



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 24TH SEPTEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) AND INCLUSION SERVICES

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Scrutiny Committee of the progress made in relation to the service review for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Inclusion Services.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In January, 2012, the Director initiated a review of ALN and Inclusion Services. These services include support for children with additional needs, through a specialist team of teachers, psychology, behaviour and education welfare services.
- 2.2 The purpose of the review was to ensure that the needs of children and young people were being met and that services provided were cost-effective and efficient.
- 2.3 As the national agenda has a focus on regional delivery of services to schools, a range of models of delivery were to be considered and recommendations made as to their suitability.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Learning theme within "Caerphilly Delivers", the LSB Single Integrated plan and CCBC Strategic Equality Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 6.
- 3.2 The Inclusion Strategy 2012.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Local Authority currently work in partnership with a consultative group of headteachers, known as the Education Improvement Group. Members of this group, together with additional co-opted headteachers and classroom practitioners, form the stakeholder group for this review. They have played a key role in the process and their views and expertise have informed all stages of development.
- 4.2 During the last year, consideration has been given to current provision and its fitness for purpose. This has included a focus on educational provision within the specialist resources bases (SRBs). There has also been a service review of the Educational Psychology, Behaviour Support and the Education Welfare Services.

- 4.3 Task and Finish groups have been established to deal with each aspect of the review and their recommendations were shared with the wider group.
- 4.4 The second phase of the process will be to consider the recommendations in line with identified best practice. As the way forward is formalised, value for money and the delegation of resources to schools will require careful consideration.
- 4.5 The outcomes and recommendations from this review will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee at a future date.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equalities implications will be considered during the review of the services noted in 4.1, as equalities issues play a fundamental role in the delivery of these services.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising at this stage of the review. These will be the subject of a further report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no HR implications arising at this stage of the review. These will be the subject of a further report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments have been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members note the content of the report and progress to date.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure Members are fully apprised of the progress made with the Service review.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The 1996 Education Act
The SEN Code of Practice for Wales

Author: Keri Cole, Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion
Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Headteacher Working Group
Jackie Garland, Service Manager – Social Inclusion
Jacqueline Elias, Service Manager, Additional Learning Needs
Andrea Davies, Manager, School Effectiveness
Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Corporate Management Team
HR Division