



EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24TH FEBRUARY 2020

SUBJECT: WALES AUDIT OFFICE REPORT OF THE FLYING START PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Members note and discuss the content of the report and the Wales Audit Office presentation as well as the progress made since the WAO report.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 During Spring 2019 Wales Audit Office conducted an examination of the step in Objective 1 of the Caerphilly CBC Wellbeing Plan. The conclusion demonstrated many positive examples and areas for improvement which were incorporated into the Education Service Improvement Plan under the Early Years Operational Plan 2019.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members note and discuss the content of the report and presentation by Wales Audit Office as well as the progress made since the WAO report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Wales Audit Office (WAO) conducted an examination of how the Caerphilly CBC Wellbeing Plan acted in accordance with the sustainable development principles (five ways of working), which was developed in response to the Future Generations and Wellbeing Act. Wellbeing Objective 1 is to Improve Education Opportunities for All, of which Increase the access, take up and attendance of the Flying Start Programme was the first step.
- 5.2 The WAO conducted field work interviewing strategic and operational delivery partners as well as conducting workshops with professionals and parents involved in delivery of the programme.
- 5.3 The WAO concluded that:

- 5.4 The Council can identify longer term benefits for individual families who engage with the Flying Start Programme, but the Council could consider ways to track and evidence longer-term impacts for all families eligible for the Programme.
- 5.5 Prevention is an inherent part of the Flying Start Programme and the Council has tailored its approach to the local population, but it should consider different ways to maximise the preventative ways the programme could bring.
- 5.6 The Council demonstrates a good understanding of integration and is making progress towards a more integrated approach to delivering its Flying Start Programme.
- 5.7 Collaboration is an inherent part of the Flying Start Programme and the Flying Start team are collaborating well internally and externally.
- 5.8 The Flying Start team has a well-developed approach to using views of parents to inform the design of services and has established a positive working relationship with the local Parent Network.
- 5.9 A workshop held to present the findings resulted in an action plan which was incorporated into the Early Years Operational Action Plan as part of the Education Service Improvement Plan.
- 5.10 The recent update from the action plan shows progress to date Appendix 1.
- There are greater links between Flying Start parenting and employability programmes.
 - St James parents have formed their own constituted group who delivered their own community Christmas party for 100 children and are now starting from January to run reception in the Integrated Children Centre.
 - Parent Champions' feedback is shaping future delivery development.
 - Early Years Transformation programme has developed a regional approach and delivery model of integrated working for implementation in spring 2020. The model aims to support families in need across a community of both Flying Start and non-Flying Start postcodes. It aims to ensure those in need have appropriate support through an integrated collaborative model based on family feedback case stories and case files and professional feedback on barriers to support and complexity of the system currently.

5.11 **Conclusion**

The examination found that: in taking this step and acting in accordance with the Flying Start Programme, the Council has a number of positive examples of how it has taken account of the sustainable development principle, particularly in collaboration and prevention. However, the Council recognises that there is more to do to consistently embed all five ways of working and could strengthen its involvement to secure increased take up and attendance and ensure that it is working in a fully integrated way.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions to be made within this report.

7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

The Wales Audit Office examined how the sustainable development principles are applied in one of the steps in the Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The report contributes to the Well-being Goals:-

- A prosperous Wales*
- A resilient Wales*
- A healthier Wales*
- A more equal Wales*

8.2 The report demonstrates action taken in regard to the sustainable development principles:

- Long Term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability of future generations to meet their long-term needs
- Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring, or getting worse, may help public bodies meet their objectives
- Integration – Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies
- Collaboration – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
- Involvement – The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Flying Start Programme targets those living in the most disadvantaged communities enabling positive discrimination for those children living in poverty. The Flying Start childcare placements actively promote Welsh medium to enable positive engagement with the Welsh language.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications of this report as any resources required have been incorporated into existing resources.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications of this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 All views in the consultation are contained within this report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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Background Papers: Chronology of development of the Flying Start Programme.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Action Plan update.

Appendix 2 Presentation by Wales Audit Office of the content of the report.

Appendix 3 Wellbeing of Future Generations: An examination of improving the take up of the Flying Start Programme – Caerphilly County Borough Council, March 2019.

Appendix 4 Briefing paper of the Flying Start Programme for WAO.