



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 7TH JUNE 2017

**SUBJECT: THE DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING
PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2016/17 AND THE PRIORITIES FOR 2017/18**

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update and inform Members on the Directorate performance for the financial year 2016/17 and the Directorate priorities for the financial year 2017/18.
- 1.2 The report also considers one of the Council's five Well-being Objectives for 2017/18, *"Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement"*.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A review of the Directorate's performance for 2016/17 has been undertaken as part of the Council's corporate planning process.
- 2.2 Through the Self Evaluation process and taking account of Council priorities, introduced by the Council in 2014, the Directorate has identified 6 key priority themes for 2017/18.
- 2.3 The Council has identified 5 Well-being Objectives. The Directorate will be responsible for one of the five Well-being Objectives, "Improving outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement"
- 2.4 Members are asked to review progress and performance against agreed outcomes, and agree the priorities for 2017/18.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The recommended course of action contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:
 - **A healthier Wales**, supporting vulnerable learners can improve their well-being and add educational achievement. Reducing the number of NEETs will significantly impact the wellbeing goals for future generations.
 - **A prosperous and more equal Wales**, Standards of attainment and gaps in inequality can result in a low skilled, low paid workforce, and higher levels of unemployment leading to poverty. Inability to deliver the childcare offer will impact on parental in work poverty. Delivery of essential skills courses can affect both wellbeing and long term employability prospects.

A Wales of cohesive communities (in the context of improving quality of life with attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities).

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 A review of the performance of the Directorate for 2016/17 has been undertaken through the self evaluation process. Managers have worked together to identify successes and areas that require development.
- 4.2 The planning process undertaken within the Directorate is outlined in Appendix A.
- 4.3 The Directorate agreed 8 service priorities for 2016/17 as outlined in Appendix B. These will be detailed in the accompanying presentation.
- 4.4 The presentation accompanying this report highlights what went well for 2016/17 as well as matters which did not go according to plan. These will be explained in more detail as part of the presentation.
- 4.5 The 6 priority themes proposed by the Directorate for 2017/18 are illustrated in the presentation. These may be summarised as follows:
1. Standards - Improve standards of attainment particularly in Key Stage 4 at the Level 2+ threshold
 2. Deliver 21st Century Schools Strategy & Development
 3. EOTAS – provide diversity of provision; including a streamlining of partnership working, making more effective use of public resources to provide coherent plans for the further development of EOTAS provision
 4. Raise standards of attendance
 5. Inclusion and Additional Learning Needs
 6. Reducing the impact of poverty
- 4.6 Details of progress of the Well-being Objective is included as Appendix C which will also be included in the 2016/17 review presentation. The self evaluation review has been undertaken early in the development of the objective and to date is deemed partially successful.
- 4.7 Copies of the Directorate's Annual Service Plans for 2016/17 and 2017/18 are enclosed as Appendix D & E respectively.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This Plan contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Section 3 - Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that the 6 Priority Areas identified throughout the plan aim to contribute to the long-term well-being of children and young people within the county borough by ensuring they have the best start in life and the opportunity to achieve success as a young person and as an adult.
- 5.2 Strategies identified within the plan are aimed at prevention – preventing young people becoming disaffected from education, preventing young people from becoming NEET and hence contributing towards the prevention of adulthood poverty.
- 5.3 Integration is fundamental to everything we do within Education – ensuring that all our children and young people are fully engaged in an educational programme appropriate to their needs, maintaining an ethos where they feel safe and secure and encouraged to succeed.
- 5.4 Collaboration with schools, Headteachers, the EAS and our SEWC colleagues will further assist us in driving up standards and securing progress in all of our priority objectives.
- 5.5 We actively involve children and young people in our decision making processes, encouraging the 'pupil voice' within the Directorate and encourage participation in the Junior and Youth Forums.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any equalities implications found and associated with this report have been concluded, although the main objective seeks to address inequalities and promote equal opportunities for learning and young people.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 These are detailed in the service improvement plan, as appropriate.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

9. CONSULTATIONS

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Members are asked to review progress and performance against agreed outcomes, and agree future priorities and recommendations.
- 10.2 Members are also requested to note the content of the report and to agree or challenge the judgement of partially successful at the full year stage in respect of the Improvement Objective assessment.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 That Council undertakes effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Statutory power which impacts on this report includes:

- Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
- Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 78)
- National Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2010
- The Local Government Measure 2009

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Anwen Rees, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
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Appendices:

Appendix A : Planning Framework

Appendix B : Top 10 Priorities for 2016/17

Appendix C : Improvement Objective

Appendix D : Service Improvement Plan (SIP) 2016/17

Appendix E : Service Improvement Plan (SIP) 2017/18

Appendix F: Annual Service Plan Priorities 2016-17 Progress Update - Presentation