



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23RD FEBRUARY 2016

SUBJECT: LANSBURY PROJECT – EDUCATION FOCUS GROUP REPORT

REPORT BY: KERI COLE, CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the initial work focussed on improving the educational outcomes for children, young people and families living in St James 3 (Lansbury Park area).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Education Focus Group was established from the Strategic Board and developed as a response to the significant disadvantages faced by families living in Lansbury Park and the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation [WIMD] published in 2014.
- 2.2 The Education Group brings together St Martin's Comprehensive School, St James Primary School, Communities First and Flying Start programmes to develop an action plan.
- 2.3 The action plan aims to improve the educational attainment of pupils from Lansbury Park as well as the engagement in services of families.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Caerphilly Anti-Poverty Strategy
- 3.2 Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan
- 3.3 Flying Start strategic programme guidance April 2012 and subsequent appendices 2012-15.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 St James 3 has been noted as the top area for deprivation in the recently released Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation [WIMD]. The interim Chief Executive leads a strategic board to look at what interventions are available and what could be done differently or in a more strategic manner to make a difference for the people living in Lansbury Park. Within Education, a small focus group has been set up to look specifically at the educational needs of the children, young people and families.

The Education Focus Group comprises of representatives from St Martin's Comprehensive School, St James Primary School, Flying Start, Communities First and is led by the Chief Education Officer.

- 4.2 The targeting of individual pupils living in Lansbury Park has made a difference when ensuring appropriate interventions are in place.
- 4.3 Attendance and engagement are key factors in improving attainment. The action plan focuses on improving attendance in school and childcare settings for those children and young people living in Lansbury Park. In addition there is a focus on providing access to aspirational opportunities, for example, trips, music groups and other enriching experiences.
- 4.4 Communities First and Flying Start programmes are focusing on improving the awareness of, and subsequently the engagement in, the range of services available locally.
- 4.5 St Martin's are working with St James to pilot a new approach to supporting pupils more intensively in Year 7 in literacy and numeracy. Although only in place since September 2015, this is already showing an improvement in attendance and peer friendship groups, enabling young people to adapt to the larger environment in a safer smaller group.
- 4.6 Both schools have recently employed Family Engagement Workers part funded through Communities First, who have begun to work in partnership with the Flying Start Family Support Worker. This will develop greater understanding of services available, families' needs, and will support consistency of messages for families as well as support the co-ordination of services for families who access multiple interventions. The Family Information Service will support access to the database of services through developing FIS Champions locally.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All contracts include requirements for Equalities and Welsh Language in order to meet the relevant legislation and this is checked within the selection process as standard practice. As such we are impact assessing suppliers during award and selection stages of tender processes, to ensure compliance.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any funding implications have been identified specifically within the action plan. However, most actions do not require additional funding but realignment of staff work plans / focus.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Joint funding of the Family Engagement Officer who is on a fixed term contract for the life of the project.
- 7.2 There are no additional HR implications for this action plan.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments are included within the body of this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members note the contents of this report and the focus plan established.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure members give due consideration to the project focus on Lansbury Park.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Children and Families Measure (Wales) 2010
Education Act 1996
School Standards Act 1998

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Lansbury Project Education Focus Plan