



## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 3RD NOVEMBER 2015**

**SUBJECT: SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE  
2015-2016 – 6 MONTH REVIEW**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER**

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update elected members on the midyear (April 2015 – September 2015) performance of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate against the improvement actions set within the Service Improvement Plan 2015-16, and the performance against national and local performance indicators.
- 1.2 In addition, the report is to update elected members on the progress of Improvement Objective 2 (IO2) – Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement, for the 6 month time period April 2015 – September 2015 and provide the service's evaluation of whether the IO is currently being delivered successfully or not.
- 1.3 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities that improve the life of citizens. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) use Improvement Objectives and other data/information to evaluate the Council's annual progress on key performance indicators to measure the outcomes and impact on the citizens of Caerphilly.

### **2. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 2.1 The Directorate sets its service improvement actions using a variety of methods, taking into consideration statutory responsibility, national, regional and local strategic documents and the aspirations of CCBC.
- 2.2 The Directorate has key role to play in the delivery of the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017, with the main focus on the Learning element of the plan which includes:
  - L1: Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and informal) to improve the life opportunities for families.
  - L2: Develop a multi agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment
  - L3: Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities.

### **3. THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Service Improvement Plan 2015/16 identified 10 key improvement areas. These are summarised below and detailed in Appendix 1:-
1. Improve standards of attainment for learners in all Key Stages, specifically at Key Stage 4. This includes the Improvement Objective: Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement
  2. Progress the implementation of the Behaviour Strategy
  3. Complete the ALN Review and implement recommendations
  4. Working in partnership, to promote the uptake of Free School Meals
  5. Deliver an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people
  6. Deliver Adult Community Learning to improve the level of essential skills and provide opportunities to gain qualifications (formal and non-formal)
  7. Deliver high quality Library Services across the authority
  8. Ensure compliance with Health and Safety policy
  9. Continue to implement the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, this includes a review the management of small primary schools, in line with Estyn Recommendations (2012)
  10. Meet the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan
- 3.2 The Service Improvement Plan 2015/16 has been updated as at 30<sup>th</sup> September (6 month review). A copy of the updated plan is attached as Appendix 2 (pages 11-38 are specifically the progress updates of the action plan).
- 3.3 The detail of the Improvement Objective Action Plan and the progress made against individual targets is provided at Appendix 3.
- 3.4 Work has progressed well in developing actions. At the mid year point the Directorate class the improvement objective as being partially successful. The reason for this judgement is that, whilst there has been good progress within many areas, there is a need for further development in multi agency work and the use of systems in schools.
- 3.6 The Service Improvement Plan and Improvement Objective have been monitored on a regular basis by Education and Lifelong Learning's Directorate Management Team (DMT) as part of the Directorate's performance management process.

### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report although the objective seeks to address inequities and promote opportunities for learning for young people.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

### **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **7. CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider the progress made in meeting the actions set out in the Action Plans and agree or challenge the judgement of the progress with the improvement objective being partially successful at the 6 month stage, mindful of the need for further development.

## **9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Council undertakes effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.
- 9.2 To apprise members of progress made in meeting the improvement objective and the impact on young people.

## **10. STATUTORY POWER**

- 10.1 The Local Government Measure 2009.

Author: Bleddyn Hopkins, Assistant Director, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools.  
Consultees: Keri Cole – Chief Education Officer  
Councillor Rhianon Passmore – Cabinet Member for Education  
Ros Roberts – Corporate Performance Manager  
Angharad Price – Barrister/Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Lynne Donovan – Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development  
Jane Southcombe – Financial Services Manager

Appendix 1 Top 10 Priorities for 2015/16  
Appendix 2 Service Improvement Plan 2015/16 – 6 month update  
Appendix 3 Improvement Objective 2 2015/16 – 6 month update