



EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2021 AT 5.30PM

PRESENT:

Councillor T. Parry - Chair
Councillor C. Andrews - Vice-Chair

Councillors:

P. J. Bevan, A. Collis, W. David, A. Farina-Childs, D. Havard, B. Miles and J. E. Roberts.

Cabinet Member: Councillor R. Whiting (Learning and Leisure).

Together with:

Officers: K. Cole (Chief Education Officer), P. Warren (Strategic Lead for School Improvement), J. Fabes (6th Form Review Lead), C. Parry (Head Teacher, Lewis School Pengam), P. O'Neill (Senior Youth Service Manager), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), A. West (21st Century Schools Manager), S. Ellis (Lead for Inclusion and ALN), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) and J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer).

Also present:

Co-opted Members: Mr M. Western (Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan Commission for Education Representative), Mrs T. Millington (Parent Governor Representative) and Mr G. James (Parent Governor Representative).

Also in Attendance:

Becky Rosser and Sam Morgan (former pupils of Lewis School Pengam).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairperson reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded and 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 Councillors: Mrs E. M. Aldworth, D. T. Hardacre, M. P. James, Mrs B. A. Jones, Mrs G. D. Oliver, J. Simmonds and Mrs J. Stone.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. VOCATIONAL OFFER – PRESENTATION

The Cabinet Member introduced an in-depth presentation on Post 16 Opportunities with the schools of Caerphilly Borough.

The Chief Education Officer stated the ethos of the Education Department within Caerphilly Borough is that all children matter equally, and it is important that all young people have opportunities to identify and be supported on whatever pathway they choose.

Strategic Lead for School Improvement shared the presentation, which outlined the Local Authorities journey towards meeting the ambitions of the learners. Explaining the purpose of this presentation was to have a suitable destination for post 16 opportunities which meets the needs of the learners, to set them up for a happy, successful future where they are financially secure. Members were advised that the Education Strategy is currently being revised and is under review. It was explained that the Education Scrutiny Committee will have further opportunity next year to engage on the strategy. The 6th Form Review Lead also spoke on the presentation in depth.

Members sought further information on the presentation and were able to ask questions in relation to the content.

The Head Teacher, Lewis School Pengam, spoke on the work that they do around the post 16 offer and the vocational education in general.

Two former pupils of Lewis School Pengam provided an overview of their post 16 experience and the pathway they have taken since leaving school. Members were able to ask the former pupils questions in relation to opportunities that exist for young people and different learning options available.

Following the discussions, The Head of Lewis School Pengam and Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee thanked the former pupils from Lewis School Pengam for sharing their positive experiences since leaving school.

The Education Scrutiny Committee noted the presentation.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022 they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR