Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning
Top 10 Priorities for 2015-16

Priority	Owner
1. Improve standards of attainment in Key Stage 4 at the Level 2+ threshold 1a. *IO: Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement*	Keri Cole

Performance within this indicator needs to improve and compare better with the performance of other local authorities. This measure can affect the life chances of learners, as achieving this indicator at 16 opens up further education, employment and training opportunities.

a. Vulnerability in education can be determined by a number of different factors including deprivation. It can also be can determined by whether the child or young person has an additional learning needs, or is a Looked After Child (LAC). Data identifies that there is performance gap between those within these groups and that of the overall population. We have chosen to undertake some intensive work in this area to try and reduce that gap, and ensure that all young people are provided with appropriate opportunities to help them achieve success, both in the classroom and beyond.

Priority	Owner
2. Progress the implementation of Behaviour Strategy	Keri Cole

Data over the last 3 years has indicated continued challenge around the management of behaviour in our schools and settings. Despite the reduction in exclusion rates, evidence suggests that disruption in classrooms is a concern and the demand for additional support/ specialist placement has increased.

Priority	Owner
3. Complete the ALN Review and implement recommendations	Keri Cole

The ALN review is into its final stage and the remaining services need to be realigned to ensure appropriate provision.

Priority	Owner
4. Working in partnership, to promote the uptake of Free School Meals	Keri Cole

Pupil s eligible for FSM and the uptake of FSM has two different effects. Firstly it impacts on a schools position, within their family, linked to performance and banding. Secondly it impacts on the settlement given to the authority, affecting the levels of finance available to the schools.

Priority	Owner
5. Deliver an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people	Keri Cole

The 2013-15, council Improvement Objective was to develop an effective and accessible service. Scrutiny has now ratified the new Youth Service Strategy, and the challenge for the coming year is to delivery of the implementation plan.

Priority	Owner
6. Deliver Adult Community Learning to improve the level of essential skills and provide opportunities to gain qualifications (formal and non-formal)	Keri Cole

The Corporate Risk register identifies the level of essential skills within the authority as a risk that can prevent people from entering the employment market. We are continuing to deliver these skills through Adult Community Learning and helping people to develop the necessary skills to enter the labour market.

Priority	Owner
7. Deliver high quality Library Services across the authority	Bleddyn Hopkins

Continue to work towards the Welsh Public Library Standards, which allow the Welsh Government to assess whether library services in Wales are complying with their duties under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 Act. At present we are achieving 8 out of 9 standards, an improvement from 6 out of 9 the previous year.

Priority	Owner
8. Ensure compliance with Health and Safety policy	Bleddyn Hopkins

The service is responsible for the delivery of the Corporate Health and Safety policy which recognises the Authority's statutory and moral obligations to ensure the continued health, safety and welfare of employees whilst at work, students whilst in education, and of others who may be involved in or affected by the Authority's activities.

9. Continue to implement the 21st Century Schools Programme 9a. Review the management of small primary schools, in line with Estyn Recommendations (2012)	Bleddyn Hopkins
Continue to manage the 3 project priorities supported by the Welsh Government a. Evaluate the merits of federation arrangements within the Primary sector to ensure continuing educational and financial viability	
10. Meet the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan	All
As a Directorate we must meet the financial targets set by the organisation as a whole.	