



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 20TH MAY 2024

SUBJECT: AN OVERVIEW OF HOW THE EAS SUPPORTS CAERPHILLY LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA) TO DELIVER THEIR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNCTION

REPORT BY: DEBBIE HARTEVELD, MANAGING DIRECTOR, EAS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of how the Education Achievement Service (EAS) supports Caerphilly Local Authority (LA) to deliver their school improvement function.
- 1.2 To seek members' views on current arrangements for how this support is delivered, within the context of an ongoing review.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report is supported through the delivery of a presentation giving a detail overview of the ways in which the EAS supports Caerphilly Local Authority to deliver their School Improvement function.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to scrutinise the contents of the report and ask questions and offer views about current arrangements.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility for monitoring educational outcomes and delivering its school improvement function. Much of this work is currently undertaken through partnership working with the EAS. The presentation provides the regional context, explains governance and funding models as well as describing how the LA ensures that the EAS meets the needs of Caerphilly schools and local priorities. It also provides details on EAS staffing and the delivery model in Caerphilly LA and how the LA holds the EAS to account for its work.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The EAS is a service that was set up by the five Councils in South-East Wales in September 2012 in response to the requirements of the Welsh Government's National Model for Regional Working.
- 5.2 The EAS is co-owned by the five Councils, who took the decision to set it up as a not-for-profit Company.
- 5.3 The EAS is subject to a strict governance model and is held to account through this mechanism.
- 5.4 There is a legal agreement in place with the 5 Councils called the CAMA (Collaboration and Members Agreement) that sets out how the organisation works, work, how it is funded and how funding is allocated.
- 5.5 The EAS receives funding, in the form of grants and core funding from each LA on an annual basis.
- 5.6 The Governance model, which included Caerphilly member representation on the Company Board, Joint Executive Group (JEG) and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), and the relationships between them are described.
- 5.7 Funding Model for the EAS is described in detail in the accompanying presentation. This describes in detail the original sources of funding and how these have evolved significantly over the last 12 years. Each council's contributions, the staffing model and the efficiencies that have been delivered over this period.
- 5.8 The EAS Business Plan, which has through Caerphilly Scrutiny committee before final approval by JEG and Caerphilly Cabinet, sets out how services are delivered, so that they meet the local needs of each LA. This is complemented by a Caerphilly specific delivery plan.
- 5.9 The presentation also describes the model for capturing the impact of the work in Caerphilly schools, through the Intent, Implementation and Impact approach, and how this is reported to JEG, Company Board and Caerphilly LA at multiple points throughout the year. This section also includes examples of how we share the and celebrate the progress made by Caerphilly schools.
- 5.10 The presentation describes the systems that have evolved and matured to record all of our work in, and support for schools, and how this is reported to Caerphilly LA.
- 5.11 The EAS staffing and Partner delivery model, including the rationale that sits behind that are described, including our approaches with the LA to provide team support around both schools and clusters of schools.

Conclusion

- 5.12 This report outlines the content of a detailed presentation which provides members with a broad range of information to inform them and allow them to ask questions about the way in which the EAS supports Caerphilly LA's statutory function.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1. There are no specific assumptions.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report is for information only therefore no Integrated Impact Assessment is required.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This work is funded through the EAS Business Plan, therefore there are no specific financial implications.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications.

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 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, Children's Act 2004, Standards and Framework Act 1998

Appendix 1: Presentation - How the EAS supports Caerphilly Local Authority to deliver their school improvement function

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Consultees:

- Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
- Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
- Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities
- Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
- Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
- Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
- Sue Richards, Head of Transformation and Education Planning and Strategy
- 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
- Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Officer.