Governors Association).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Councillor M. Chacon-Dawson declared a personal interest on Agenda Item 7. Update on the Progress and Evaluation of Caerphilly Cares and Employee Volunteering Scheme in that she is married to someone who works for GAVO.

It was noted that Councillor S. Skivens declared a personal interest on Agenda Item 7. Update on the Progress and Evaluation of Caerphilly Cares and Employee Volunteering Scheme in that he is a Trustee of Citizens Advice Bureau, Blaenau Gwent.

As these were personal interests only there was no requirement for them to leave the meeting and they could take a full part in the debate

3. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2023.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2023 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against, and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 28th November 2023 (minute nos. 1 – 9) be approved as a correct record.

4. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE.

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

5. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report that informed the Committee of its Forward Work Programme planned for the period January 2024 to March 2024.

An update report on the changes to the Inspection framework was agreed for the Special meeting in May or later in the year.

Councillor E. Forehead noted that her name was incorrectly listed on items in the FWP and that these should be replaced with Councillor C. Andrews.

Following consideration of the report, and with the inclusion of the additional report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers, as amended, be published on the Council's website.

6. CABINET REPORTS

It was confirmed that there had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS AND EVALUATION OF CAERPHILLY CARES AND EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING SCHEME.

Councillor C. Andrews (Cabinet Member for Education and Communities) introduced the report which provided Members with an update on progress, key successes, and challenges of the Caerphilly Cares Service and Employee Volunteering Scheme.

Representatives from Citizens Advice Bureau advised Members of their successful working relationship with Caerphilly Cares and the benefits that they had gained. CAB had also supported Caerphilly Cares, attending the 'cost of living' events, and had received funding to operate a fuel voucher scheme which Caerphilly Cares could provide referrals to. CAB also assisted residents in their applications for the 'cost of living' hardship fund. Members were advised that two full time posts in CAB were being funded by CCBC for the next two years, a Welfare Benefits Specialist, and a Debt Specialist.

A Member sought clarification on the purpose of Caerphilly Cares. Members were advised that residents approach the Council for help, advice and support and that CCBC are able to direct the resident to the appropriate department or third sector. Members were also advised that the role of Caerphilly Cares included supporting residents via the third sector, which would hopefully prevent them from needing the services of the Councils' Social Services department.

The Member also queried whether the introduction of a new database in Caerphilly Cares had been successful and whether it had improved the role of Caerphilly Cares. Members were advised that the new database had improved the 'information sharing' with other departments of the Council, and further specific information on the database would be sought and provided to Members if required.

The Member also sought clarification on how external volunteers are rewarded, compared to the volunteers employed by CCBC who received incentives of extra annual leave. Members were advised that external volunteers would not be rewarded in the same way as they were not employed by CCBC and would not be covered by that specific policy.

A Member referred to the testimonials in the report and queried how people could be made more aware of the help available. Members were advised that Caerphilly Cares is publicised and promoted widely, in addition to 'word of mouth' from residents in the Community.

A Member noted the work and comprehensive report by Officers and requested further financial information regarding the costs of projects, a breakdown of funding received and details of spending. Members were advised that a financial summary would be forwarded to Members following the meeting.

A Member sought clarification on the 'befriending' service provided by Caerphilly Cares, which was thought to be the responsibility of GAVO. Members were advised that the 'befriending' service had been long established within Social Services. The Member also noted that they had been unable to contact Caerphilly Cares on numerous occasions. The Member was invited to give specific details to the Caerphilly Cares Manager and this matter would be dealt with following the meeting.

A Member noted that Charity organisations are being over-subscribed where CCBC are making referrals to them without any funding. Reference was made to the Day Centres and the need to support the Charity organisations that were being referred to. Members were advised that there was a high demand for the services available and that the demand was currently higher than what was available to residents. Members were informed of the need for more volunteers to meet demand for particular services. The Member queried whether CCBC could assist with training or funding for these Charities. Members were advised that this issue would be considered following the meeting.

A Member sought clarification on information sharing within departments. Members were advised that a 'single point of contact' process is managed where data is collated to assist residents with various departments they may need to contact in the Council, and this information is shared with other relevant departments, so that unnecessary duplication is avoided, and residents' records are updated to include any historical issues. Members were also advised that this information would be held for 6 years.

A Member queried the success of the 'Buddy Scheme' within Social Services. Members were advised that this scheme was set up during the pandemic and was run by CCBC and involved CCBC employees. Following the pandemic the 'Befriending Service' was reformed and original volunteers of this service were keen to become involved again, as this service had been 'put on hold' during the pandemic. Members were informed that whilst there was a turnover of volunteers due to changes in their circumstances, many volunteers would remain in the service for a long time.

A Member sought clarification on the Shared Prosperity Fund, and whether it was means tested and/or repayable by householders. Members were advised that the grants are means tested but not repayable, and further information regarding the means testing would be forwarded to Members following the meeting. The Member also queried whether a text service was available for the deaf community to access this service and whether the Caerphilly Cares team attend clubs within the community with a BSL interpreter. Members were advised that this is not currently happening but could be considered to improve the service for deaf residents.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.

8. KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES IN 2023.

Councillor C. Andrews (Cabinet Member for Education and Communities) introduced the report which provided Members with final outcome data for Secondary schools within the Local Authority for 2022-2023 (Summer 2023). Members were informed that this year, for the first time since 2019, the Welsh Government are producing Key Stage 4 (KS4) All Wales Core Data Sets (AWCDS) at individual school level. Each of the last four years used different methods for determining grades, so none are directly comparable. In 2023 national outcomes are lower than 2022, 2021 and 2020, but not as low as 2019.

The EAS Assistant Director – Policy and Strategy, gave a presentation to Members which was an Explanatory Introduction for Members on Key Stage 4 Performance Measures. Members were also provided with a detailed explanation of all the charts and graphs within the report.

A Member queried whether any consideration was given to gender reassignment when grading, as reference was made to males and females. Members were advised that the data was provided by Welsh Government and no other categorisation was provided.

A Member sought clarification on the 'families' and 'positions' of the schools. Members were given an explanation on the positions 1 to 10, with position 1 being the most socio-economically disadvantaged school. Members were also advised on how the schools are 'grouped' together.

A Member queried whether pupils attending the most socio-economically disadvantaged schools were still at a disadvantage even though they may have experienced teachers. Members were advised that data had shown for numerous years that the schools with a higher level of pupils receiving free school meals, had a lower level of performance.

The Chair thanked the Officers for the report and presentation and requested the presentation slides be circulated to Members following the meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the contents of the report, asked questions, and offered views about overall school outcomes.

9. HEALTHY SCHOOLS ON VAPING.

Councillor C. Andrews (Cabinet Member for Education and Communities) introduced the report which considered national and local concerns around vaping amongst young people and identified how the Local Authority continues to support schools to address these concerns.

Members were advised that in 2021/22, just under 125,000 11- to 16-year-olds across Wales took part in the School Health Research Network Survey and data indicated that 1 in 5 young people in Gwent are reported to have tried an electronic cigarette, more commonly known as vaping. Members were informed that in a commitment to reduce the increasing number of young people vaping across Caerphilly, the healthy schools team work in partnership with Public Health Wales and other external providers. Schools receive comprehensive and age-appropriate guidance to educate pupils of the adverse effects of vaping. This will, in turn, encourage informed choices around the use of vapes.

The Headteacher from Idris Davies School gave a presentation to Members on vaping in schools, in particular, data provided related to Idris Davies School. Members were given information on the background of e-cigarettes, the increased use of them by their school pupils, and the impact of the disruption, anti-social behaviour in toilets and damage to school property caused by pupils vaping during lesson time.

Members were informed of the response to these issues by Idris Davies School, which included increased monitoring of areas around the school, trialling of vape alarms in toilets, educating pupils of the risks involved and adapting school's behaviour policy to prevent pupils vaping in future.

A Member referred to a BBC Panorama documentary from September 2023, which also highlighted the issues of vaping in schools, and questioned the current involvement CCBC Trading Standards may have with regards to the sale of vapes. Members were advised that the relevant Officers would be contacted following the meeting and further information would be circulated to Members.

A Member queried what involvement the school had with the parents of children who had been vaping in school. Members were advised that when a pupil is identified, vaping in school, the device is confiscated, and contact is made with the parents who are invited to the school to discuss the issue. The schools' aim is to support the pupil and educate them to prevent further vaping in the future.

A Member wished to note thanks to the Headteacher for the excellent presentation and information provided.

A Member queried whether the pupils, when educated about the risks and effects of vaping, were surprised by what they learn. Members were advised that this was a difficult area, as vaping is widely perceived to be an acceptable alternative to smoking but can still cause unknown damage that pupils are unaware of.

A Member noted the interesting presentation and queried whether the vapes were purchased locally or online. Members were advised that, from speaking to the pupils, the vapes are thought to have been purchased off pupils who may have bought in bulk online, and then sold to other pupils. Members were also advised that it was understood they are also purchased in the local community, and it was suggested that pupils could be asked to confirm the exact premises from which they were purchased. The Member sought clarification on any interventions by Trading Standards and other relevant departments of the Council. Members were informed that this could be a subject covered by a separate Members Seminar in the near future.

A Member queried whether there were any social media campaigns regarding vaping, which were directed at school children, and suggested that the local authority could produce an awareness campaign/competition targeted at school children.

Members were advised that information is passed on to the Police, where premises selling vapes to school children are identified.

A Member queried how reported incidents of vaping on school bus journeys is dealt with. Members were advised that these incidents are treated the same as if they had occurred on school premises, if the pupils can be identified, which can be difficult as school staff are not present on the buses.

A Member clarified that information is given verbally to parents when they are contacted by the school, however an information/health leaflet would be considered if this were available to schools.

Members were advised that teachers had reported that pupils who were becoming addicted to vaping, were disrupting lessons to access the toilets to vape, and that this was also affecting their education.

The Scrutiny Committee considered the contents of the report, and endorsed the support offered to schools.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th March 2024.

CHAIR



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12TH MARCH 2024

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholder.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the Committee Meeting on Tuesday 30th January 2024. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period until March 2024.
- 5.2 The forward Work Programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the

cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the council website. The Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

5.3 The Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 19th February 2024. The Cabinet Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2. A copy of the prioritisation flowchart is attached at appendix 3 to assist the scrutiny committee to determine what items should be added to the forward work programme.

5.4 **Conclusion**

The work programme is for consideration and amendment by the scrutiny committee prior to publication on the council website.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No assumptions are necessary.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 As this report is for information only an Integrated Impact Assessment is not necessary.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer jacqu@carphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate

Services

Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer

Gareth Jenkins, Interim Director of Social Services

Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer,
Legal Services

Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee

Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Education and Social Services
Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work
Programme

Appendix 2 Cabinet Forward Work Programme

Appendix 3 Forward Work Programme Prioritisation Flowchart

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Forward Work Programme - Education and Social Services		Appendix 1		
Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
12/03/24 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Proposal – Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhymney Primary	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Objection Report and endorse the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to the Planning Application Stage and submission of a Full Business Case to Welsh Government	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants School	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Objection Report and endorse the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to closing the school	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Winter Pressures		Williams, Jo;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
12/03/24 17:30	Welsh Education Scrutiny Plan (WESP) Action Plan		Mutch, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Information Item - Budget Monitoring (Period 9)		Southcombe, Jane;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Information Item - Final Assessment Report for 2022/2023's Welsh Public Libraries Standards	To update Scrutiny on the details contained in the Final Assessment Report for 2022/2023's Welsh Public Libraries Standards	Pugh, Karen;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
20/03/24 17:30	Post 16, Single Sex and Surplus Places Board Next Steps		Edmunds, Richard' Ed'	Cllr. Andrews, Carol
20/03/24 17:30	Youth Forum Priorities		O'Neill, Paul;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol
23/04/24 17:30	Federation of a Schools Governing Body proposal		West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
23/04/24 17:30	School Inspection Update		Cole, Keri;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
23/04/24 17:30	Safeguarding	Critical areas of work undertaken Impact of the work Next steps	Ellis, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
23/04/24 17:30	Information Item - Regional Partnership Activity		Williams, Jo;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
23/04/24 17:30	Information Item - Modern Foreign Languages taught in Schools		Cole, Keri;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
20/05/24 17:30	EAS Overview		Pryce, Ed (EAS)	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
04/06/24 17:30	Exclusions	Approaches taken by schools Impact of school interventions Current rates of exclusions Support and challenge to schools	Ellis, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
04/06/24 17:30	Regional Partnership Board 6-month update	Implementation of governance review Update on work of RPB	Williams, Jo;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
16/07/24 17:30	Pupil Attendance		Warren, Paul;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
16/07/24 17:30	Social Services - Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report	To ensure Scrutiny Committee is fully aware of the Council's arrangements for corporate safeguarding and is satisfied and assured that these arrangements are effective.	Jenkins, Gareth;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
03/09/24 17:30				
15/10/24 17:30				
26/11/24 17:30				
28/01/25 17:30				
11/03/25 17:30				

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Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
06/03/2024 13:00 p.m.	Allocation Criteria for Artificial Sports Pitches and the Ystrad Mynach Centre for Sporting Excellence	To seek Cabinet approval for amendments to the criteria for the allocation of bookings at Caerphilly Council managed artificial sports pitches (3G and ATP) and the Ystrad Mynach Centre for Sporting Excellence and to approve the delegation of future amendments to the allocation criteria to the relevant Director or Head of Service in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.	Jared Lougher/ Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Chris Morgan
06/03/2024 Page 13	Food Standards Agency Audit of Caerphilly Food Hygiene and Food Standards Service Planning and Delivery	For Cabinet to consider the Food Standards Agency audit findings and Action Plan and any recommendations from the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee.	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr. Philippa Leonard
06/03/2024	Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028	For Cabinet to consider and approve the Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028, prior to being considered at Full Council (18/04/2023) for approval and publication on the Council's website.	Anwen Cullinane/Kath Peters	Cllr Eluned Stenner
06/03/2024	Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022-2023	For Cabinet to consider and approve the content of the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022-2023, for publication on the Council's website.	Anwen Cullinane/Kath Peters	Cllr Eluned Stenner
06/03/2024	Council Self-Assessment year-end Report 2022-2023	The Council's Self-Assessment 22/23 is the Council's public position on how it has assessed and judged itself in its effectiveness of its organisational	Ros Roberts/Sue Richards	Cllr Eluned Stenner

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
		systems and processes, with any planned improvement needs. This includes the year-end performance of the last year of the 5 year set of (2018-23) Well-being Objectives.		
06/03/2024	Gender Pay Gap	Legislative requirement to publish the Council's gender pay gap information by 31st March each year	Lynne Donovan	Cllr Nigel George
06/03/2024	Welsh Government Retail, Leisure & Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme 2024/25	To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Retail, Leisure & Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme for 2024/25.	Glenn Edwards/ Sean O'Donnell	Cllr Eluned Stenner
Special Cabinet 20/03/24 Page 14	Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	To advise on the outcome of a public consultation on a proposal for Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to remain permanently closed, with sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners being made available for community use outside of school hours upon opening in Spring 2025. To present the views of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee. To seek a decision on the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Chris Morgan
Special Cabinet 20/03/24 13:00 p.m.	Consultation outcome - Proposals to implement Council Tax premiums on long-term empty properties and second homes	To consider the implementation of premiums from April 2025.	Sean O'Donnell/Steve Harris	Cllr Eluned Stenner/ Cllr Shayne Cook

Cabinet Forward Work Programme - 5th March 2024

Appendix 2

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
Special Cabinet 20/03/24	Proposed Changes to Caerphilly CBC's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	To seek Cabinet approval of a proposed change to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in relation to rateable value limits.	Glenn Edwards/ Sean O'Donnell	Cllr Eluned Stenner
Special Cabinet 20/03/24	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	To provide Cabinet with a statutory update to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in accordance with Welsh Government National Strategy.	Mark Goodger/Marcus Lloyd	Cllr Nigel George
Special Cabinet 20/03/24 3:00 p.m.	Trade waste service changes and charging policies	To provide Cabinet with proposals for providing a new Workplace Recycling collection service to comply with new legislation and agree appropriate collection service recharge rates.	Marcus Lloyd/Hayley Jones	Cllr Chris Morgan
03/04/2024 13:00 p.m.	HRA Business Plan 2024	To seek Cabinet approval of the Housing Business Plan position in advance of submitting the plan to Welsh Government	Lesley Allen	Cllr Shayne Cook
03/04/2024	Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy	To seek Cabinet approval for a revised Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy, which will detail the key priorities for the service and how they are proposed to be addressed.	Claire Davies/Mark Jennings/ Nick Taylor-Williams	Cllr Shayne Cook
03/04/2024	Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Proposal – Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhymney Primary	For Cabinet to consider the Objection Report and approve commencement of the Planning application process and Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government.	Sue Richards/ Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews

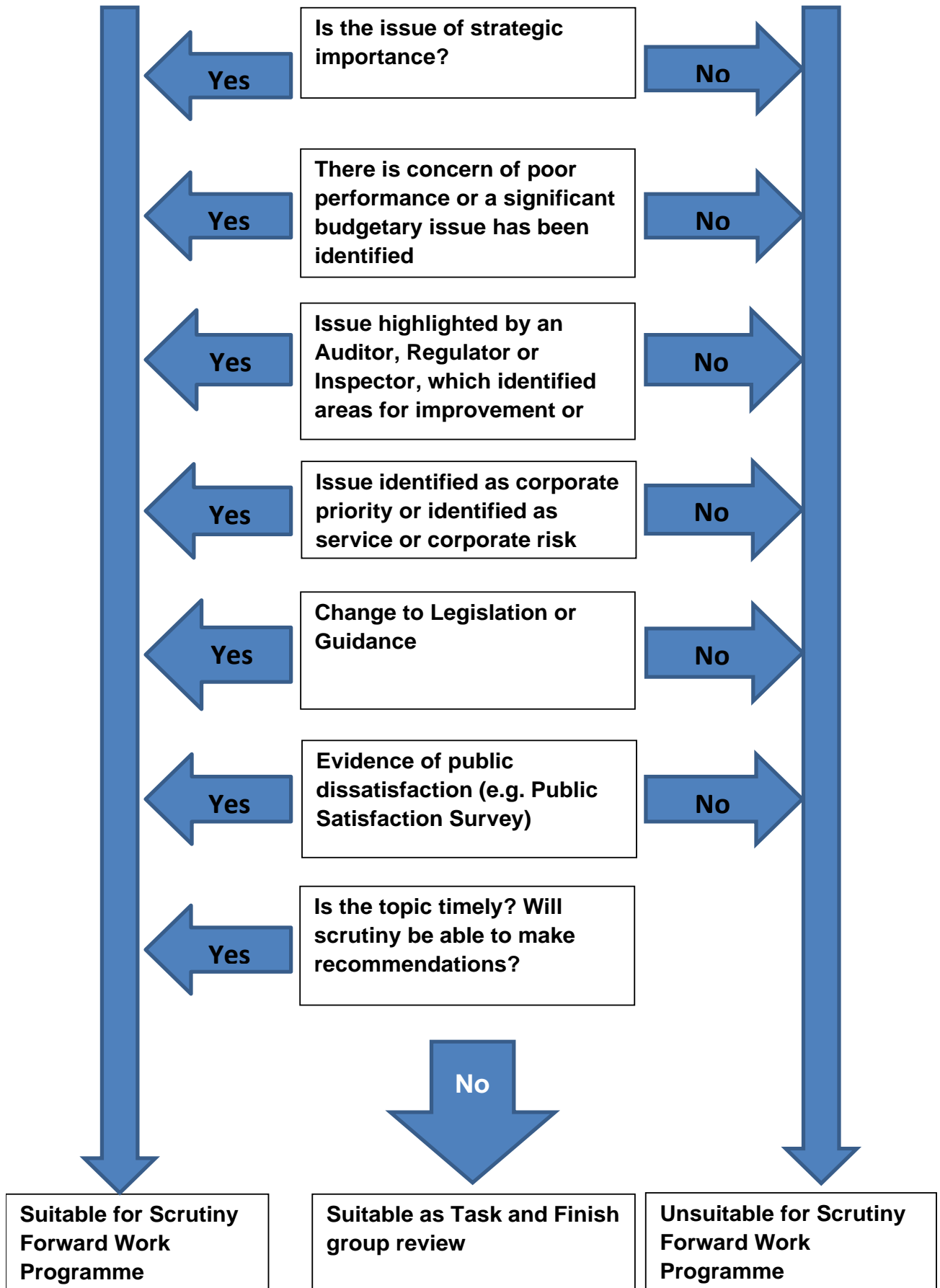
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Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
03/04/2024	Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants School	For Cabinet to consider the Objection Report and provide a final determination on the proposal to close Cwm Glas Infants School with effect from September 2024.	Sue Richards/ Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews
03/04/2024	Post 16, Single Sex and Surplus Places Board Next Steps	To consider Post 16, Single Sex and Surplus Places Board next steps.	Richard Edmunds/ Keri Cole/ Sue Richards	Cllr Carol Andrews
03/04/2024	Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Virement and Project Approval	To update Cabinet on the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF); and seek Cabinet approval for 2 proposed funding virements due to their significant value.	Rhian Kyte/ Allan Dallimore/ Paul Hudson	Cllr Eluned Stenner
03/04/2024	Caerphilly Ffos Caerffili – WEFO funding update	To update Cabinet on the submission of Ffos Caerffili to WEFO for funding and to outline the requirement for Council core reserves freed up by this process to be reinvested into the Caerphilly Town 2035 programme.	Hamish Munro/Allan Dallimore	Cllr James Pritchard
01/05/2024	Youth Forum Priorities	To provide the Youth Forum priorities for 2024	Clare Ewings/Paul Warren	Cllr Carol Andrews
01/05/2024	Review of Corporate Complaints Policy and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy - 6 month update	For Cabinet to consider the data from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023	Lisa Lane/Carl Evans	Cllr Nigel George

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
29/05/2024 (half term)	Local Housing Market Assessment and the Welsh Government Prospectus	To discuss and approve the LHMA and the Prospectus. Welsh Government requires all Local Authorities to undertake a Local Housing Market Assessment and a Prospectus. The documents set out the requirement for housing within the county borough and is utilised to inform the LDP, the allocation of Social Housing Grant and the Council's own Caerphilly Homes development programme.	Nick Taylor-Williams/Jane Roberts-Waite/ Mark Jennings	Cllr Shayne Cook
29/05/2024 (half term)	Gwent Serious Violence Strategy	To seek Members views and Cabinet approval from members for the Gwent Serious Violence Strategy and Needs Assessment.	Natalie Kenny/Rob Hartshorn	Cllr Philippa Leonard
29/05/2024 (half term)	Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2023/24	For Cabinet to note the content of the annual report and endorse the publication of the information as a record of progress towards, and compliance with, the relevant Welsh Language Standards. Once approved the report will be published on the Council's website by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2024.	Anwen Cullinane /Kath Peters	Cllr Eluned Stenner
29/05/2024 (half term)	The federation of the Cwmaber Infants School and Cwmaber Junior School	To seek Scrutiny endorsement / Cabinet approval to move to formal consultation, in partnership with each Governing Body, for the federation of Cwmaber Infants School and Cwmaber Junior School	Sue Richards / Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews

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Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation



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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12TH MARCH 2024

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING BAND B
PROGRAMME - STATUTORY OBJECTION REPORT: YSGOL
Y LAWNT AND UPPER RHYMNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members in relation to the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme in respect of the proposal to relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School, through the creation of sustainable school buildings with shared facilities.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider the information contained in the Objection Report and endorse the recommendations to Cabinet, via vote, to proceed to planning application stage and subsequent Welsh Government business case approvals.
- 1.3 Cabinet will make a final determination on the 3rd April 2024 as to whether or not to implement the proposal following the process outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 and supporting documentation.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Further to Cabinet approval gained 13th December 2023, a Statutory Notice for the proposal relating to Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School was published, and the formal objection period ran between 8th January 2024 and the 5th February 2024.
- 2.2 Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
- 2.3 2 Objections were received via email and in the medium of English.
- 2.4 To discharge the Council's duty under the School Organisation Code 2018, there is now a requirement for Cabinet members to give due regard to the content of the Objection Report and make a final determination as to whether to implement the

proposal as outlined in the documentation.

- 2.5 Should Cabinet authorise progression of the project, a Decision letter will be published setting out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.
- 2.6 The proposal will then progress to Planning Application stage and subsequent Welsh Government business case approvals.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1.1 Prior to a report being presented to Cabinet, Scrutiny Members are asked to: -
 - a) Consider the information contained in the Objection Report
 - b) Endorse the recommendation to Cabinet, via vote, to proceed to Planning Application stage and subsequent Welsh Government business case approvals

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are updated on the progress of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme.
- 4.2 To seek Member endorsement on the recommendations to Cabinet outlined in 3.1 prior to Cabinet making a final determination in respect of the proposal.
- 4.3 To assist the Council in discharging its duties in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018.

5. THE REPORT

Band B

- 5.1 The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is a major, long term and strategic capital investment programme supporting large scale capital building projects across Wales with the aim of educational transformation through enhancing school buildings and developing them as hubs for learning to meet 21st Century Educational and Community needs.
- 5.2 The Programme focuses resources on the right school, in the right place, from early years through to post-16, with funding jointly provided by Welsh Government and Local Authorities.
- 5.3 The key aims of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B investment programme, outlined by Welsh Government, is:
 - *Investment Objective One* - to provide efficient and effective educational infrastructure that will meet current and future demand for places

To include:

- The right number of places for the delivery of Welsh and English medium education

- Addressing sufficiency issues where relevant
 - Reducing in Backlog maintenance costs for schools
 - Working towards Net Zero Public Sector Buildings in line with Welsh Government Carbon Reduction Commitments
- *Investment Objective Two* – to optimise the use of infrastructure and resources, to deliver public services for our communities.

This will include:

- Flexibility of our assets so that space and facilities available for our stakeholders are maximised.

5.4 The schemes identified for Phases 1 and 2 of the Band B programme are:

- A new replacement Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon on the former Cwmcarn High School site.
- An extension of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre
- The amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision
- A new replacement Plasyfelin Primary School on the existing site
- The establishment of a Centre for Vulnerable Pupils (Pupil Referral Unit) on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site

5.5 **Phase 3 – Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School**

5.5.1 The proposal seeks to create sustainable school buildings with shared facilities, to accommodate Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary School and Community use.

5.5.2 The two schools will continue to provide both Welsh and English Medium Primary education and remain as separate and segregated entities, situated within the new dual purpose building.

5.5.3 The new school build will be designed to maximise local infrastructure, sustainability and energy efficiencies in meeting the Welsh Government Net Zero Carbon School requirements.

5.5.4 Further to Cabinet approval gained 13th December 2023, a Statutory Notice for the proposal relating to Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School was published on the 8th January 2024.

5.5.5 The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.

5.5.6 All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.

5.5.7 A prescribed list of recipients as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 were written to and a Statutory Notice was published electronically on the Council's website.

- 5.5.8 Hardcopies of the Statutory Notice were made available at both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School and displayed in the school foyers and on/in close proximity to the entrance gates. In addition, the school's internal communication network with parents and pupils was used to raise awareness of the process and publication of the Statutory Notice.
- 5.5.9 The objection period ran from Monday 8th January 2024 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Monday 5th February 2024 to provide adequate time for response.
- 5.5.10 A total of 2 objections were received, via email and in the medium of English during the Objection Period.
- 5.5.11 Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
- 5.5.12 An Objection Report in relation to the proposal has been compiled and attached as an appendix to this report to enable conscientious consideration to any responses received.
- 5.5.13 Once Cabinet has made the final determination, a Decision Notice will be published electronically on the Sustainable Communities for Learning page on the Council's website. All consultees will be notified via email/letter and hard copies will be available on request.

5.6 **Conclusion**

Pursuant to the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, the formal statutory objection period has now concluded, and this report has been compiled along with the Objection Report to provide Members with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to the final determination for the proposal relating to Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An initial Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for this proposal was undertaken alongside the original Consultation Document forming part of the outline consultation pack which is published on the Council's website.
- 7.2 The Integrated Impact Assessment has been reviewed to include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation process. The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

Original [Link to IIA](#)
Updated [Link to IIA](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The original estimated proposed project cost for the relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary, which forms the next phase of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme, has previously been reported as £17,605,140.
- 8.2 The Authority's contribution of which has been agreed at £6,052,119, to be set aside from the Authority's Place Shaping reserve.
- 8.3 Due to ongoing market conditions it is likely that this cost will further increase, and any additional ask will be reflected and considered by Cabinet through the Place Shaping Programme Reporting process.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This will be dependent on specific proposals and will be considered as part of the process.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, Place Shaping and Sustainable Communities for Learning
Service Manager

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair, Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy and Place Shaping
Director
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion and ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager

Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Ben Winstanley, Head of Land and Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Objection Report – Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School

Background Papers:

None

Sustainable Communities for Learning Objection Report

Appendix 1

Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhydney Primary School



Proposal : **To create sustainable Net Zero Carbon school buildings with shared facilities to accommodate Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhydney Primary School and Community use.**

Formal Statutory Objection Period: 8th January 2024 – 5th February 2024

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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This document is available in Welsh and English. Information can also be made available in other formats, languages and in hard copy on request. Please contact us on 01443 864817 to arrange this.

INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

Caerphilly County Borough Council aspires to continue to raise school standards and improve the quality of the learning environment to create fit-for-purpose 21st century schools and give every child in Caerphilly the best possible start in life.

The proposal to relocate and accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School in sustainable Net Zero Carbon school buildings with shared facilities has been identified as a project under the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

Considered by the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 28th November 2023, at their remote meeting held on the 13th of December 2023, Council Cabinet unanimously agreed the proposal to progress to Statutory Notice phase, in-line with the School Organisation Code 2018.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:

- 1. The information contained in the Consultation Report was considered.*
- 2. To proceed to Statutory Notice in relation to the proposal for Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School be approved.*

Notice of Decision

[Item 5: Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme – Consultation Report: Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School Proposal.](#)

Statutory Obligations

This report is published in line with the requirements of the [School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Act 2013](#) and the [School Organisation Code 2018](#).

Purpose of the Objection Period Summary Report

In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's responses to those objections ("the Objection Report"), 2013 when objections have been received.

As outlined in the [Statutory Objection](#) Section of this document, 2 objections were received during the Statutory Objection period. As statutory objections were received, there is a requirement to publish an Objection Report.

The purpose of this Objection Report is to provide Cabinet with the necessary information to make an informed decision through reflection, review and assessment as to whether to implement the proposal.

The Report is divided into several sections with the aim to:

- Outline the Statutory processes undertaken
- Provide clarification in relation to the information provided and consultee engagement
- Summarise the Statutory Objections position
- Provide recommendations in relation to the next stages for the proposal

Full details of the decision making process and the stages of the proposal as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 have been published as part of the Consultation Documentation and are publicly available via the Council's website with hardcopies made available on request.

PROPOSAL

What are we proposing to do?

As outlined in the [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#), both of which have been published and are available via the Council's website or in hardcopy on request, Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has embarked upon an exciting but challenging journey of improvement and change.

Schools in Wales need to be in good condition and suitable for the delivery of education. In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place and in such cases, we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

We are proposing to:

- **Relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School**

The proposal seeks to create sustainable Net Zero Carbon school buildings with shared facilities, to accommodate Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary School and Community use.

Artist Impression



It must be emphasised that both schools would remain independent entities, the existing catchment areas would remain unchanged, and each school would occupy their own separate teaching areas within the new building.

- The new building will incorporate primary school facilities as well as childcare and separate Special Resource Base provision for each school, one with 8 places for Welsh medium and the other providing 8 places for English medium.
- The proposed new building will include a shared bi-lingual reception area and flexible and adaptable communal facilities for example a Hall that can be subdivided and a separate kitchen servery so that provision is delivered in the appropriate language medium for each school. The configuration of these facilities will be designed in a manner enabling independent use by each school respectively if needed to minimise infringement on current activities or opened up for shared utilisation to provide wider community cohesion.
- The new primary school site will have improved outside learning space and facilities that will be segregated between each school to provide stimulating teaching and learning environments with 21st Century facilities centred on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils.
- The proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the entire building, in partnership with both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School. The design will seek to include measures to enable safe 'zoning' which can be utilised by the wider community. It should be noted that any existing community provision at the existing schools would be encouraged to relocate to the new site which will have upgraded facilities.

Each school will retain their existing Governing Body arrangements; however, a joint committee will be established consisting of representatives from both schools to establish terms and conditions about the working mechanisms relating to maintenance, access and general policies relating the site as a whole.

Building on the Net Zero Carbon mandate our proposal is framed to demonstrate innovative and collaborative design, encompassing the built environment and the surrounding landscape in a way that enriches pupils' daily life.

STATUTORY PROCESS AND DECISION MAKING

The Statutory Process

The School Organisation Code 2018 is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school. This does not include pupil referral units.

The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to and the stages to follow:

- 1) Changes that require a proposal
 - Identifying the proposal
 - Development of proposal
- 2) Consultation
 - Publishing a Consultation Document
 - Notification letter sent to stakeholders (as prescribed by the code)

- Undertaking a consultation exercise
 - Consultation with children and young people
 - Publishing a Consultation Report
 - Notification letter sent to stakeholders
- 3) Publication of Statutory Proposals
- Publishing a Statutory Notice
 - Notification letter sent to stakeholders
- 4) Determining Proposals
- Publishing an Objection Report where objections have been received
 - Notification letter sent to stakeholders
 - Approval by Local Authority or Welsh Minister (dependent on nature of proposal)
 - Decision Notification
 - Notification letter sent to stakeholders
- 5) Implementing Proposals
- Carrying out agreed actions

The planning and development of effective school organisation proposals is crucial to the Welsh Government's goal of transforming education in Wales and providing better educational outcomes. The aim is to ensure that proposals support the Welsh Government's commitment to increase school effectiveness, and narrow inequalities in achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged areas, groups and individuals.

When formulating a proposal, there is a need to clearly identify the reasons for formulating the proposal. Factors to be taken into account in preparing, publishing, approving or determining school organisation proposals include Quality and Standards in Education, the need for places and impact on accessibility, resourcing of education and other financial implications. These factors are outlined in the Consultation Document and further addressed in the Consultation Report.

Cabinet Response to Consultation Report

A multi-locational meeting (Penallta House & MS Teams) took place on [13th December 2023](#).

As part of this meeting, the consultation in respect of the proposal was discussed. All Consultation Documentation was made available to members as part of the agenda reports pack including the original responses in the format received from all parties within the consultation period which ran from the 28th of September 2023 to the 9th of November 2023. Officers linked to the proposal were available to take questions.

It was noted that the matter was previously considered by the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee on the [17th October 2023](#) (in their capacity as a consultee group) and subsequently on the [28th November 2023](#) at which the recommendation to proceed to the Statutory Notice stage was unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that a vote in respect of the proposal would be taken and be [officially recorded](#). Cabinet Members approved the proposal proceed to Statutory Notice.

Decision Making

Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet Members and in addition, the Welsh Government are engaged in the process as one of the key delivery partners and co-funders.

When approving proposals, Cabinet must:

- consider whether there are any other related proposals
- ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code
- ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with the Code and the Statutory Notice contains all the required information
- consider the Consultation Document and Consultation Report
- consider the Objection Report and any responses to the Statutory Notice (where applicable)

This Objection Report has been produced as the next stage in the process following the Statutory Objection Period as defined by the School Organisation Code 2018. This Objection Report will be subject to initial scrutiny as part of discussions at an Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee meeting whereby Members will be asked to note the information contained in the Objection Report and to seek views on the recommendations made within this the Objection Report prior to consideration by Cabinet on 3rd April 2024.

Cabinet will then make the final determination relating to the proposal and decide whether or not to proceed to implementation as recommended.

STATUTORY NOTICE

Statutory Notice - Consultation Process

The consultation process has followed the Welsh Government requirements as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

Following the decision by Cabinet outlined above to proceed to Statutory Notice, anyone wishing to make an objection to this proposal was able to do so. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and sent to the Council within the 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published. This is referred to as the “objection period” and ran from the 8th of January 2024 to 5th February 2024.

Statutory Notice - Consultation Information

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that when undertaking a consultation process in connection with a school proposal, the Council must publish information to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making.

The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.

Notices were published on the 8th of January 2024 as follows:

- On the council website
- On or near the main entrance of both schools subject to the proposal

- The schools were provided with hardcopies of the Statutory Notice to distribute to pupils, parents/carers and staff
- Prescribed consultees as listed in the School Organisation Code 2018 were notified in writing via email/letter

All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.

Stakeholder Engagement

Consultees were advised of the proposal and availability of the Statutory Notice and all prior documentation published relating to the proposal, when it went live on the 8th of January 2024 via letter/email and were therefore invited to take part in this stage of the statutory consultation.

The School Organisation Code 2018 prescribes those individuals/groups considered key consultees in the consultation process. As per section 4.1 of the code, the list below presents the consultees engaged with relevant to proposals of this nature for the Caerphilly Borough.

Table 1: Consultee List	
Pupils and Pupil Councils*	Welsh Ministers
Parents, prospective parents, guardians and carers*	Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served *
Headteacher, Staff and Governing bodies*	Local CCBC Members
Directors of Education for Neighbouring Authorities	Local Town and Community Councils
Teaching and Support Staff Associations	Estyn
Parent Network	Welsh Education Forum
Diocesan Directors / Boards of Education	South East Wales Consortium (EAS)
Gwent and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners	South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	Mudiad Meithrin, Menter Iaith and voluntary nursery providers

In addition, any consultee who had previously expressed concern/indicated they wished to be contacted as part of their consultation response during the period of 28th September 2023 and 9th November 2023 were also notified.



STATUTORY OBJECTION

Responses

Overall, a total of 2 Statutory Objections were received during the Statutory Notice/Objection stage of the consultation process.

To be considered as a Statutory Objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and submitted within the Objection Period.

Of the prescribed methods for providing a response during the consultation period:

- 0 responses received via letter
- 2 responses received via email

0 responses (0%) were returned in the medium of Welsh or English.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Team received 0 requests for the documentation to be provided in another format or language.

Reasons for the Objection and Council Clarification

In accordance with Section 5.1 of the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council, as the proposer, must publish its response to the summarised objections.

To assist Cabinet in the decision making process, the following information is provided by Council Officers involved in the formulation of the proposal by means of response for clarification with supporting reasons.

➤ **Travel Distance**

[Objection Summary:](#)

[Impact of the new location on those that currently walk to school at Ysgol Y Lawnt](#)

Council Clarification:

This theme has previously been addressed after consultees raised concerns with regards to the impact of the new location on those that currently walk to school, as part of the initial consultation period. A clarification response has previously been provided on page 22 of the [Consultation Report](#).

➤ **Site Operations**

[Objection Summary:](#)

[Impact relating to how facilities such as the hall would be shared / booked](#)

Council Clarification:

This theme has previously been addressed after consultees raised concerns with regards to how the joint site would operate and the proposed shared facilities, as part of the initial consultation period. A clarification response has previously been provided on pages 24 & 25 of the [Consultation Report](#).

➤ **Impact on Welsh Language**

[Objection Summary:](#)

[Impact on Welsh Language and pupil wellbeing through co-location](#)

Council Clarification:

This theme has previously been addressed after consultees raised concerns regarding the perceived impact on the use of Welsh Language and the potential for dilution resulting from siting a Welsh Medium and English Medium school together, as part of the initial consultation period. A clarification response has previously been provided on pages 24 & 25 of the [Consultation Report](#).

➤ **Suitability of current Ysgol Y Lawnt site for development**

[Objection Summary:](#)

[Query as to why the option for a new build or expansion on current site not taken forward](#)

Council Clarification:

As outlined in both the [Consultation Document](#) (pages 25/26) and the [Consultation Report](#) (page 8) an options appraisal process was undertaken, resulting in a 'Preferred Option' being identified which has formed the basis for this consultation. Consideration of developing on the existing Ysgol Y Lawnt site was one of the options discounted at initial feasibility stage. Whilst in principle, it appears to be a viable option, the site has significant restrictions. Ysgol Y Lawnt has CADW listed Status, with poor access and limited opportunities within the ground for expansion or additional modular builds.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Learner Voice

Learner voice is about involving the children and young people as active participants in the development, delivery, management, and improvement of their educational experience.

Throughout every stage of the process, children and young people at the proposed affected school has been involved in the planning and consultation process as outlined and demonstrated in the [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#).

Integrated Impact Assessment

An initial [Integrated Impact Assessment \(IIA\)](#) for this proposal was undertaken forming part of the outline consultation pack which is published on the Council's website. This exercise was undertaken to support Cabinet Members in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

The Integrated Impact Assessment has now been subsequently reviewed to include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation process. The purpose of this further assessment was to take account of any additional information that has come forward through the

consultation or otherwise. No amendments have been identified through this process.

NEXT STEPS

Publication of Objection Report

Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, when objections have been received the Council must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").

This document has been produced to discharge the Council of its obligations and will be published in both Welsh and English on the Council's website.

Cabinet 'Objection Report' Decision

Where a local authority's proposals have received objections, objections must be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and in the light of the factors set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

Further to review at the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee on the 12th of March 2024 this document will be considered in full at a Cabinet meeting due to be held 3rd April 2024.

At this meeting the following documentation will be made available to Members.

- a copy of the [Consultation Document](#)
- a copy of the [Consultation Report](#)
- a copy of the Published [Statutory Notice](#) and [Notification Letter](#) sent to Consultees
- a copy of the [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)
- a copy of the Objection Report

Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal as outlined below:

- **Relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School**

The proposal seeks to create sustainable Net Zero Carbon school buildings with shared facilities, to accommodate Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary School and Community use.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of this Objection Report that in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 and the information gathered and reviewed as part of the consultation phase and formal objection period, Members:

- a) Consider the information contained in the Objection Report.
- b) Approve the recommendation, via vote, to proceed to Planning Application Stage and subsequent Welsh Government business case approvals.

Decision Notification

Decisions (in relation to proposals which require approval or determination) must be made and issued in the form of a decision letter. The decision letter must set out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Decision letter will be published electronically on the Council's website and the consultees as outlined in Section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code will be advised by letter/email of the availability of the document.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Annex 1 :

- [Consultation Document](#)
- [Consultation Report](#)
- [Statutory Notice](#)
- [Notification Letter](#)
- [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

Annex 2:

Statutory Objections Statement

Cabinet Members will be provided with full copies of all the objections received in their original format where applicable.

Report prepared by:

Sustainable Communities for Learning Team
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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12TH MARCH 2024

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL ORGANISATION CODE 2018 - STATUTORY
OBJECTION REPORT: PROPOSAL FOR THE CLOSURE OF
CWM GLAS INFANT SCHOOL**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Scrutiny Members in relation to the proposal in respect of the closure of Cwm Glas Infant School, effective from the 20th July 2024.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider the information contained in this update report and endorse the recommendations to Cabinet, outlined in 3.1, via vote, to proceed to full implementation.
- 1.3 Cabinet will then make a final determination on the 3rd April 2024 as to whether or not to implement the proposal, following the process outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 and supporting documentation.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Further to Cabinet approval gained 13th December 2023, a Statutory Notice for the proposal to close Cwm Glas Infant School, effective from the 20th July 2024 was published, and the formal objection period ran between 8th January 2024 and the 5th February 2024.
- 2.2 Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
- 2.3 No statutory objections were received for this proposal, hence there is no requirement to produce an Objection Report in this instance.
- 2.4 However, to discharge the Council's duty under the School Organisation Code 2018, there is still a requirement for Cabinet members to give due regard to the outcome of the objective period and make a final determination as whether to implement the proposal as outlined in section 3.1 of this report.

- 2.5 Should Cabinet authorise progression of the project to full implementation, a Decision letter will be published setting out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018 and Cwm Glas Infant School will close, effective from the 20th July 2024.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1.1 Prior to a report being presented to Cabinet, Scrutiny Members are asked to: -
- a) Consider the information contained in this update report
 - b) Endorse the recommendation to Cabinet, via vote, to proceed to full implementation

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Scrutiny Members are updated on the progress of proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infant School, effective from the 20th July 2024.
- 4.2 To seek Scrutiny Member endorsement on the recommendations to Cabinet outlined in 3.1 prior to Cabinet making a final determination in respect of the proposal.
- 4.3 To assist the Council in discharging its duties in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018.

5. THE REPORT

Cwm Glas Infants School

- 5.1 Cwm Glas Infants School provides education to pupils between the ages of 3 and 7 and has a published capacity figure of 57 places with a published admission number of 19.
- 5.2 The current pupil roll is 33 pupils (Full Time Equivalent) with over 50% of these pupils residing outside of the catchment area of the school.
- 5.3 Surplus places are currently at 47.37% rising to 56.14% in September 2024 and projected to increase in future years as the number of pupils predicted to attend the school is anticipated to decline linked to a reduction in live birth rates in the area and parental preference.
- 5.4 The projected pupil numbers and resultant financial outlook for the school provides a significant challenge to the ability of the Head and School Governors to agree a balanced budget to maintain the school and an appropriate staffing level which has led to a request to the local authority to consider closing the school at the end of the academic year, effective from the 20th July 2024.
- 5.5 Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, Individual school budgets are determined using a locally agreed funding formula in accordance with factors which are learner led. Schools must be able to demonstrate via a financial action plan that

the school will work to deliver a balanced budget. However, the Head Teacher and Governing Body have acknowledged that Cwm Glas School is facing a significant financial deficit with pupil numbers projected to further decrease moving forward.

- 5.6 Reasonable alternatives to closure, such as reduction in the number of classes, collaboration, federation and colocation were considered by the Head Teacher and Governing Body in partnership with the Local Authority but deemed not viable or sustainable.
- 5.7 Cwm Glas Infants School is a feeder school for Coed Y Brain Primary at Key Stage 2. Both schools share the same catchment area and are both located in Llanbradach within circa 1 mile of each other. Should the decision be taken to close Cwm Glas Infants School, based on current and future projections for both schools, all pupils could be accommodated within Coed Y Brain Primary School, subject to parental preference.
- 5.8 Further to Cabinet approval gained 13th December 2023, a Statutory Notice for the proposal to close Cwm Glas Infants School with effect from July 2024 was published on the 8th January 2024.
- 5.9 The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.
- 5.10 All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.
- 5.11 A prescribed list of recipients as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 were written to and a Statutory Notice was published electronically on the Council's website.
- 5.12 Hardcopies of the Statutory Notice were made available at both Cwm Glas Infant School and Coed Y Brain Primary School and displayed in the school foyers and on/in close proximity to the entrance gates. In addition, the school's internal communication network with parents and pupils was used to raise awareness of the process and publication of the Statutory Notice.
- 5.13 The objection period ran from Monday 8th January 2024 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Monday 5th February 2024 to provide adequate time for response and conscientious consideration to any responses received.
- 5.14 No objections were received during the Objection Period.
- 5.15 Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
- 5.16 As no statutory objections were received, there is no requirement to publish an Objection Report.
- 5.17 Once Cabinet has made the final determination, a Decision Notice will be published electronically on the Sustainable Communities for Learning page on the Council's

website. All consultees will be notified via email/letter and hard copies will be available on request.

5.2 **Conclusion**

Pursuant to the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, the formal statutory objection period has now concluded. No objections were received negating the requirement to produce an Objection Report in this instance. This report has been compiled to provide Members with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to the final determination on the proposal to close Cwm Glas Infant School with effect from 20th July 2024.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An initial Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for this proposal was undertaken alongside the original Consultation Document forming part of the outline consultation pack which is published on the Council's website.
- 7.2 The Integrated Impact Assessment has been reviewed to include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation process. The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

Original [Link to IIA](#)

Updated [Link to IIA](#)

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, Individual school budgets are determined using a locally agreed funding formula in accordance with factors which are learner led.
- 8.2 Schools must be able to demonstrate via a financial action plan that the school will work to deliver a balanced budget.
- 8.3 The Council's Education Finance Team have been working closely with the school for a number of years, however, the Head Teacher and Governing Body have acknowledged that Cwm Glas School is facing a significant financial deficit with pupil numbers projected to further decrease moving forward and are unable to demonstrate via a financial action plan their ability to reverse the deficit.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This will be dependent on specific proposals and will be considered as part of the process.

9.2 The Council's Human Resources Team will work closely with all relevant parties to ensure that processes are adhered to, and support is provided as required.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, Place Shaping and Sustainable Communities for Learning
Service Manager

Consultees: Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair, Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy and Place Shaping
Director
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion and ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ben Winstanley, Head of Land and Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:
None

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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12TH MARCH 2024

SUBJECT: WINTER PRESSURES

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of annual preparations made for winter planning as required by Welsh Government.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides information to members on the plans in place to address the pressures experienced across the health and social care system. Previously funding and plans have covered a 6-month period from October through to the end of March. Learning from previous years it was agreed to plan for 2 years so that all schemes could be fully operational and evaluated properly over a longer period of time to ascertain if they had any impact on individuals and the whole system.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members note the use of Regional Integration Fund (RIF) to underpin a 2-year regional System Resilience Plan to address potential winter pressures experienced across the health and social care system.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The production of a winter plan now known as the system resilience plan is a requirement placed on the Regional Partnership Board (RPB), implementation of the plan is monitored through the Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership Board (GASP)

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The regional system resilience plan is detailed in appendix 1 in terms of initiative being supported and progress made on implementation.

- 5.2 In addition to the regional plan, Caerphilly makes its own preparation as part of our business continuity planning to ensure services can be maintained primarily during period of inclement weather.
- 5.3 Preparations include the hiring of 4x4 vehicles to ensure that essential staff can both get to and from their work place and enable domiciliary carers to access remote locations.
- 5.4 Rotas are amended in terms of start and finish times across care homes to facilitate assisted transport when required.
- 5.5 Contingency plans are agreed with families in domiciliary care, number of calls maybe reduced or combined. Walking rotas maybe introduced.
- 5.6 Alternative locations and /or delivery methods are considered for some services such as Emergency Duty Team and Telecare.
- 5.7 Promotion of the flu vaccination for staff to try to reduce sickness absence and prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- 5.8 Redeployment of staff can also be undertaken, if necessary, this covers catering, cleaning and care.

5.9. **Conclusion**

The health and social care system is under considerable pressure, the decision to fund a 2-year system resilience plan will enable time for new initiatives to bed in and be evaluated in terms of their impact on the whole system.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 It is assumed winter pressures are now actually all year around pressures and the system needs to be able to respond accordingly to increased demand.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This report is for information only hence an IIA is not required currently.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Aneurin Bevan university Health Board (ABUHB) are responsible for managing the budget associated with the system resilience plan.

8.2 **Financial Update at Month 8**

To support the delivery of the system resilience plan, £2.654m of funding was delegated to the Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership Board (GASP) for 2023-24 and £2.294m in 2024-25.

Table 1 below shows the schemes awarded within the plan along with the latest forecasts. The month 8 position is forecasting a slippage of £254k, which is a £22k increase from £232k slippage reported in month 7.

Furthermore, there were movements within the Minor Capital programme which released funding of £322k to support part of the capital elements of the SRP. Therefore, from the initiatives that have been approved but are awaiting

funding availability, GASP has agreed to award the following and the projects have been informed:

- **Care & Repair-Hospital to a Healthier Home:** Equipment – £45k awarded.
- **GWICES:** Equipment – £277k awarded from Minor Capital funding and £223k from SRP slippage (£500k in total).
- **Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) @ YYF:** Funding shortfall – No more funding to be agreed for this scheme.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personal implications associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 All comments have been included within this report.

Author: Jo Williams Head of Adult Services willij6@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees Dave Street Deputy Chief Executive (streetd@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Robert Tranter Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer (trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Stephen Harris Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer (harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Cllr Elaine Forehead Cabinet Member Social Care (Forehe@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Cllr Teresa Parry Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee.(parryt@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Cllr Brenda Miles Deputy Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee (milesb@caerphilly.gov.uk).

Appendices:

Appendix 1 System Resilience Plan update

Report Title:	System Resilience Plan (SRP) – Projects Update	Date:	Gwent Adults Strategic Partnership – 25 th January 2024
RPB Report Lead		Update written by:	, Programme Manager, PMO, ABUHB

Project	Provider	Project Description	Anticipated System Benefits	Project Mobilisation Status	Project Operating	RAG Status
Step Closer to Home Early Facilitator Discharge	ABUHB - CHC	Project to facilitate an early discharge that would provide home-based care with a dedicated team of Healthcare Support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of Stay Reduction Prevent deconditioning / maintain independence Acute hospital bed capacity 	Project Update Mobilised as intended, the team is partially in place and operational.	Yes	Amber Although the project is operating successfully a conversation is required on priorities and focus.
Step Closer to Home	ABUHB - CHC	The SCTH scheme offers a range of alternative pathways to facilitate discharge from the hospital for patients waiting for the next step of their recovery. It aims to support patients who are waiting for 3-4 domiciliary care calls per day to enable discharge from the hospital.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of Stay Reduction Prevent deconditioning / maintain independence Acute hospital bed capacity 	Project Update Continuation of the scheme as intended; financial position reflective of pathway/care home bed utilisation.	Partially	Amber Conversation is required to ensure all local authorities are engaging.
Mental Health Practitioner and WAST Response	ABUHB - Corp	Testing a new project. Mental health calls represent around 10% of total ambulance service demand and these calls are often more complex, take longer to resolve and are a significant challenge to the workforce. WAST's data shows that when an	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced conveyance and hospital admission. More appropriate and improved support for patients. 	Project Update MHRV is planned to go live on 2 February 2024. Staffed by a Mental Health Practitioner from WAST.	No	Amber Delayed, due to start on 2 February 2024.

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Project	Provider	Project Description	Anticipated System Benefits	Project Mobilisation Status	Project Operating	RAG Status
		ambulance is dispatched to a mental health call, the majority (circa two-thirds) of these patients will be conveyed to an emergency department.				
Same Day Emergency Care @ YYF	ABUHB - Medicine	The SDEC service provides a streamlined service to patients who would otherwise wait to be seen and treated in a busy and congested AMU at YYF. Support provides for a sustained SDEC service at YYF between the hours of 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday (including Bank holidays) with an uplift to cover 52 weeks per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient is seen at the right time, in the right place by the right person • Optimised patient experience • Reduction in waiting times • Avoiding unnecessary overnight admission • Improved patient flow • Reducing congestion in the Acute Medicine Unit • Reduced bed occupancy. 	Project Update Continuation of service as established at YYF.	Yes	Green Continuation of existing service.
GP RT Pharmacy	ABUHB - PCCS	The project provides medicine reviews, medicine deprescribing, home visits and discharge planning. This project will expand the service to the whole of Gwent and develop the service to take on responsibility for providing pharmacy services on wards in County and Chepstow Hospital sites which will positively affect patient flow and discharge. It will also deliver home visits to frail elderly patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwent wide service • Reduced care calls • Reduced falls • Improved discharge processes • At home IV service • Improved efficiencies • Freed up consultation time 	Project Update Recruitment activities are underway, though there have been difficulties due to increased scrutiny of posts being advertised within ABUHB – particularly as these are new posts. One post started on 15.01.24 and interviews for others taking place in January. All posts are to be in place by the	Partially	Amber Delayed but started and fully operational in April 2024.

Project	Provider	Project Description	Anticipated System Benefits	Project Mobilisation Status	Project Operating	RAG Status
		identified through HRAC criteria in collaboration with GP practices.		end of April, pending notice periods.		
Rebalancing Rights and Responsibilities	Central	To build on the success of the pilot initiative and expand the rebalancing rights and responsibilities training and engagement programmes across the system. The project enables a cultural shift across health and social care, ensuring the right conversations are held and barriers are removed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing barriers to support seamless working, ensuring the right individuals have the right conversation with individuals. 	Project Update Mobilisation activity is underway, meeting was held 20.12.23 to discuss the project and the next steps required with a follow-up meeting due in early February. The project is not due to start until 2024/25.	No	Amber Protected time at each GASP meeting who are acting as leadership group for this project.
Additional System Capacity (Including Home First)	LA	Social Care staff are trained to have the right conversation to identify what matters to people to ensure they are not kept in the hospital any longer than necessary. They work with individuals and their families to enable them to meet their outcomes rather than be dependent on services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional capacity for assessment, in community, front door and hospitals by a variety of staff. Increase capacity in community re-assessments to discharge people from services e.g. reablement Increase capacity at the front door to prevent admissions. Implementation of D2RA pathways Increased opportunity to meet with families/carers to plan discharge. Can be linked to Home First, staff who work the additional hours in the hospital are dependent on medical staff 	Project Update Additional capacity to be sourced on an opportunity basis, overtime etc. Financial utilisation will be reflective of actual capacity sourced on a monthly basis. Planned to commence from December onwards.	Yes	Amber The status of project is currently unknown.

Project	Provider	Project Description	Anticipated System Benefits	Project Mobilisation Status	Project Operating	RAG Status
			being available to arrange the discharge.			
Trusted Assessor Stroke Pathway Discharge YYF	LA	This builds on the long-standing well-established Home First model of trusted assessor. This model of operating was used during covid where LA's saw everyone in their local hospital on behalf of other LA's. As this application is based on the Health Board's focus to centralise stroke services, a new operating model has been developed. Failure to revise the discharge model would mean that there are likely to be delays in the 4 other LA's starting and completing an assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate sharing of information between local authorities. Compliance with stroke pathway. 	Project Update Staffing in place and operational.	Yes	Amber Operational but no reporting received to date.
GWICES - Staff Support	LA	The Gwent Wide Integrated Community Equipment Service (GWICES) is a partnership of ABUHB and the five local authorities within the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports discharge through the provision of equipment stored locally. Supports people to remain independent at home. Reduces the risk of falls and admission or readmission. 	Project Update Specialist equipment is being offered through the GWICES services. Staff recruitment is underway for additional resources.	Yes	Amber Funding for the equipment/capital element of the project was only recently confirmed (Jan 24).
Falls Response Service	WAST	Increased WAST falls response service - an additional vehicle to the current one in operation across Gwent. Plus, the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced conveyance and hospital admission. Timely referrals to local teams including Community 	Project Update Night support started on the 5 th of December 2023 through commissioned	Partially	Red Although night support is operational there is a risk to the

Project	Provider	Project Description	Anticipated System Benefits	Project Mobilisation Status	Project Operating	RAG Status
		addition of night support provided by St Johns Ambulance	<p>Resource Teams (CRT) and Rapid Medical to continue supporting people at home and improving independence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in long-lay deconditioning. n 	arrangements via St John Ambulance. A task and finish group to meet in early February to discuss		viability of the second vehicle supported by the SRP.
BRC - ED Resettlement	British Red Cross	Enhancing ED experience and post-discharge transitions, offering emotional support, optimising patient flow, and connecting to community services. Expanding capacity and integrating ambulance transport with stretcher capacity for improved care and flexibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements in patient flow Higher discharge rates Enhanced resource allocation Lower readmission rates Stronger community connections 	Project Update Additional resources are in place but not yet up to full capacity, this is planned for the start of February 2024. Additional vehicle and onsite space and charging requirements in operation.	Partially	Green Good progress has been made on getting the project up and running, slight delay in getting up to full capacity.
Hospital to a Healthier Home	Care and Repair	The project offers rapid home adaptations for elderly patients leaving the hospital due to housing issues. It seeks to expand support and secure flexible funding for complex cases, aiming to enhance patient independence and reduce readmissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves discharge delays Reduces re-admissions Reduces potential falls 	Project Update The project is up and running in two of three agencies, and recruitment is ongoing in the third. Internal Care and Repair discussions have taken place and an agreement reached with Agencies to establish baselines and data capture.	Partially	Green Funding for the equipment/capital element of project was only recently confirmed (Jan 24). Good progress made on getting the project up and running.

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RAG Status Key
Red – Project is off track with some risks or concerns that need resolving.

Amber – Project is not currently on track, or the status is unknown currently.

Green – Project is on track with positive progress in line with milestones.

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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12TH MARCH 2024

SUBJECT: WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN – ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress made in the annual report and the Welsh Government response.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report identifies positive progress towards the target for the Local Authority of 26% of year 1 learners to be in Welsh medium education by 2032. However, currently the percentage has decreased slightly in 2023 to 17.17% of year 1 (reception age) from 17.89% in 2016 and 17.02% of nursery from 17.95% in 2016.
- 2.2 There was positive feedback from Welsh Government although more information was needed to understand our current picture. The work developing the website pages has moved much of this information into the public domain for increased transparency.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members receive the report and comment on the progress made in the first year of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Compliance with The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019 and The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Key Achievements / Highlights

- The Capital programme is moving forward to expand the provision across the borough in childcare and school places.
- The promotional animation video is nearing completion and will be published alongside the revised wording in the Starting School booklet for 2023-24.
- The transition rate between Primary and Secondary school remains high at 97%.
- There remains a substantial offer for out of school opportunities delivered through Menter Iaith, the Urdd and the Youth Service.
- All schools remain committed to further development of the Welsh language in their provision.

5.2 Overall Plan Summary

The target for the Local Authority by 2032 is 26% of year 1 learners to be in Welsh medium education. However, currently the percentage has decreased slightly in 2023 to 17.17% of year 1 (reception age) from 17.89% in 2016 and 17.02% of nursery from 17.95% in 2016.

5.3 Forward Look Milestones

During 2023-24 the priorities are:

1. Establish promotional campaigns to increase the numbers starting nursery in Welsh medium education as well as those transferring to Primary school and on to Secondary school.
2. Develop website and information available to parents to inform choices and enable improved monitoring and accountability by the Welsh in Education Forum using the data trend.
3. Complete a number of capital projects to increase places in childcare and Primary school.
4. Increase the Welsh speaking workforce across Education, childcare and school teams.
5. Increase the provision for children with ALN to meet the increasing demand.

The detailed annual report is in appendix 1.

5.4 The Welsh Government were generally positive about the progress made in the first year of the annual plan, although they required some additional feedback and discussion in each of the 7 outcome areas:

1. Two of the Cylchoedd Meithrin who had listed as Welsh and English with Care Inspectorate Wales have not returned to Welsh medium provision. The transition rates remain low in 3 Cylch. One will move closer to Ysgol Trelyn in 2024. One has had an increase in Flying Start eligibility and remains a focus to encourage greater links to Ysgol Trelyn. One has closed in January 2024 due to falling numbers and unsustainability.
2. Positive developments in Sustainable Communities for Learning including the proposal for Ysgol Y Lawnt. There have also been positive developments in promotional work, including the new Caerphilly website Welsh language pages.
 - [Welsh medium childcare - Caerphilly Early Years](#)
 - [Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)
 - [Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)

3. Whilst the transition rate from WM primary to secondary has decreased slightly, it's encouraging to see that it remains at almost 97%, and that Ysgol Cwm Rhymni is working with the feeder primary schools to understand the reasons for this slight decrease.
4. More information on the range of subjects/courses available at Ysgol Cwm Rhymni and Coleg Gwent is needed to track progress sufficiently.
 - [Find a Course \(caerphillypathways.co.uk\)](http://caerphillypathways.co.uk)
 - The school supports and drives numerous strategies initiatives in order to support and strengthen Welsh language provision in the post-16 education sector.
 - Listed below is many success stories that the school actively promotes:
 - Our special link with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol - x2 successful applicants from year 12 and year 13 won the prestigious accolade of being the Coleg's Welsh language ambassadors, our lucky two were chosen from over hundreds of applicants, they created a video and application letter before being chosen, they currently arrange the TickTok and Instagram accounts for the coleg, they arrange the college to come into the school to promote post 16 Welsh language opportunities and actively encourage our 6th form students to consider following courses through the medium of Welsh and raise awareness regarding some of the scholarships and bursaries that are available in order to study in Welsh. This really is an extremely prestigious role and we are extremely proud of our close association with the college via our two wonderful sixth formers who do great work in this important area.
 - Sixth form Option Evening – recently held in November, extremely well attended by our current year 11 pupils and parents, (HE) institutions in attendance were South Wales, Cardiff Met, Coleg Cymraeg, invites to Aberystwyth and Bangor (didn't attend due to the distance probably). Follow up action was that Cardiff Met are sending Recruitment Officer Rhys Morgan to arrange drop-ins at the school whereby Rhys will be meeting our sixth formers and promoting the Welsh language courses they have an offer.
 - Every Welsh university visit the school at least once a year.
 - Strong link with Coleg De Cymru who work closely with our UCAS application process.
 - Annually around 50% of our pupils chose to study in Welsh universities - a figure that is collected in August when we help pupils on A level results day with their pathway to universities and colleges. Our strong links forged with our partner universities help enable our pupils to secure a place in their chosen colleges.
 - Interestingly this year Bangor University, Medical school is available to pupils - previously only Cardiff was available for pupils who intend becoming doctors, medicine, etc – many previously tended to choose Cardiff as the only available place in Wales as it was one of the prestigious Russell Group universities.
 - Enhanced Transition evenings to year 10 pupils promoting our sixth form post 16 provision.
 - Weekly assemblies actively promote aspirations and the opportunities of further education with a strong emphasis on Welsh medium courses and opportunities within Wales - we often arrange ex-pupils to come into school to demonstrate how Welsh language courses have opened many doors for them in their careers and personal lives i.e. Ben Price S4C and BBC Wales Today reporter, Delyth Jewell Plaid Cymru AM.
 - Our extremely active School Council and in particular one of our sub-committees consisting of x6 members also raise awareness among the

older pupils i.e., this morning they have arranged a Cymreictod coffee morning in the school library with a welcome to all.

- One of the main assets promoting post 16 education (and beyond) and to remain in Cwm Rhymni is our extremely impressive A-Level results which are, annually, ranked among the top 10% of all schools in Wales and also England – a remarkable achievement which includes, please note, all private schools as well. This proves the phenomenal success of Welsh medium education.
5. It's positive to see that good work is being done within Caerphilly primary schools in relation to Siarter Iaith. Data and information around Cymraeg Campus within English medium schools needed. [Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)
 6. It's good to see that investment has been made to upskill staff and expand the workforce. More information on when a review/audit of ALN provision will take place would be useful. [Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)
 7. More data is needed in line with the review report template guidance to ensure that we have the most accurate reflection of the current position. This includes the number of staff who have taken advantage of the sabbatical scheme, as well as a figure on the number of staff anticipated to be needed to achieve the WESP target.

During 22-23 academic year, the following attended the sabbatical scheme:

2022-23	Welsh in a Year	Pantside Primary
2022-23	2 Term Course	Cwrt Rawlin Primary
2022-23	Welsh in a Year (Practitioner has left her post after completing the scheme)	Cwrt Rawlin Primary
2023-24	2 Term Course	Rhiw Syr Dafydd
2022-23	Intermediate Course	St Helen's

6 have been interviewed and successful in gaining places in 2023-24 for summer 2024.

5.5 Conclusion

- 5.5.1 There has been positive progress made in the first year of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan towards the 10 year target.
- 5.5.2 Full details are contained in the body of this Report and appendices.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific assumptions.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan stimulates demand for Welsh medium provision and Welsh language Education to enable positive engagement across all communities with the Welsh language. There are substantive positive impacts for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan including promoting and supporting development of the Welsh language across communities through Welsh medium schools and Further Education as well wider community support for parents to develop their Welsh language skills. There are substantive links to the Equalities, Sustainable Communities for Learning

and CCBC Welsh Language strategies as well as the Welsh Governments strategy for 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has updated information regarding the current position in each outcome area and has identified high level actions in order to meet the minimum 26% of the year 1 cohort taught through the medium of Welsh target by 2032.

Link to IIA

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications of this report as any resources required have been incorporated into existing resources, plans or future bids.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications of this report. However, expansion of the workforce across the sector will be considered in the Action Plan and at Welsh Government level.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All views in the consultation are contained within this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019 and The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020.

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Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
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Appendices:
Appendix 1 WESP annual report 2022-23

Appendix 1

Caerphilly County Borough Council Annual review report Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

Key Achievements / Highlights

The Capital programme is moving forward to expand the provision across the borough in childcare and school places.

The promotional animation video is nearing completion and will be published alongside the revised wording in the Starting School booklet for 2023-24.

The transition rate between Primary and Secondary school remains high at 97%.

There remains a substantial offer for out of school opportunities delivered through Menter Iaith, the Urdd and the Youth Service.

All schools remain committed to further development of the Welsh language in their provision.

Overall Plan Summary

The target for the Local Authority by 2032 is 26% of year 1 learners to be in Welsh medium education.

However, currently the percentage has decreased slightly to 17.5% in year 1 and 15.6% in nursery.

Forward Look Milestones

During 2023-24 the priorities are:

1. Establish promotional campaigns to increase the numbers starting nursery in Welsh medium education as well as those transferring to Primary school and on to Secondary school.
2. Develop website and information available to parents to inform choices and enable improved monitoring and accountability by the Welsh in Education Forum using the data trend.
3. Complete a number of capital projects to increase places in childcare and Primary school.
4. Increase the Welsh speaking workforce across Education, childcare and school teams.
5. Increase the provision for children with ALN to meet the increasing demand.

Outcome 1 – More nursery children / three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

Key Annual Data

PLASC data 2023: There are 339 children in nursery taught through the medium of Welsh which equates to 15.6% of children in the borough.

There are 11 Cylch Meithrin across the borough. However, 4 Cylch have categorised themselves as Welsh and English groups not Welsh medium.

Mudiad Meithrin transition data only represents data from membership groups:

Cylch Meithrin	total children transferred to school	number transferred to Welsh medium	number transferred to English medium	Percentage
Coed Duon	15	8	7	53.33%
Cwm Derwen	15	14	1	93.33%
Cwm Gwyddon	15	13	2	86.67%
Ifor Bach	26	26	0	100.00%
Nelson	9	9	0	100.00%
Penpedairheol	9	7	2	77.78%
Pontllanfraith	11	5	6	45.45%
Rhymni (meithrin Mwy)	13	13	0	100.00%
Rhymni 1 a 2	27	19	8	70.37%
Tedi Twt	24	21	3	87.50%
Tonyfelin	24	24	0	100.00%
Yr Enfys	13	11	2	84.62%

The data shows 4 Cylchoedd have 100% transition rates and 2 Cylchoedd have very poor transition rates below 60%. Both the Cylch with poor transition rates are not on school site. The capital project to move Coed Duon closer to Ysgol Trelyn in 2024 aims to improve transition rate.

The Flying Start contracted childcare setting data:

1. Welsh Medium Setting	8
2. Welsh Medium and English Medium Setting	4
3. English Medium Setting with some bilingual elements	59
4. English Medium Setting	2

NB: the category 2 settings are all Cylchoedd Meithrin with significant numbers of Welsh learner staff.

Flying Start data return for 2022-23:

47 children accessed Welsh medium places which equated to 12.4%

There was an overall 80% take up rate in Flying Start childcare in 2022-23.

Outcome Summary

Flying Start childcare expansion began its development from January 2023 with implementation from April 2023. The Early Years team are working with the whole childcare sector to support them to tender to deliver Flying Start childcare places along with other contracted placements. Settings have to complete pre-delivery checks and develop a Setting Improvement Plan to show how they will work towards meeting the quality required.

The Early Years team are working with Mudiad Meithrin to develop Welsh medium childcare as well as ensure all our Cylch feel able to declare themselves as Welsh medium on their SASS and other returns to CIW and Estyn. There is a need to develop more Welsh Medium provision during 2023-24 in Llanbradach, Aberbargoed, and later (circa 2025-26) in Trethomas. Of the 75 childcare providers contracted for Flying Start childcare 12 deliver Welsh or Welsh and English in their provision.

During the expansion phase there has been a focus on developing Ti A Fi to stimulate the demand for Welsh medium provision. The Ti a Fi in White Rose, New Tredegar is struggling with numbers and so the rent for the hall has been underwritten to March 2024 to aid sustainability while growing the interest locally. The Ti a Fi developed in Ysgol Bro Sannan aims to grow the demand from families while Mudiad Meithrin develop and register the Cylch. There is small capital works planned on site to ensure the setting will meet CIW registration requirements. A new Ti a Fi is being developed in Llanbradach to support growing the demand for a new Cylch in the community centre.

This year a lot of work has been undertaken to rewrite sections of the Starting School Booklet to promote Welsh medium Education to families. This is due for publication in Sept 2023.

The Early Years Hub (which incorporates the Family Information Service) has recently recruited a Welsh speaker. The Hub Officer will take responsibility for promotion of provision for vulnerable families and Welsh language, which aims to provide consistency of information to families. The Early Years Hub continues to work in collaboration with Mudiad Meithrin and Cymraeg I Blant to promote provision to families.

The animation 'Becoming Bilingual' is nearing completion and will be available on the CCBC website and Early Years website as well as part of a marketing campaign to promote choices to families.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment gave a good overview of provision, but more detailed assessments have been completed on local areas when looking to develop new provision which have been more in line with School development plans.

Transport remains a challenge for families, especially those in part time Nursery and those wishing to access the new Immersion Unit. However, we are working with the Senior Leaderships Team for the Immersion Unit and our Secondary School to develop an innovative solution for the small groups of dispersed learners who may wish to access the Immersion Unit.

Implementation and Monitoring

Updates are brought to the Welsh in Education Forum to ensure development of Cylchoedd is on track. Data has been developed this year to be presented in a more usable format to members of the forum.

Outcome Level Risks

It was a concern that 4 Cylchoedd have declared themselves to be Welsh and English; one of which was following an Estyn inspection and recommendation. Mudiad Meithrin is supporting the Welsh learner staff in the Cylchoedd to develop their skills and confidence to restore the Cylchoedd to delivering Welsh immersion sessions.

There is a challenge in recruitment of Welsh speaking staff to the childcare sector. There is promotion to staff to learn Welsh and develop their skills. However, this will take time to be seen in delivery of Welsh immersion childcare sessions.

Assurance / Mitigation Action

The LA has supported development of Ti a Fi to stimulate demand from families and create future sustainability. The LA has worked with Cylchoedd and Mudiad Meithrin Officers to support sustainability over 2022-23 especially where there have been concerns over falling numbers and financial management in the setting.

Outcome 2 – More reception class children / five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

Key Annual Data

PLASC data set 2023: There are 335 children in year 1 in Welsh medium which equates to 17.5%, of whom, 17 (5%) are children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Outcome Summary

Capital programme update:

Welsh medium childcare and nursery at Ysgol Y Castell – capital works completed.

New school and childcare provision for Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon – works due to completion Autumn 2023.

Welsh medium Childcare at Ysgol Ifor Bach – tender has been awarded with project completion due by March 2024.

Welsh medium Childcare at Pengam library – tender has been awarded with project completion due by March 2024.

Ysgol Penalltau – tender came in over budget so will need to request a variation to be able to proceed.

Ysgol Cwm Derwen – awaiting tender prior to progressing.

Ysgol Bro Allta – works underway and due for completion Autumn 2023. Small capital programme works for childcare development on site for Clwb Carco.

The plans to build a new school to replace Ysgol Y Lawnt on a shared campus, have been submitted to Scrutiny and Cabinet and are now progressing to development of the full business case. Childcare needs are being considered in the planning stage and a bid will be submitted in future childcare capital rounds post 2025.

During 2022-23 there has been a significant development in Welsh immersion provision. Our new immersion centre Canolfan Gwennllian has opened in Ysgol Gilfach Fargod with an enthusiastic team to lead its development on behalf of the Welsh medium cluster. There are 2 children wanting to return to Welsh medium provision and we have our first pupil wishing to access the facility in September 2023. We are working together to explore longer term sustainable transport solutions for the centre to minimise barriers for families. We have developed information for our Starting School Booklet to begin the promotion to families. However, there is a promotional campaign being planned for 2023-24 including posters / pamphlets and Twitter posts to ensure families understand how to access the provision. The team are eager to attend the National Network meetings to develop the provision.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Welsh in Education Forum has oversight and updates at each forum, with the promotion task group developing the promotional activity in line with completion of capital works.

Outcome Level Risks

The Local Authority level risks mainly concern the costs increasing exponentially for all capital works as well as the limited number of contractors submitting tenders for the projects.

Assurance / Mitigation Action

The remaining legacy childcare capital projects are on track to complete March 2024. However, future childcare capital projects have focussed on refurbishment of existing buildings instead of new build projects which appears to be more cost and time effective, as well as appeal to a wider range of contractors.

Outcome 3 – More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another.

Key Annual Data

PLASC data set: Pre-covid the transition rate between Primary phase and Secondary phase been a high percentage. However, in Sept 2022 while the transition rate remained high there was a slight decrease of 10 pupils not transferring to Welsh medium Secondary school which equated to 97% transition rate year 6 to year 7.

Outcome Summary

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini has worked closely with its cluster primary schools to develop positive transition arrangements. The schools work collaboratively on events and transition sessions to promote the provision to pupils.

In recent years since the pandemic there has been concern that children and young people have had their immersion experiences impacted and this has meant that some learners have chosen to move from Welsh medium to English medium schools. In response to this, schools have worked hard to develop Welsh immersion materials to support children to

catch up as well as supporting parents to learn Welsh, so they feel better able to support their child.

While the transition rate continues to remain high it has decreased slightly since 2021. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni remain focussed on supporting the transition of pupils from Ysgol Gynradd to Ysgol Gyfun and will continue to explore innovative ways to increase the transition rate towards 100%.

Year	Year 6 number	Year 7 number	Percentage transition to year 7
2017	352	334	94.89%
2018	355	337	94.93%
2019	336	331	98.51%
2020	329	320	97.26%
2021	356	352	98.88%
2022	336	326	97.00%

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni continues to promote sixth form opportunities to young people and retains many students into year 12 and 13 to further their qualifications. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni works closely with Coleg y Cymoedd to support learners to continue their Welsh language while undertaking vocational qualifications.

An area of development in 2024 is to explore the numbers of in-year transition from Welsh medium to English medium school. There is a feeling that since the pandemic more children have moved out of Welsh medium education, but this is currently anecdotal and needs a tracking pilot to identify the reality of the context.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Welsh in Education Forum has oversight although the data set has been in development over the last year to enable greater accessibility and understanding.

Outcome Level Risks

Transition rates continue to remain a focus to ensure the LA works towards meeting the target to increase the number of learners in Welsh medium education.

Assurance / Mitigation Action

Cluster collaboration and development of transition events aids the transition of pupils between primary and secondary phase.

Outcome 4 – More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh.

Key Annual Data

PLASC data set 2022

Qualification Title	Year 11	%	Year 13	

WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Welsh Second Language	1377	70.0%	0	0.0%
WJEC Entry Level Certificate in Welsh Second Language (Entry 3)	7	0.4%	0	0.0%
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Welsh Language	287	14.6%	1	0.2%
WJEC Entry Level Award in Welsh Second Language (Entry 2)	10	0.5%	0	0.0%
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Welsh Literature	139	7.1%	0	0.0%
WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Welsh Second Language	0	0.0%	12	3.0%
WJEC Level 3 Advanced GCE in Welsh Second Language	0	0.0%	6	1.5%
WJEC Level 3 Advanced GCE in Welsh First Language	0	0.0%	7	1.7%
WJEC Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Welsh First Language	0	0.0%	8	2.0%
Cohort	1968		401	

E-sgol will be explored moving forwards to identify if needed for minority subject areas.

Outcome Summary

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni offers a range of subjects at both GCSE and A level, including both academic and vocational routes. Alongside Welsh qualifications there are a range of academic and vocational qualifications taught through the medium of Welsh. These are promoted on the Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni website as well as the new Caerphilly Pathways website actively promoting career pathways to young people. [Find a Course \(caerphillypathways.co.uk\)](#)

The A level in Welsh second language is actively promoted through the Caerphilly pathways website showing course content and clear progression routes to higher education and employment. There will also be case studies which are currently under development. [Course: Welsh \(Second Language\) \(caerphillypathways.co.uk\)](#)

The Education Achievement Service was conducting a thematic survey around Welsh in the curriculum in the summer term 2023. However, there were complications to the full implementation of the survey which we hope will be resolved to enable completion in the autumn term 2023.

Coleg Gwent continues to expand the number of subjects it delivers in Welsh.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Welsh in Education Forum receives updates from the Education Achievement Service representative regularly and will have access to the data in future to enable full monitoring of the trend.

Outcome Level Risks

There is a current national and local risk regarding budgets and falling numbers of pupils which may impact the delivery of the breadth of subjects moving forwards. This will be monitored.

Assurance / Mitigation Action

There is consideration of E-sgol to continue access to subjects with decreasing or low take up.

Outcome 5 – More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school.

Key Annual Data

Every school in the borough is committed to achieving the Siarter Iaith or Campus Cymraeg.

In the last year 3 have received Gold award e.g., Ysgol Penalltau, and many have achieved Silver award e.g., Fochriw Primary.

Outcome Summary

Menter Iaith work closely with the Urdd and the Youth Service to fund a Youth Officer who works in Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and the Hanger (EOTAS provision) as well as in out of school activities.

In the last year there has been a challenge in recruiting tutors to deliver Welsh medium education in EOTAS but the Youth Officer has enabled them to continue studies in Welsh. Recently the EOTAS team has had 2 pupils achieve an A / B in GCSE Welsh and they are hoping more will sit and achieve the Welsh qualification moving forwards due to the support from the Youth Officer.

The provision at Virginia Park is nearing completion and the Youth Club will move from Y Gwindy when the Virginia Park provision opens. This is very positive to give Welsh Youth provision a space in the main Youth hub in Caerphilly basin. However, there now needs consideration of Welsh medium Youth provision across the borough.

Menter Iaith has consulted with young people to develop the provision they would like to see in the summer holidays.

Menter Iaith collaborate with a range of partners to develop Ffilifest every July promoting Welsh language to the wider public and supporting families to see the benefits of bilingualism.

The Education Achievement Service continues to support schools to progress through the Siarter Iaith / Campus Cymraeg to embed Welsh language opportunities across the curriculum and the life of the school

Implementation and Monitoring

Menter Iaith and Urdd are key members of the Welsh in Education Forum and continue to provide updates and engage partners actively in events and future developments.

Outcome Level Risks

There continues to be a concern that funding is annual and under pressure with the pressures on budgets, even though this is a critical area of work for learners and their communities.

Assurance / Mitigation Action

Use of the Integrated Impact Assessment prior to any budget decisions being made enables the wider impacts to be noted and considered.

Outcome 6 – An increase in the provision of Welsh medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

Key Annual Data

PLASC 2023

There were 2871 children (12.5%) with ALN in English medium schools.

There were 355 children (7.7%) with ALN in Welsh medium schools.

Outcome Summary

There has been substantial investment in schools to upskill staff to meet the needs of children and young people and comply with the Additional Learning Needs Act and the Education Tribunal (Wales) 2018.

There has been an active recruitment for Welsh speaking specialist staff which has been successful. Currently 6 of the 12 Advisory/Specialist/EHE team are Welsh speaking which has enhanced the support to schools and the most vulnerable learners.

There is a Specialist Resource Base in Ysgol Cwm Derwen, and a further specialist provision will be developed on the new Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon site. In addition, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni has a specialist provision called Hafan at the Gwyndy and Y Ganolfan at the Gellihaf site where our Secondary age young people who need more specific support can feel included.

Welsh medium education is actively promoted in early years regardless of a child's additional needs, highlighting the support in our Welsh medium has been substantial investment in schools to upskill staff to meet the needs of children schools.

There has been an active recruitment for Welsh speaking specialist staff which has been successful. Currently 6 of the 12 Advisory/Specialist/EHE team are Welsh speaking which has enhanced the support to schools and the most vulnerable learners.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Welsh in Education Forum members receive updates from the Specialist Teacher representative who attends the forum.

Outcome Level Risks

There appears to be increasing numbers of children and young people being identified with ALN since the pandemic which is putting pressure on staff, schools and budgets to meet the needs of all learners.

Assurance / Mitigation Action

There continues to be an ongoing focus on Additional Learning Provision and meeting the needs of all learners.

Outcome 7 – Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh.

Key Annual Data

PLASC 2023:

	Primary School	Primary School	Secondary School	Secondary School
TC Qualified teachers teaching Welsh as a first language	120	16%	144	21%
TW Qualified teachers teaching Welsh as a second language only	566	75%	32	5%
TO Qualified teachers teaching other subjects through the medium of Welsh	0	0%	0	0%
NW Qualified teachers able to teach Welsh or through the medium of Welsh, but not doing so	43	6%	25	4%
NT Not qualified to teach Welsh or through the medium of Welsh	23	3%	471	70%

Currently 6 of the 12 Advisory/Specialist/EHE team are Welsh speaking which has enhanced the support to schools and the most vulnerable learners.

Vacancies	Welsh medium	English medium
Primary School	8	57
Secondary School	0	47

Outcome Summary

There have been identified pressures on the workforce in the last year especially the Welsh speaking workforce. All partners are working hard to consider innovative methods to recruitment and development of Welsh speaking professionals.

Targeted recruitment in the Specialist/Advisory/EHE team has meant 6 of the 12 staff in the team are Welsh speakers. This enables those specialist staff with the expertise in Welsh to have positive conversation with families, children, and staff in schools to continue the child's education in Welsh medium provision. This has been a very positive step forward.

The Education Achievement Service have focussed on professional learning for strategic leadership for Welsh Language and a thematic review in the summer term 2023, which will ensure that Welsh is included in the School Development Plans moving forwards. In addition, there are a number of staff involved in the sabbatical scheme.

There are a substantial number of staff needed moving forwards across the whole of Education including Early Years and Schools to maintain legislative compliance. Currently there have been a number of successful collaborative leadership appointments for head teacher positions.

Early Years have developed trainee posts to enable wider recruitment of staff, enable them to actively engage with the qualification while gaining an understanding in a variety of work placements across early years. There is a need to learn conversational Welsh alongside the level 2 qualification, which will support growth in the workforce. In addition, all early years staff are offered training in Welsh language to develop their skills with the aim towards a bilingual workforce.

The Caerphilly CBC workforce Welsh language audit will be completed in the autumn term to gain an understanding of the breadth of Welsh speakers across the council including schools.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Welsh in Education Forum members receive updates from members who attend the forum.

Outcome Level Risks

There continues to be workforce pressures locally and nationally.

Assurance / Mitigation Action

Trainee posts and apprenticeship schemes are being explored. The pressures are being raised nationally to look at funded training opportunities / contracts, which remain outside of the scope of local authorities.

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