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(Tel: 01443 864267 Email: [houghtk@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:houghtk@caerphilly.gov.uk))

**Date: 27th March 2019**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Education for Life Scrutiny Committee** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room - Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019** 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, and a simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

All Committee meetings are open to the Press and Public, observers and participants are asked to conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. Please note that failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the meetings and you may be escorted from the premises.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

**Christina Harrhy**  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## AGENDA

Pages

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 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.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- |   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| 3 | Education for Life Scrutiny Committee held on the 19th February 2019.                                 | 1 - 6   |
| 4 | Special Education for Life Scrutiny Committee held on the 7th March 2019.                             | 7 - 12  |
| 5 | Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.      |         |
| 6 | To receive a verbal report by the Cabinet Member(s).  |         |
| 7 | Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.   | 13 - 28 |
| 8 | To receive and consider the following Cabinet Reports*: -   |         |
|   | 1. Education Attainment Strategy and Action Plan.   |         |
|   | 2. Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan (2019-2021) and Local Authority Annex 2019-2020. |         |
|   | 3. Terms of Reference for Review of Post 16/ Single Sex and Surplus Places.                           |         |
|   | 4. Education Capital 2019-20.   |         |

*\*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 Amy Dredge, 01443 863100, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 1st April 2019.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports: -

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 9  | Junior & Youth Forum Priorities.        | 29 - 32 |
| 10 | National School Categorisation 2018-19. | 33 - 42 |

**Circulation:**

**Councillors** C. Andrews (Vice Chair), P.J. Bevan, A. Collis, S. Cook, W. David, A. Farina-Childs, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard (Chair), M.P. James, B. Miles, Mrs G.D. Oliver, Mrs T. Parry, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, J. Simmonds and R. Whiting

**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) Mr M Barry and Mr R Morgan

**Outside Body Representatives** (without voting rights)  
Mrs J. Havard (NEU) and Mrs P. Ireland (NEU)

**Caerphilly Governors Association** (without voting rights)  
Mr D Davies

And Appropriate Officers

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# Agenda Item 3



## EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON TUESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 5.30PM.

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PRESENT:

Councillor D. Havard - Chair  
Councillor C. Andrews - Vice-Chair

Councillors:

P.J. Bevan, A. Farina-Childs, D.T. Hardacre, M.P. James, B. Miles, Mrs T. Parry, J.E. Roberts and R. Saralis.

P. Marsden (Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement).

Together with:

R. Edmunds (Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), S. Mutch (Early Years Manager) C. Evans (Interim Scrutiny Officer) and K. Houghton (Committee Services Officer).

Also Present:

Co-opted Members: Mr D. Davies (Caerphilly Governors Association) Mr R. Morgan (Parent Governor), Mrs P.J. Ireland and Mr M. Western (Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan Commission for Education Representative).

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Collis, S. Cook, W. David, Mrs G.D. Oliver, J. Simmonds and R. Whiting and co-opted Members Mr M. Barry (Parent Governor).

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A. Farina-Child declared a personal and prejudicial interest on Item 10 – Education Capital 2019/20. Details are minuted with the respective item.

### 3. MINUTES – 17TH DECEMBER 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Education for Life Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Tuesday the 17th December 2018 (minute nos 1- 4) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4. MINUTES – 8TH JANUARY 2019**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Tuesday the 8th January 2019 (minute nos 1- 9) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**5. 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.

**6. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER**

The Chair drew Members attention to the report previously circulated and it was noted without comment. Members were asked to provide any feedback directly to Councillor Marsden and the Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for her report.

**7. EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Interim Scrutiny Officer presented the report which outlined the draft Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme from February 2019 to June 2019.

Members were advised that since the publication of the report there had been a number of proposed changes to the Programme for their consideration. Officers have requested that the Federation of Schools be deferred from the 2nd April 2019 meeting to the 21st May 2019 meeting to allow for the completion of consultations with schools. It was also requested that the Categorisation of Schools be moved to the 2nd April meeting.

Members were asked to consider the Forward Work Programme and the proposed changes and make any amendments or propose any additional items to be included for future meetings.

The Chair thanked the Interim Scrutiny Officer for the presentation of the Forward Work Programme and Members comments were welcomed.

A Member requested that a report be brought forward detailing what the provision of service is to meet increased Additional Learning Needs requirement and the outcome of the ALN review. The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services advised Members that there is a live consultation by Welsh Government (WG) underway in relation to new ALN legislation and the Caerphilly County Borough Council had submitted their comments. Once this consultation was finished then a report could be brought forward to the Committee. The Member agreed to meet with the Director outside of the meeting in order to ensure the report is aligned with what has been requested.

Following consideration, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report and the changes proposed by the Officer be approved. By a show of hands this was agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the aforementioned changes, the Forward Work Programme appended to the report be approved.

## **8. CABINET REPORTS**

None of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda had been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

## **9. WELSH EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN – PERFORMANCE UPDATE 2018**

The Early Years Manager introduced the report which presented Members with an annual update on the work completed under the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) in 2018.

She referred Members to the body of the report which provided details of the work carried out to date along with continuing and future work. She drew Members attention to the highlights of the WESP from 2018 in particular a number of successful capital project bids, the production of a leaflet promoting bilingualism, increased provision of Welsh medium childcare, The Parent Network developing bilingual children's books, increased collaborative working between Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and Coleg y Cymoedd to deliver a broader Welsh medium curriculum, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni working closely with feeder primary schools to improve the welsh medium provision for young people with ALN, Menter Iaith delivering the Road to Bilingualism scheme to English medium schools and the completion of the Parent Survey.

The Chair thanked the Early Years Manager for her report and questions from Members were welcomed.

A Member enquired as to how much evaluation had taken place on the work carried out. The Early Years Manager advised Members that a WESP consultation process was due to begin which has been proactively promoted in the region. This will set targets for the future in the context of switching to a 10 year plan. The County Borough is in a good position for meeting these targets as work towards them is already being undertaken.

It was noted by Members that the bilingual option for a Level 3 Health and Social Care course did not run due to low numbers and asked how participation in bilingual learning opportunities could be encouraged. The Early Years Manager assured Members that Coleg y Cymoedd and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni continued to work together to offer more vocational courses and are engaging with surrounding schools to generate learners.

A Member raised concerns that performance at Key Stage 2 had stagnated between 2017 and 2018. The Early Years Manager informed the Members that focus has been on the Foundation phase and there now needed to be a rebalance by focusing on Key Stage 2 but it should be noted that there had been an upturn in Level 5+ performance.

Members discussed raising aspirations in Welsh medium learning in deprived areas and whether the County Borough's aspirations could meet those of WG. The Early Year Manager responded that the WG wanted the County Borough to be as aspirational as possible with a focus on well-being, supporting ALN and vocational options. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni is leading the way on these aspirations so the County Borough in a good position however the challenge of realising these aspirations has not been underestimated. In terms of uptake levels in welsh education; this is spread across the County Borough, regardless of economic and social background.

Members enquired as to the disparity between genders in terms of Welsh learners and how many employees of the Local Authority were fluent Welsh speakers or Welsh learners. The Early Years Manager highlighted to Members that the Council was encouraging Welsh learners and recruitment of Welsh speakers. In terms of the number of employees who are Welsh speakers or learning Welsh, the Equalities team monitored this and she would request that an email with these figures be sent to the Committee.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the professional development opportunities for both Welsh and English medium teachers in developing Welsh language skills including the Sabbatical Scheme training and the potential budgetary and resource constraints to this. Members also discussed teacher recruitment of fluent Welsh speakers in English medium schools and teachers for Welsh medium schools. The Early Years Manager advised Members that there had been a lot of change in the last 5-10 years in the way the Welsh language was taught in English medium schools and developing teachers skills in Welsh as a second language was being looked at particularly in terms of the delivery of training so impact on resources was reduced and opportunities maximised, whether this means developing more online learning options or taking other alternative approaches. In relation to the financial impact of delivering this training, she was unable to comment as the Education Achievement Service (EAS) were responsible for the delivery of this kind of training, but she would request that the EAS report these details to the Committee via e-mail. She briefed Members that recruitment of teachers for Welsh medium schools was difficult and work was being done to support learners transition between each stage of Welsh medium education particularly into post 16 education where potential Welsh medium teachers could be recruited.

A Member raised concerns that the focus on raising Welsh language education would be to the detriment of general education attainment levels. The Early Years Manager reassured Members that although the delivery of Welsh language in English medium schools was a focus it did not supersede the Authority's commitment to delivering high education attainment standards across the board. The EAS support Welsh language specialists within each school and this is an early stage move towards bilingual schools in the future.

A Member observed that the use of Welsh medium activity centres should be encouraged by both Welsh and English medium schools.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the report be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

## **10. EDUCATION CAPITAL 2019/20**

Councillor A. Farina-Childs declared a personal and prejudicial interest in that he is a Governor for Blackwood Comprehensive School and also a family member works at the school. He left the room when the report was presented and did not take part in the debate or vote.

The Head of Education Planning and Strategy introduced the report which informed Members on the 2019/20 Education Capital Programme, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

A Member enquired as to the tendering process for contractors on works under £10,000 and whether the process was competitive and value for money. The Head of Education Planning and Strategy advised that tenders went through the Schools Facilities team and she would request that they email the Member and provide information on the tendering process.

It was moved and seconded that the report be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.



RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

**11. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LIBRARY SERVICES ANNUAL WELSH GOVERNMENT STANDARDS ASSESSMENTS 2017-18**

The Head of Education Planning and Strategy introduced the report that informed Members of the progress made by the County Borough Library Service in seeking to meet the 6th Framework of WG Public Library Standards, Core Entitlements and Qualitative Indicators, during 2017-18.

She highlighted to Members that out of the 12 Core Entitlements, the Library Service had meet 10 in full and 2 in part. The two Entitlements not fully meet were related to Wi-Fi coverage in Libraries, a matter which is already being addressed and the level of qualified staff in Libraries however it should be noted that this indicator was only fully meet by just two out of the 22 Welsh authorities.

Member were referred to Section 4.5.1 of the report which detailed the Service's successes and Section 4.5.2 which detailed the areas in need of improvement. The Head of Education Planning and Strategy informed Members that the outcome of the assessments was considered very successful with the library standard maintained to a high standard despite ongoing budgetary constraints.

A Member enquired as how the two Core Entitlements that the Library Service did not fully meet could be met. The Head of Education Planning and Strategy responded that the Wi-Fi entitlement had been addressed and is expected to be deemed fully met in the next assessments. The second Entitlement relating to qualified staff in libraries is harder to achieve and she reiterated that only two authorities out of 22 fully met it. She emphasised to Members that although this measure was only partly met, library staff are well trained and have a lot to offer the Service.

Members discussed at length the role of Libraries in engaging with local schools and their local communities. They enquired as to what provision was in place for schools that did not have easy access to a library and what alternative approaches could be used to ensure library services were accessible to all communities. The Head of Education Planning and Strategy advised Members that there were Community Libraries that engaged with schools and there was a School Engagement Strategy in place to enthuse readers in schools. An accelerated readers pilot scheme is being run at Idris Davies School with links to the local libraries. Libraries are also key to the Service Improvement Plan which will be looking to develop stronger links between the Library Service and schools. In addition the Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement emphasised the importance of enthusing readers and engagement with both schools and the communities needs to look at approaches such as co-location of services, including library services and creating community hubs in existing libraries or community centres.

The Chair thanked the Head of Education Planning and Strategy for her report and Members for their comments. It was noted that the Chair and Committee commended the excellent work of the Caerphilly County Borough Library Service.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Officer's report and Appendix 2 be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the Officer's report be noted.
- (ii) the Welsh Government's Public Library Standard Reference Group Report of performance (Appendix 2) and the Authority's attainment of 10 Core

Entitlements in full and 2 in part, and 8 Quality Indicators in full, 2 partially that have targets assigned, be noted.

The meeting closed at 18:50pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2019 they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR



## **SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2019 AT 5.30PM.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor D. Havard - Chair

Councillors:

P.J. Bevan, A. Collis, S. Cook, W. David, A. Farina-Childs, D.T. Hardacre, M.P. James, B. Miles, Mrs T. Parry, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, J. Simmonds and R. Whiting.

P. Marsden (Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement).

Together with:

R. Edmunds (Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services), K. Cole (Chief Education Officer), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Also Present:

Co-opted Members: Mr D. Davies (Caerphilly Governors Association), Mr M. Barry and Mr R. Morgan (Parent Governors), Mrs J. Havard (NUT) and Mr M. Western (Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan Commission for Education Representative).

J. Fabes (Review Lead – for sixth-form provision, single sex education and surplus places in secondary schools).

E. Pryce and J. Wood (Education Achievement Service – EAS).

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Andrews (Vice-Chair) and Mrs G.D. Oliver.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

### 3. **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REVIEW OF POST 16 / SINGLE SEX AND SURPLUS PLACES**

The Chair gave permission for this item to be brought forward on the agenda.

The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services introduced the report and welcomed Mr J. Fabes, Review Lead for the review of post 16/single sex and surplus places. Mr Fabes summarised his career and experience gained to date and confirmed he is currently employed by Bridgend County Council. Caerphilly County Borough Council has engaged Mr Fabes' specialist service to deliver the review for Caerphilly and wishes to establish a Review Board to oversee developments.

The report sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the draft terms of reference for the review of post 16 provision, single sex education and surplus places across Caerphilly prior to its submission to Cabinet on the 13th March 2019.

Members were advised that the Council is seeking to deliver a sustainable strategy for post-16 education in Caerphilly that is underpinned by robust models and delivers the right education in the right place and with the best outcomes for learners. The continuation of single sex education at Lewis Girls School and Lewis School Pengam, as well as the challenge of reducing surplus places across Caerphilly's secondary school estate are separate but interlinked issues that also need to be addressed by this review.

The Scrutiny Committee were referred to appendix 1 that sets out the draft terms of reference for the Board and the Review. The Membership is a large and varied group that will consider the reporting arrangements and it was noted that they are not a decision making body. The function of decision making will remain with Cabinet and or Full Council.

Members discussed the report and the terms of reference. Clarification was sought as to the rationale for so many strands on the review board's membership and also why it proposes limited elected Member participation. Officers referred to previous experiences within other local authorities and advised that these are three sizeable reviews in their own right. The Board wants to ensure that everyone who has a stake will have an opportunity to take part in the process. Members were advised that they are able to amend or make further recommendations to Cabinet.

A Member sought clarification on the level of commitment required of Members of the board in terms of meetings etc. Mr Fabes referred to his experience at Bridgend and confirmed that during the initial stages the board met every 4 – 6 weeks. The frequency of meetings will depend on the preparation required between meetings and a structured schedule will be devised. He added, that this is a front loaded process and when the details are worked through the meetings are likely to reduce to once per term. In terms of the scope of the review, once established the board will prescribe the timescales. The board will be governed by Welsh Government legislation and guidance. Members noted that should Cabinet endorse the recommendations, the board will ensure the initial report is presented to Cabinet in an effective and timely manner.

Members emphasised the importance of the speed of the review being undertaken and that there should be no delay throughout the process. A Member proposed that the membership should be increased from two to four elected Members to sit on the board with two from the majority and two from the opposition group. Members nominated Councillors W. David and R. Saralis for the Labour Group and M. James and T. Parry for Plaid Cymru.

In terms of the outputs section within the terms of reference, the Scrutiny Committee felt that the last bullet point '*Evaluate the impact of post-16 plans for education*' should be removed.

The Chair thanked Mr Fabes for presenting the report and for responding to questions raised during the course of the debate.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to an amendment to paragraph 3.2 and the last bullet point on the outputs section of the terms of reference be removed, the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the foregoing:

- (i) the draft Terms of Reference for the Review of post 16 provision, single sex education and surplus places across Caerphilly be submitted to Cabinet;
- (ii) the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee nominated four of its members to sit on the Review Board, two from the majority group and two from the opposition group.

#### **4. EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) BUSINESS PLAN (2019-2021) AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ANNEX 2019-2020**

Mr E. Pryce and Ms J. Wood from the Education Achievement Service (EAS) presented the report that sought Members' views on the EAS Business Plan 2019-2020 and the Local Authority Annex 2019-2020 prior to their presentation to Cabinet on the 13th March 2019.

The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan with accompanying annexes for each of the five Local Authorities (LAs). The Business Plan outlines the programme of work that is required to continue to accelerate outcomes and provision for children and young people in settings and schools in South East Wales. The plan focuses on the need to raise aspiration and accelerate improvement in pupil outcomes, improve the quality of teaching and leadership. It offers support for schools to realise the national reform agenda and to continue to build upon the self-improving system within and across schools and settings.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that this a one year plan that meets Welsh Government (WG) requirements. The priorities for the Business Plan have been derived from Local Authority Strategic Plans. The progress that has been made towards the previous Business Plan areas that have been identified as requiring improvements through internal self-evaluation processes, external research and feedback from Estyn. The delivery model for the Business Plan is on a regional basis, the needs of each school and trends within Caerphilly are met through bespoke work for individual school needs. It also takes account of what partners are saying. The Business Plan has been through a thorough consultation process (from January 18th 2019 until February 8th 2019). Members were referred to paragraph 5.6 in the report that listed the consultees and it was explained that the consultation responses have been reflected within the plan.

The Officer referred to paragraph 5.13 in the report that sets out the Caerphilly Strategic priorities for 2019/20. Each improvement strand within the plan now has a specific emphasis on the work of the EAS in promoting improved outcomes for vulnerable learners, in particular those in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM). Members noted the improvements that are required at regional and local authority level require a strong commitment of partnership-working to be successful.

Members noted that each LA Annex contains an overview of the performance and the main areas for development at a Local Authority level. It consists of a summary of the schools that

require the highest levels of support, inspection outcomes and an overview of categorisation for the LA. Pupil progress information is included for the first time. Members were assured that the EAS will work closely with all key partners to ensure the realisation of this Business Plan. The Officer referred to paragraph 5.15 that sets out how the EAS support schools to identify and address their school improvement priorities.

Members discussed the Business Plan and LA Annex appended to the report. Clarification was sought in respect of the EAS challenge advisors and in particular the numbers with experience of primary and secondary schools. Specific details would be distributed to Members following the meeting, however the EAS believe they have the appropriate balance of advisors employed. A Member queried if the same level of service can be expected from the EAS due to the reduction in staff since 2012. The Officer explained that The EAS continues to be hampered by short term grant awards from Welsh Government but working with Councils will continue to make the best use of funding. There has been a 10% reduction in finance and 44% reduction in staff and feel that their small core team working in partnership and collaboration has the capacity to provide the level of service required.

Discussions took place regarding improving Key Stage 4 performance, reducing the number of days lost to exclusions and improving attendance levels. Officers advised that a report covering attendance and exclusion levels will be brought to a future Scrutiny Committee. Officers clarified the Implementation date for the new educational curriculum is 2023. A Member queried if EAS is Value for money and Officers explained that a report provided previously was in a regional context, and a subsequent localised report was requested and is scheduled on the Forward Work Programme for a future meeting.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Local Authority Annex 2019-20 and EAS Business Plan 2019-20 be submitted to Cabinet, for endorsement.

## **5. EDUCATION ATTAINMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services presented the report that sought Members' views on the attainment strategy and associated action plan prior to its presentation to Cabinet on the 13th March 2019.

The Council's attainment strategy, 'Shared Ambitions' and the associated strategic action plan were appended to the report. The Director thanked Officers for their valued contribution and for the work undertaken with head teachers in producing the documents. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the strategy sets out a proposed vision for improving attainment and achievement across Caerphilly's schools that is linked explicitly to the priorities identified within the Councils self-evaluation document and the systemic issues that emerged throughout the summit process that took place over the autumn. The strategy also includes a number of guiding principles and a narrative for #teamcaerphilly that enshrine the approaches and behaviours that will underpin the delivery of the strategy. The strategic action plan attached to the strategy sets out what the Local Education Authority, the Education Achievement Service and the Schools themselves will do to drive improvement across the school system in Caerphilly.

The Director had attended a meeting with the Education Advisory Board since the publication of the agenda pack and an additional sheet that provides further detail in respect of the key actions from the strategic plan had been distributed to the Committee ahead of the meeting.

Members discussed the two connected documents and clarification was sought as to the duration of the strategy. Officers advised that the strategy is likely to be in place for a 3 year

period and modified on an annual basis. Subject to any amendments the strategy will be translated in to the Welsh language. It was noted that paragraph 6 (Assumptions) of the Officers report had not been completed due to an administrative error and there were typographical errors contained within page 10 and 11 of the strategy. Members were advised that the report and supporting documents can be presented to Cabinet seeking endorsement subject to the amendments discussed. Members referred to the Caerphilly 2018 attainment datasheet on page 11 of the strategy. This sets out the Council and Wales Average performance across each of the key stages over the last four years and Members queried why tables had not been included for the other sections within the strategy. Officers confirmed that this information is available and can be provided to Members but due to the sheer volume of information had not been included in the strategy.

Following consideration and discussion and subject to the foregoing, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Education Attainment Strategy and the associated Strategic Action Plan be submitted to Cabinet for endorsement.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2019 they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR

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## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2ND APRIL 2019**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

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

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report the Education for Life 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 stakeholders.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation. The Forward Work Programmes contribute to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016 by ensuring there is an effective scrutiny function and that council policies are scrutinised against the following goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

### **4. THE REPORT**

4.1 The Education for Life Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the scrutiny committee meeting on 19th February 2019. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period February 2019 to June 2019.

4.2 The forward work programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members and has been prioritised into three priority areas, priority 1, 2 or 3. 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. Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

4.3 The Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1. The Cabinet Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2.

## **5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

5.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals as set out in links to strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in that by ensuring the scrutiny function is effective when reviewing services and policies and ensure it considers the wellbeing goals.

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

12.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Catherine Forbes-Thompson Interim Head of Democratic Services

Consultees: Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services  
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

Appendix 2 Cabinet Work Programme.

<b>Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme – May 2018 – April 2019</b>			
<b>Meeting Date: 2nd April 2019</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Youth Forum Priorities			P. O'Neil Youth Forum Representatives
Categorisation of Schools			S. Richards

<b>Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme – May 2018 – April 2019</b>			
<b>Meeting Date: 21st May 2019</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Consultation response report – Federation of Schools (to be requested at Committee)	To provide members with details of the responses to the formal consultation process	Scrutiny members to consider the responses received as part of the formal consultation process prior to determination by Cabinet	S. Richards

<b>Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme – May 2018 – April 2019</b>			
<b>Meeting Date: June 2019 – Performance Management</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Performance Management			
Wellbeing Objectives	Provide an update of annual performance against the Wellbeing Objective to Improve Education Outcomes for All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual data analysis</li> <li>• Annual qualitative update for impact on the first year of implementation of the 5 year corporate plan</li> </ul>	SM
Progress Towards Targets - EAS			EAS

<b>Meeting Date: to be confirmed</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Pontllanfraith Primary/Idris Davies SRB			
21st Century Schools Programme	To consult Members on the delivery plan for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B programme prior to consideration by Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordability</li> <li>• Timelines</li> <li>• Consultation Requirements</li> <li>• Business Case</li> <li>• Resources</li> </ul>	
Review of Provision for Most Vulnerable Learners	To consult with Members on the outcome of the recent review and the options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality provision</li> <li>• Value for money</li> <li>• Exclusions</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> </ul>	Head Teacher Keri Cole – Chief Education Officer
Youth Service Update <i>Diweddariad y Gwasanaeth Ieuencid</i>	To consult with Members on the outcome of the recent review and options within the proposed consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current provision</li> <li>• Reconfiguration of Youth provision</li> <li>• Views of young people</li> </ul>	Youth Service User
Additional Support Delegation <i>Dirprwyo Cymorth Ychwanegol</i>	To consult with Members on the outcome of the recent review and options within the proposed consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current provision</li> <li>• Options identified by stakeholder group</li> </ul>	Keri Cole – Chief Education Officer Heather Duncan, Headteacher, Lewis Girls

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme  
Appendix 1a

SRB Funding	To consult with members of the proposed changes and staffing implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring provision is appropriate staffed</li> <li>• Funding and staffing implications</li> </ul>	
Safeguarding – Member Request	To provide an update of relevant issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Attendance and Exclusions	To provide information regarding exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in Exclusions</li> <li>• Intervention with EAS</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul>	
Performance Measures 2019 onwards		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Sanitary Products- Period Poverty		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Regional Groups – Request by Chair		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme  
Appendix 1a

Future Provision of Special Needs Education	Member Request	•	
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<b>Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Information Reports Forward Work Programme – April 2018- April 2019</b>			
<b>Meeting Date: 2nd April 2019</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Estyn Inspections			

<b>Meeting Date: to be confirmed</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>

<b>Cabinet - Forward Work Programme</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>
<b>Wednesday - 27/03/2019 Cabinet &amp; PDM</b>			
Hafodyrynys Air Quality Feasibility Study	To present for approval for public consultation the draft Final Plan prepared in response to the Air Quality Direction issued by Welsh Government in respect of compliance with the EU Air Quality Directive at Hafodyrynys	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr. Eluned Stenner
New Community Resource Centre at Ty Sign	To seek Cabinet support in principle for the development of a new Community Resource Centre in Ty Sign, Risca	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr. Nigel George
Welsh Church Fund	To provide an update on the revised grant levels and criteria approved by Cabinet on 28th March 2018 and to determine whether further revisions are required.	Stephen Harris	Cllr. Barbara Jones
Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013- Proposed Increase in Re-Rating Fee	To seek Cabinet approval for an increase in the food hygiene re-rating visit fee.	Michele Wehden	Cllr. Eluned Stenner
Publication of the Gender Pay Gap Data 2018	To meet the statutory obligation to publish CCBC data by the 30th March each year in accordance with the Equality Act 2010	Lynne Donovan	Cllr. Colin Gordon
Proposed Increases in Fees and Charges	To propose increases in fees and charges across a range of services and consider principles for future years	Mark S Williams	Cllr. Barbara Jones

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## Cabinet - Forward Work Programme

Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
<b>Wednesday - 10/04/2019 Cabinet &amp; PDM</b>			

Children's Centre.	To consider the building of a new Children's centre in the County Borough and to	J. Williams	Cllr. Carl Cuss
Chartist Gardens Development, Pontllanfraith	To seek Cabinet approval to transfer the social housing element of this development to Caerphilly Homes.	Mark Williams/Shawn Couzens	Cllr. Lisa Phipps
Newbridge Leisure Centre Improvement Works	To seek Cabinet approval for improvements to the fitness suite at Newbridge Leisure Centre	Rob Hartshorn	Cllr. Nigel George
Welsh Government Community Hub Grant 2019/20	To seek Cabinet endorsement to establish two Sporting Hubs on Educational sites and to proceed to build stage subject to Welsh Government approval of the bids.	Sue Richards/ Mark S Williams	Cllr. Nigel George
Welsh Government 21st Century Schools and Education Programme – 3G Multi Use All Weather Pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School	To seek Cabinet approval to establish a earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements of the facility	Sue Richards/ Mark S Williams	Cllr. Nigel George
Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	To consider the Future of the Leisure Centre as part of the wider strategy.	Mark S Williams	Cllr. Nigel George

**Wednesday - 24/04/2019 Cabinet & PDM**

To Adopt the Welsh Government (WG) 'High Street and Retail Rate Relief' Scheme 2019/20 – Grant Funding	This report will recommend that Cabinet adopts the Welsh Government (WG) 'High Street and Retail Rate Relief' Scheme 2019/20 in order to obtain the WG grant funding, which will reduce the amount of business rates payable by those ratepayers eligible for this rate relief for the financial year 2019/20. The allocation of funding to CCBC is currently estimated at £920k but this is subject to change.	John Carpenter	Cllr. Barbara Jones
Caerphilly 2022	To seek Cabinet approval of a new operating model for the Council	Steve Harris	Cllr. Barbara Jones
Junior and Youth Forum Priorities			

**Wednesday - 15/05/2019 Cabinet & PDM**

2019 Property Review Report	Annual Report to be approved by Cabinet	Mark Williams	Cllr. Lisa Phipps
Corporate Asset Management Strategy	To seek Cabinet approval of the Council's Asset Management Strategy.	Mark Williams	Cllr. Lisa Phipps
Community Asset Transfer Principles	To seek Cabinet approval on a set of principles in relation to the transfer of playing fields and sporting organisations	Mike Headington	Cllr. Nigel George
Local Toilet Strategy	To seek Cabinet approval for the commencement of a Consultation	Rob Hartshorn / Ceri Edwards	Cllr. Nigel George
Cabinet as Trustees of Blackwood Miners Institute Meeting			

**Wednesday - 29/05/2019 Cabinet & PDM**

Draft CCBC Energy report	To update on progress/ key initiatives and potential opportunities for the future.	Allan Dallimore/ Paul Cooke	Cllr. Sean Morgan
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**Wednesday - 12/06/2019 Cabinet & PDM**

Impact Of Universal Credit and Homelessness	To advise Cabinet of the initial impact of Universal Credit and to seek approval of the policies we have in place to manage the impact.	Shaun Couzens	Cllr. Lisa Phipps
Affordable Housing New Build	For Cabinet to note the progress on a number of new builds and refurbishment projects, and to seek Cabinet approval to appropriate the land at Ty Darren, Risca and the transfer of associated funds to Caerphilly Homes.	Shaun Couzens/ Mark Williams	Cllr. Lisa Phipps
Digital Strategy	To seek approval of the Council's digital strategy.	Liz Lucas	Cllr. Colin Gordon

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## EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT: JUNIOR & YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES**

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

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of issues raised by Children & Young People via the Youth Service's Junior and Youth Forums. The report is seeking the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the Youth Forum Conference in January 2019 and the Junior Forum meeting in November 2018, Children & Young People have identified issues important to them and have voted on Priority Issues for 2019.

- 2.2 The previously agreed process that follows the identification of issues has been as follows:

- Presentation of issues to SMT for information.
- Young People present Junior Forum issues to Cabinet for information only and to request support in addressing the Youth Forum priority.
- Young People to present issues to relevant scrutiny groups for information.
- Young People to present issues to the Public Services Board (PSB) for information.
- Issues are presented directly by Young People.
- Young People form a Project Group that meets weekly to address the Youth Forum priority issue, working directly with Officers and Members as appropriate on a range of initiatives intended to have a positive impact on the issue. This work continues until December 2019, with the process re-starting in January.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Education Scrutiny Committee supports the presentation of Junior & Youth Forum issues to Cabinet.
- 3.2 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of Mental Health.
- 3.3 That Education Scrutiny Committee considers how to support the Junior Forum in addressing their Priority Issue of raising awareness of drug & alcohol support.
- 3.4 Education Scrutiny Committee to have due regard to issues raised within this report by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives.

#### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are informed of priorities identified by children and young people.

#### 5. THE REPORT

##### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The Junior & Youth Fora are structured and organised around five themes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly; Healthier Caerphilly; Greener Caerphilly, enabling children and young people to have a voice on issues that affect them. Junior Forum Representatives are aged 7-11 years; Youth Forum Representatives are aged 11-25 years.

5.1.2 At the Annual Youth Forum Conference Young People are provided with the opportunity to explore issues previously raised via borough wide consultation. Young people attending the conference present their views on each of the themes and engage in a dialogue with relevant Officers and Cabinet members. From exploring all themes within the context of young people's lives, young people identify and agree on a priority issue for each theme.

Following the Conference, an overall priority is voted for by Young People representing the Youth Service, Schools and Youth Support Services. The issues, as voted for by 2656 young people in a post conference consultation for 2019 are:

##### 5.2 39% Healthier Caerphilly – **Overall Priority Issue**

Mental Health – Services should be improved with young peoples help. Young people should have mental health first aid education.

27% Safer Caerphilly

Knife Crime – Stop the knife crime epidemic

21% Prosperous Caerphilly

Tackling Homelessness – Every person should have a place to live and the opportunity to live comfortably. There needs to be more affordable housing.

9% Learning Caerphilly

Put an end to Period Poverty – Sanitary Products are an essential item. CCBC should make them free and accessible for all young people who need them whilst accessing schools and youth services.

4% Greener Caerphilly

Adventurous Outdoor Play - Provide safe adventurous play areas suitable for young people to encourage them to use local outdoor spaces.

5.3 The Junior Forum representatives identified a priority within each Forum theme, raised via consultation and then voted for as the overall priority. The issues voted for by 110 children are:

##### Junior Forum Issues:

##### 41% Healthier Caerphilly – **Overall Priority Issue**

More awareness of support for drugs and alcohol

25% Learning Caerphilly

More support for children with Additional learning needs

19% Prosperous Caerphilly

More homeless shelters and opportunities for homeless people

11 % Safer Caerphilly  
Speeding cars in communities are dangerous

4% Greener Caerphilly  
Community litter picks

- 5.4 The Youth Forum will attend Education Scrutiny Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. To present on the issues and outline the plans to address the Priority Issue, and wish to proceed with attendance at Cabinet to seek support in addressing the priority issue.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No related assumptions have been felt to be necessary in relation to this report.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 Youth Service Plan 2018-2021.
- 7.2 Education Service Improvement Plan 2019.
- 7.3 Statutory duties for the participation of children and young people under the children and families measure, Wales 2010.
- 7.4 Public Services Board Delivery Plan Enabler: E2 – Communications and Engagement.
- 7.5 Caerphilly County Borough Council Corporate Plan priority – The Well-being Objective “Improve Education opportunities for all”.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 8.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act by working with children and young people (and supporting other service providers to work with children and young people) to impact on decision making for short term and long term needs. By listening to the voices of children and young people, service providers are better able to respond to needs, better able to identify and understand problems as experienced by our citizens and thus better able to shape services in the future in a more effective responsive way.
- 8.2 Involving children and young people in decision making at all levels fosters a culture of expectation and responsibility, strengthened by increasing their knowledge and understanding in Children’s Rights.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the council’s full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.
- 9.2 The participative activity that has taken place has benefitted many different groups in the community with many children and young people having been recipients of engagement activity, rights-based education and informed service delivery.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no financial implications with respect to this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no personnel implications with respect to this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 All responses from the consultations have been incorporated in the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 'Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015', and in particular SPSF 3 – Annex B, which is issued in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and applies to local authorities in respect of local well-being plans and whenever they take decisions which might affect children and young people.

Author: Clare Jones, Youth Forum Coordinator  
Email: jonescl1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team  
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director, Education and Corporate Services  
Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive  
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement  
Councillor Derek Havard, Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Commit  
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Committee  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer  
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services  
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)  
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager  
Emma Townsend, Health & Safety Manager.



## EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL SCHOOL CATEGORISATION 2018-19**

**REPORT BY: JULIE WOOD, PRINCIPAL CHALLENGE ADVISER AND SARAH JONES, HEAD OF LEARNING & BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE, EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS)**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Scrutiny Members of the national school categorisation system and Caerphilly school categorisations.

### 2. SUMMARY

2.1 This report presents Members with information outlining the National Categorisation System and how schools in Caerphilly have been categorised for support this year.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 These plans link to the local authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of education.

### 5. THE REPORT

#### 5.1 National School Categorisation

The Minister for Education and Skills announced the introduction of the National School Categorisation System in September 2014. The system, which covers both primary schools and secondary schools, has evolved over subsequent years. From 2017-2018, Welsh Government removed the data-driven judgement that placed schools into a standards group as part of Step 1. Discussion around the school's self-evaluation and school development planning has become the central feature of the model. The school's data remains as a starting point for discussions within the school, and with the Challenge Adviser, about their capacity to improve in relation to leadership, teaching and learning.

#### 5.2 The Process

The following terminology is used to describe the outcomes of each step of the categorisation process:

**Step 1:** no **standards group** is published for 2018-2019

**Step 2:** the outcome is a judgement about a school's **improvement capacity** (A-D)

**Step 3:** leads to a **support category** for each school (green, yellow, amber, red)

### 5.3 **Other circumstances which may affect the school's support category**

A range of other risks where they occur are considered when making a judgement about a school's improvement capacity and a decision about their support category.

### 5.4 **Performance of e-FSM pupils**

The performance of eFSM pupils is taken into account giving consideration to the school's support category. Consideration should be given to performance over time (3 years minimum.)

### 5.5 **New and amalgamated Schools**

For new and amalgamated schools any available performance data is used to inform discussions as part of Step 2 of the process – the self-evaluation of the school's capacity to improve.

### 5.6 **Changes to a school's support category in year**

The National School Categorisation process is carried out on an annual basis. The outcomes are communicated to the Welsh Government each year for publication following national verification in January. However, it is possible for each region to review a school's categorisation at any point during the year in response to changes in circumstance. These changes will not be published nationally.

Circumstances that may necessitate a review include:

- Schools that are making very good progress.
- Schools that become subject to a higher degree of risk

### 5.7 **Schools in inspection follow up**

The National School Categorisation system is not contingent on the outcomes of an individual school's inspection. Where school self-evaluation and monitoring of schools' performance are effective this should result in appropriate action that will support a school's self-improvement and avoid the need for inspection follow-up activity. However, where a school requires follow-up as a result of inspection the associated degree of risk, and the need to provide evidence of a school's progress against its recommendations, is weighed carefully when determining a judgement about a school's improvement capacity and making a decision about its support category.

### 5.8 **Schools requiring significant improvement or special measures**

In normal circumstances the improvement capacity of a school requiring **significant improvement or special measures** will not normally be higher than D and the support category red in the first instance. As a school addresses the recommendations from its inspection, evidence about its progress should be weighed carefully and professional judgement applied when reviewing the school's support category.

### 5.9 **Schools requiring Estyn review**

Local authorities and consortia need to be satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to support schools requiring Estyn review and to monitor and report their progress. When agreeing a school's improvement capacity and support category consideration should be given to the inspection's recommendations and degree of risk. Professional judgement should be applied when reviewing a school's support category taking account of evidence about a school's progress as it addresses the inspection's recommendations.

### 5.10 **Step 2: Self-evaluation and capacity to self-improve in relation to leadership and teaching and learning**

Step two consists of a judgement (A–D) based on the school's capacity to self-improve. Schools where the judgement is A show the greatest capacity to improve, along with the ability to support other schools. Those where the judgement is D require the most support. The process of coming to a judgement on the school's capacity to bring about improvement begins with the school's self-evaluation. This is discussed by the regional consortium's

challenge adviser with the school's leaders and governors. The judgement should reflect the considered view of the Headteacher, governors and the challenge adviser and be supported by evidence. Learners' performance and the judgement about the capacity to improve should be closely aligned.

This judgement indicates the degree of confidence in the school's capacity to drive forward its own improvement. As such, it is a key element in the decision about the level of support the school will require at step three. The national system is intended to strengthen schools' capacity to bring about their own improvement and to contribute to system-wide change. Challenge advisers should be assured that all school leaders use performance data robustly and effectively. This includes governors, Headteachers, middle leaders and subject leaders. There must be evidence of the effective and timely use of accurate data at individual learner, class, group, cohort, subject and whole-school level, including careful consideration of ALN and eFSM learners.

### **Step 3: The Categorisation and level of support, challenge and intervention**

The outcomes of step one and step two will be combined to determine the school's support category (step three of the process). The final categorisation will be based on a colour coding system and this will be discussed with the school and agreed with the local authority. The categorisation colour indicates the level of support a school requires – green, yellow, amber or red (with the schools in the green category needing the least support and those in the red category needing the most intensive support). Each school will receive a tailored programme of support, challenge and intervention based on this category. The support category is published annually on the My Local School website (<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>). The level of support available for each category is as follows:

- Green support category - up to 4 days of challenge adviser time.
- Yellow support category - up to 10 days of challenge adviser time.
- Amber support category - up to 15 days of challenge adviser time.
- Red support category - up to 25 days of challenge adviser time.

Each challenge adviser will determine the nature of the bespoke support package to be provided to each school according to need. This support will be aligned to the school's own development plan, through a single plan of support.

#### **5.11 Peer Review**

In 2018-19 all schools across the region were offered the opportunity to participate in a peer review process. This had previously only been available to schools previously categorised as green. In total 99 schools opted to be part of this programme. These schools were grouped into peer review groups of 3-4 schools, where colleague headteachers undertook the national categorisation process, during a peer review day. The group were supported by each school's challenge adviser, who completed the National Categorisation report and a link challenge adviser was also present, to ensure consistency across groups.

#### **5.12 Regional Standardisation and Moderation Process**

As part of the national process, a Regional Moderation Board (RMB) meeting took place in December. This group included the senior leaders in the consortium overseeing the work with each local authority, a representative Director / Chief Education Officer from within the region and Headteacher representation from primary, secondary and special schools. The RMB considered 35 categorisation reports from across the Consortium for a range of schools including: from each of the four judgements about improvement capacity; each of the four support categories; where consideration had been given to more than one support category. The RM also considered the 2 schools, from across the region that had submitted an F1 Disagreement Form.

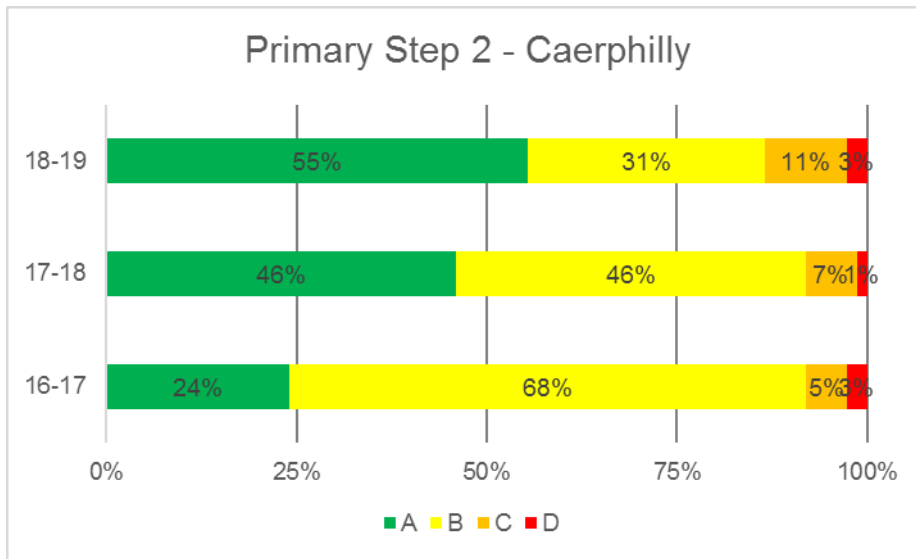
**5.13 National Verification Process**

A national verification process took place in January, undertaken by the Quality and Standardisation Group. This group was chaired and organised by a Director of Education/Chief Education Officer, nominated by ADEW; four nominated regional representatives, a representative from WG and Trade Union representatives (as observers). This group sampled the outcomes of the regional moderation process to verify its consistency, quality and rigour.

**5.14 Primary School Categories 2018/19**

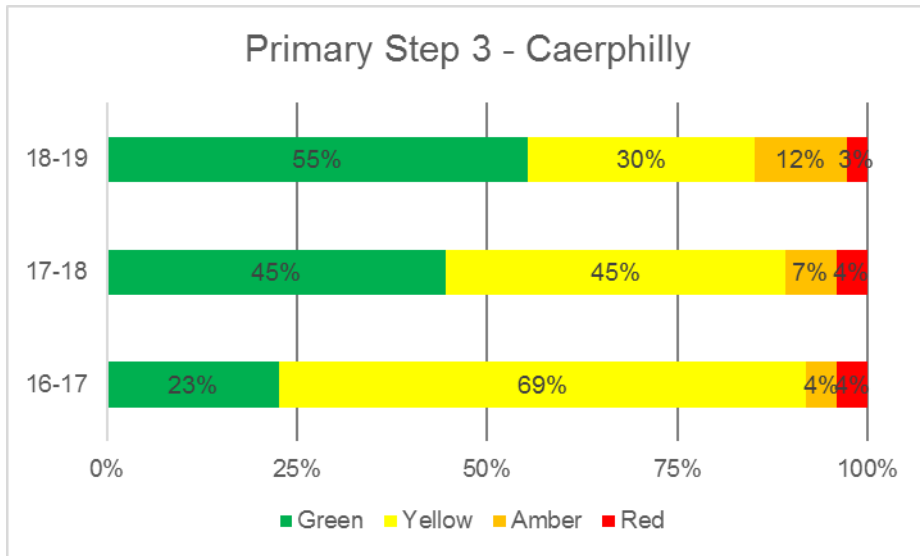
There are no national averages readily available for Step 1 and Step 2 data, and no Step 1 data is used for categorisation this year. The chart below shows that during the past three years, the proportion of schools in the green category has increased for Step 2, and is now 55%.

		Numbers of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Red	Amber	Yellow	Green	Red	Amber	Yellow	Green
Step 3	16-17	3	3	52	17	4%	4%	69%	23%
	17-18	3	5	33	33	4%	7%	45%	45%
	18-19	2	9	22	41	3%	12%	30%	55%
		D	C	B	A	D	C	B	A
Step 2	16-17	2	4	51	18	3%	5%	68%	24%
	17-18	1	5	34	34	1%	7%	46%	46%
	18-19	2	8	23	41	3%	11%	31%	55%
		Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1
Step 1	16-17	0	8	22	45	0%	11%	29%	60%



At Step 3, the proportion of schools in the green category is above both the regional and the national average, and the proportion in the red category is in line with the regional average, but above the national average.

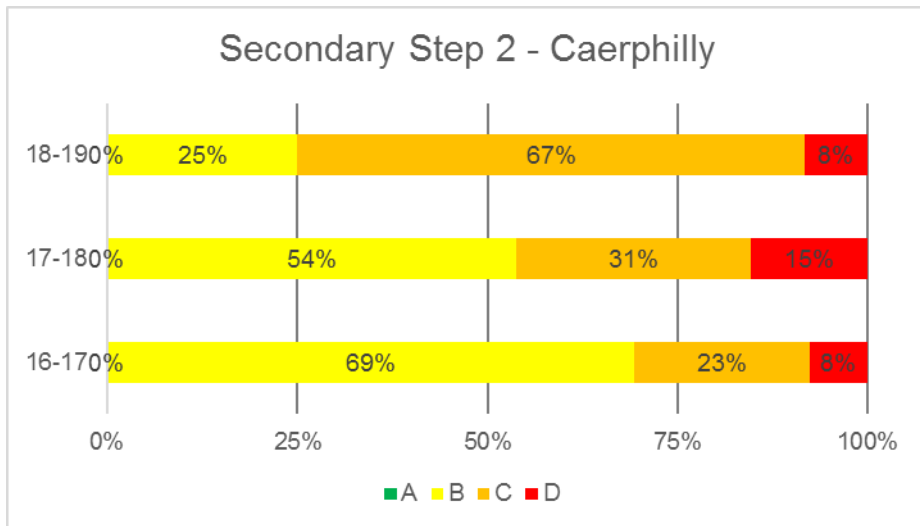




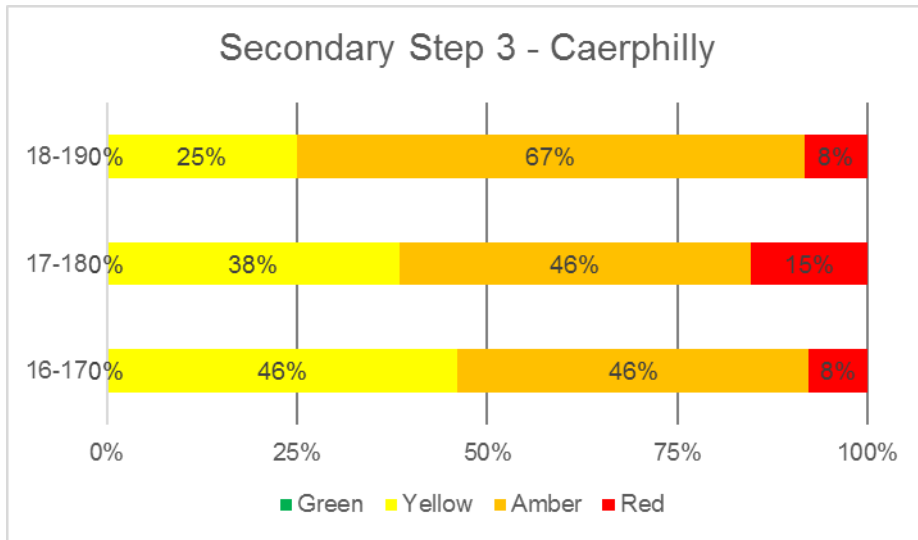
#### 5.15 Secondary School Categories 2018/19

The charts below show that during the past three years, there were no schools that were categorised green for Step 2.

		Numbers of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Red	Amber	Yellow	Green	Red	Amber	Yellow	Green
Step 3	16-17	1	6	6	0	8%	46%	46%	0%
	17-18	2	6	5	0	15%	46%	38%	0%
	18-19	1	8	3	0	8%	67%	25%	0%
		D	C	B	A	D	C	B	A
Step 2	16-17	1	3	9	0	8%	23%	69%	0%
	17-18	2	4	7	0	15%	31%	54%	0%
	18-19	1	8	3	0	8%	67%	25%	0%
		Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1
Step 1	16-17	0	11	2	1	0%	79%	14%	7%



For Step 3, there are no secondary schools in the green category, however, the proportion of schools in the red category is smaller than both the regional and national average.



## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 None.

## 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan  
 Education Service Improvement Plan  
 Education Strategy

7.1 The attainment results published in this report contribute towards the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016

- A prosperous Wales\*
- A more equal Wales\*

This is because 'a prosperous Wales' is about developing a well educated and skilled population and 'a more equal Wales' is defined as a 'society that enables people to fulfil their full potential no matter what their background or circumstances, education attainment is a part of fulfilling that potential.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 This report content (Education attainment) contributes to the Well being Goals

8.2 This report is for information only and so does not analyse the 5 ways of working in terms of decision making but it does recognise that going forward interventions that are put in place to improve attainment must take a **long term** view as part of its impact on life chances, employment and quality of life. One of the principles of the 5 ways of working is to look at how we can **prevent** problems occurring and to do this we need to understand what the causes are. Causes within attainment are complex although one of the main ones is deprivation. The measure that is commonly used to measure deprivation is a pupil's eligibility to receive Free School Meals. The data provides an insight into the performance of all pupils in comparison to the pupils in receipt of Free School Meals and the gap in performance increases throughout school life (para 4.7). One of the Council's Well-being Objectives is to 'Improve outcomes for all learners but we want to particularly focus on those vulnerable to underachievement. We have an action plan to achieve this and it we will **involve and collaborate** with a range of partners such as schools, parents, governors and children to raise aspiration and attainment.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There is no specific equalities impact in relation to the content of this report. When performance information is discussed with schools as part of the monitoring, challenge, support and intervention programme, equalities issues, such as gender and ethnicity are taken into account. Similarly the Local Authority self-evaluation considers all equalities issues.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no specific financial implications.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no specific personnel implications.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 All comments have been reflected in the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

- 13.1 Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) 2013.  
13.2 Schools Causing Concern Guidance 2013.  
13.3 Children and Families Measure (Wales) 2010.  
13.4 Education Act 1996.  
13.5 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) 2015.

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Annex 1: Caerphilly School Categorisation 2018/19 Academic Year.

## Annex 1 – Caerphilly School Categorisation 2018/19 Academic Year

School name	Step 2	Step 3
Aberbargoed Primary School	B	Yellow
Abercarn Primary School	A	Green
Bedwas High School	D	Red
Bedwas Infant School	A	Green
Bedwas Junior School	A	Green
Blackwood Comprehensive School	C	Amber
Blackwood Primary School	A	Green
Bryn Awel Primary School	C	Amber
Bryn Primary School	C	Amber
Cefn Fforest Primary School	A	Green
Coed-Y-Brain Primary School	B	Yellow
Crumlin High Level Primary School	C	Amber
Cwm Glas Infant School	A	Green
Cwm Ifor Primary School	B	Yellow
Cwmaber Infant School	A	Green
Cwmaber Junior School	B	Yellow
Cwmcarn Primary School	C	Amber
Cwmfelinfach Primary School	A	Green
Cwrt Rawlin Primary School	A	Green
Deri Primary School	B	Yellow
Derwendeg Primary School	B	Yellow
Fleur-De-Lys Primary School	A	Green
Fochriw Primary School	A	Green
Gilfach Fargoed Primary School	A	Green
Glanynant PRU	B	Yellow
Glyn-Gaer CP School	A	Green
Graig-y-Rhacca Primary & Nursery Community School	B	Yellow
Greenhill Primary School	A	Green
Hendre Infants School	A	Green
Hendre Junior School	A	Green
Hendredenny Park Primary School	A	Green
Hengoed Primary School	B	Yellow
Heolddu Comprehensive	C	Amber
Idris Davies School 3-18 (pri)	C	Amber
Idris Davies School 3-18 (sec)	C	Amber
Islwyn High	C	Amber
Lewis Girls' Comprehensive School	B	Yellow
Lewis School Pengam	C	Amber
Libanus Primary School	A	Green
Llancaeath Junior School	A	Green
Llanfabon Infants School	D	Red
Machen Primary School	B	Yellow
Maesycwmmmer Primary School	A	Green
Markham Primary School	B	Yellow

Nant Y Parc Primary School	A	Green
Newbridge School	B	Yellow
Pantside Primary School	C	Amber
Park Primary School	B	Yellow
Pengam Primary School	A	Green
Penllwyn Primary School	A	Green
Pentwynmawr Primary School	B	Yellow
Phillipstown Primary School	C	Amber
Plasyfelin Primary School	A	Green
Pontllanfraith Primary School	B	Yellow
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary	A	Green
Rhydri Primary School	B	Yellow
Risca Community Comprehensive	C	Amber
Risca Primary School	A	Green
St Cenydd School	C	Amber
St Gwladys Bargoed School	A	Green
St Helen's Catholic Primary School	A	Green
St James Primary School	B	Amber
St Martin's School	B	Yellow
The Twyn School	A	Green
Tiryberth Primary School	A	Green
Trinant Primary School	A	Green
Trinity Fields Special School	A	Green
Ty Isaf Infants School	B	Yellow
Ty Sign Primary School	A	Green
Tynewydd Primary School	A	Green
Tyn-y-Wern Primary	B	Yellow
Upper Rhymney Primary School	B	Yellow
Waunfawr Primary School	B	Yellow
White Rose Primary School	B	Yellow
Y.G. Cwm Gwyddon	A	Green
Ynysddu Primary School	A	Green
Ysgol Bro Sannan	D	Red
Ysgol G.G. Caerffili	A	Green
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	C	Amber
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta	A	Green
Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen	A	Green
Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Fargoed	C	Amber
Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn	A	Green
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Castell	A	Green
Ysgol Ifor Bach	B	Yellow
Ysgol Penalltau	B	Yellow
Ysgol Y Lawnt	B	Yellow
Ystrad Mynach Primary	A	Green

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