



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22ND MAY, 2018

**SUBJECT: THE DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING
PRIORITIES FOR 2018 TO 2023**

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update and inform Members of the review of Directorate priorities for 2017-18 through a robust self-evaluation process and the identification of priorities for 2018-2023.
- 1.2 The report also considers one of the Council's five Well-being Objectives for 2018 – 2023; *"Improve education opportunities for all"*.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Through the Self Evaluation process and taking account of Council priorities, included in the Corporate Plan 2018-2023, the Directorate has identified 8 key priority themes for 2018 to 2023.
- 2.2 The Council has identified 6 Well-being Objectives. The Directorate will be responsible for one of the six Well-being Objectives, *"Improve education opportunities for all"*.
- 2.3 Members are asked to agree the Education Directorate priorities for 2018 to 2023.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The recommended course of action contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:
 - **A healthier Wales**, supporting vulnerable learners can improve their well-being and add educational achievement. Reducing the number of NEETs will significantly impact the wellbeing goals for future generations.
 - **A prosperous and more equal Wales**, Standards of attainment and gaps in inequality can result in a low skilled, low paid workforce, and higher levels of unemployment leading to poverty. Inability to deliver the childcare offer will impact on parental in work poverty. Delivery of essential skills courses can affect both wellbeing and long term employability prospects.
 - **A Wales of cohesive communities** (in the context of improving quality of life with attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities).
 - **A More Equal Wales** by enabling all children and young people to fulfil their potential.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The planning process undertaken within the Directorate is outlined in Appendix A.
- 4.2 2 planning days were held with key managers and staff from within the Directorate to identify and agree priorities.
- 4.3 Progress against the 6 priorities identified in 2017-18 was evaluated. In summary:-
- Priority 1 – Raising standards – particularly at KS4
Highest ever ranking for Key Stage 4 outcomes when compared with other local authorities across Wales; however a high percentage of secondary schools continue to require increased levels of intervention and support. There was a significant increase in the number of primary schools categorised as 'Green'. Maintained successful primary phase performance portfolio.
- Priority 2 – Deliver 21st Century Schools Strategy and Development
All Band A 21st Century Schools and Education proposals came within budget and within expected timescales. £110m of Band B funding agreed by Welsh Government.
- Priority 3 – Provide diversity of provision for EOTAS – proposals developed for model of provision. Dedicated Educational Psychologist identified to work with EOTAS provisions. Structure of provision and staffing reviewed to ensure a quality of provision and outcomes.
- Priority 4 – Raise standards of attendance – Nearly all schools have implemented the Callio attendance monitoring model. Attendance self-evaluation toolkit provided to all schools. The majority of schools have introduced Fixed Penalty Notices. Attendance levels remain too low across primary and secondary schools.
- Priority 5 – Inclusion and Additional Learning Needs – working group developed with Headteachers regarding exclusions. Awareness raising of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) has been undertaken. Person Centred Practice promoted through planning meetings. Contributed to the ALN bill.
- Priority 6 – Reducing the impact of poverty – Childcare offer rolled out to full borough within 7 months – team highly regarded by Welsh Government. Highest number of childcare settings engaged in completing the Healthy Early Years scheme.
- 4.4 Further to consideration of the previous priorities and the completion of a robust self-evaluation exercise, the Directorate agreed 8 service priorities for 2018 to 2023 (Illustrated in Appendix B).
- 4.5 The 8 priority themes proposed by the Directorate for 2018 to 2023 are as follows:
1. Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those within Key Stages 3 and 4 - this area continues to be a priority for the Directorate; Increase the percentage of pupil attendance across primary and secondary in order to maximise pupils' learning across Caerphilly – this continues to be a priority for the Directorate and has been identified as an area for improvement by Estyn;
 2. Reduce the impact of poverty upon communities - this area continues to be a priority for the Directorate – expansion of childcare provision; expansion of the Childcare Offer; increasing accessibility, take up and attendance of Flying Start childcare;
 3. Transform educational opportunities for learners by delivery of fit for purpose 21st Century Schools;
 4. Improve provision and outcomes for vulnerable groups;
 5. Reduce the rates of exclusions, therefore impacting upon pupil attainment and outcomes;

6. Secure excellence in learner well-being;
7. Ensure that the local authority is fully compliant with the ALN act.

4.6 In addition to these priorities, the following will be core priorities that will underpin the successful work of the Directorate :

1. Safeguarding;
2. Medium Term Financial Planning;
3. Workforce well-being and continuous professional development.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 These priorities contribute to the Well-being Goals as set out in Section 3 - Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that the 8 Priority Areas identified throughout the plan aim to contribute to the long-term well-being of children and young people within the county borough by ensuring they have the best start in life and the opportunity to achieve success as a young person and as an adult.
- 5.2 Strategies identified within the plan are aimed at prevention – preventing young people becoming disaffected from education, preventing young people from becoming NEET and hence contributing towards the prevention of adulthood poverty.
- 5.3 Integration is fundamental to everything we do within Education – ensuring that all our children and young people are fully engaged in an educational programme appropriate to their needs, maintaining an ethos where they feel safe and secure and encouraged to succeed.
- 5.4 Collaboration with schools, Headteachers, the EAS and our SEWC colleagues will further assist us in driving up standards and securing progress in all of our priority objectives.
- 5.5 We actively involve children and young people in our decision making processes, encouraging the ‘pupil voice’ within the Directorate and encourage participation in the Junior and Youth Forums.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any equalities implications found and associated with this report have been concluded, although the main objective seeks to address inequalities and promote equal opportunities for learning and young people.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 These will be detailed in the Service Improvement Plan, as appropriate.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated into this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members are asked to agree these priorities.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That Council undertakes effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Statutory power which impacts on this report includes:
- Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
 - Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 78)
 - National Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2010
 - The Local Government Measure 2009

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Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance

Appendix A : Planning Framework

Appendix B : Directorate Priorities for 2018 to 2023