



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 7TH JUNE 2017

SUBJECT: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) BUSINESS PLAN 2017-2020

REPORT BY: DEBBIE HARTEVELD, MANAGING DIRECTOR, EAS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2017-2020 and the Caerphilly specific Annex (April 1st 2017-March 31st 2018). Members are requested to note the priorities contained within the Business Plan and the Annex and consider the impact of the plan for communities within its local authority area;

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report presents the South East Wales EAS Business Plan 2017-2020. The plan sets out the priorities, programmes and outcomes to be achieved by the EAS on behalf of the South East Wales Consortium. The report also focuses upon the expected outcomes in Caerphilly and the specific programmes that will be implemented during 2017-2018, these are contained in the Local Authority (LA) Annex.

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) 2016:

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

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1. The South East Wales Consortium is required to submit to the Welsh Government (WG) a three-year Business Plan that will be updated annually. This is the fourth iteration of the plan first submitted in 2013. This plan covers the period April 1st 2017- March 31st 2020. The LA Annex covers April 1st 2017 – March 31st 2018 and is focused upon the specific areas that require improvement within Caerphilly schools.
- 4.2 Although this is a regional plan the EAS has continued to strengthen systems and processes to continue to improve pupil outcomes as a result of ongoing evaluation and the slow progress noted particularly in 2016 in Caerphilly schools at Key Stage 4. For example: Strengthening quality assurance processes around progress towards target submissions, the realignment of

the work of secondary subject specialist for English, Welsh and maths in the delivery of bespoke support packages to schools based upon need and the introduction of a strategy for raising aspiration for more able learners and those challenge by poverty.

- 4.3 This Business Plan sets out the overall targets to be achieved by the EAS working in partnership with the five local authorities. These outcomes are based on an analysis of pupil level data and a sound judgement of what should be achieved over the lifetime of the plan. The programmes of work to achieve these outcomes are set out in detail for 2017-18 and will be reviewed for future years. The targets for schools in Caerphilly are contained within the LA Annex and have been agreed by the Chief Education Officer.
- 4.4 The Business Plan sets out the overall priorities for the South East region and in addition an Annex that focuses in particular on the priorities and programmes for Caerphilly. All Amber and Red schools are noted in the Annex and are subject to regular scrutiny of progress at Intervention and Education Improvement Board (EIB) meetings. In addition, all schools in Caerphilly are in receipt of bespoke support packages based on school needs. These have been discussed with senior LA Officers and the Cabinet Member for Education prior to submission. As in previous years a half yearly review of progress towards the Caerphilly Annex will be provided in November 2017.
- 4.5 The South East Wales EAS Business Plan sets out the following priorities:
- To raise aspiration, to improve pupil outcomes and reduce variance across schools and LAs, to improve the quality of teaching and leadership and accelerate the progress of those schools in amber and red support categories;
 - To implement a regional strategy and Professional Learning Offer that is focused on improving the wellbeing and accelerating outcomes for learners, particularly those facing the challenges of poverty;
 - To implement a regional strategy and Professional Learning Offer (including Governor Development) that covers all the required milestones to improve the capacity and quality of teaching and leadership across the region;
 - To refine the Regional Strategy for Literacy (English and Welsh) and Numeracy in collaboration with key partners to accelerate outcomes at all key stages;
 - To lead, support and appropriately challenge schools to implement the Successful Futures agenda and changes to non-core GCSE specifications; and
 - To rationalise the Regional Model for the delivery of the Self-Improving System.
- 4.6 The Business Plan has been aligned to the following policies;
- Qualified for Life - the national Education Improvement Strategy (2014)
 - Successful Futures - the review of curriculum and assessment (2015)
 - Teaching tomorrow's teachers - Options for the future of initial teacher education in Wales (2015)
 - Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010
 - Child Poverty Strategy for Wales
 - Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy
- 4.7 This plan needs to be endorsed by Cabinet and annual updates on progress will be provided for Members.

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 the Act.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The EAS have their own Equalities and Welsh Language plans in place. CCBC has therefore not undertaken any specific impact assessment on the EAS Business Plan.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Financial arrangements for the core funding to the EAS from Caerphilly County Borough Council for 2017-2018 is £1,064,078 (this represents a 3% efficiency saving on the previous contribution in 2016-2017).

The exact detail of this is noted below:

EAS 'As Is' Model Aug 2012 *	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (funding levels set by WG, based on RSG formula to LA)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 3% Cut to Core	% Movement since 11/12 to 17/18
-----All % reduction to core are based on the previous year's contribution-----							
1,187,541	1,148,515	1,133,580	1,169,666	1,129,897	1,096,000	1,064,078	-10%

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The EAS Business Plan has been developed in consultation with a wide range of key stakeholders, feedback has informed the final version of the plan:

- Education Achievement Service staff
- South East Wales Directors / Chief Education Officers and Diocesan Directors
- Joint Executive Group
- Education Achievement Service Company Board
- Education Achievement Service Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Circulated to individual Local Authority Education Scrutiny Committees via Chief Education Officers / Directors in January 2017
- Regional Headteacher Strategy Group
- Regional Governor Strategy Group
- Regional Youth Forum

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Members note the priorities contained within the Business Plan and the Annex; and consider the impact of the plan for communities within its local authority area.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 EAS are required to submit their Business Plan to Welsh Government and Cabinet are required to endorse it.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000
Children's Act 2004
Standards and Framework Act 1998

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Education Achievement Service Business Plan 2017-2020
Appendix 2 Local Authority Specific Annex 2017-2018