



## Conclusions

### Highlights - what is going well

- No school has closed to COVID despite incredibly challenging circumstances. The commitment to providing an education and keeping schools open has been incredible
- Front line delivery and support services have worked together incredibly well and have demonstrated the benefits of doing whatever is necessary in support of the service
- The levels of FSM take up across the Community has risen by 20% and the work undertaken to increase equality through cashless catering should maintain the levels
- Distance and blended learning practice has developed significantly and some of Caerphilly's schools are now leading the way
- The Council was able to support front line NHS staff and key workers through the provision of childcare hubs throughout lockdown
- Estyn commentary on the leadership and approaches shown by Caerphilly towards its schools throughout the response has been very encouraging
- The introduction of new technology through EdTech, public WiFi across schools and tools such as Microsoft Teams has enabled teaching and learning to be delivered despite learners not always being able to attend class
- Collaborative working across Council directorates and external agencies has shown what can be delivered in spite of adversity
- The response from staff and residents to the buddy scheme was positive and staff involved gained a real sense of purpose, demonstrating a high level of goodwill towards the support the council offered. Cabinet Members have agreed to support a 'corporate volunteering scheme' to enable staff who have built up friendships with the vulnerable people they have supported over a number of months, to continue, helping to promote independence, resilience and preventing isolation and loneliness.

### What have we learnt, what needs improving and why?

- It will be important that those schools who are not as advanced in their approaches to blended and distance learning have the opportunity to learn from others and can catch up quickly
- It doesn't matter how good the guidance is, situations such as this require good judgement and a balanced approach to decision-making
- Role clarity and regular communication is key to keeping the team together which in turn is key to effective delivery.

Completed Priority Actions From Last Quarter	By Whom	By When	Update
Reduce projected EOTAS Spend and develop a new approach to managing our most vulnerable learners	KC	Dec-19	Complete - EOTAS Strategy agreed @Cabinet 30/07/2020
Consultation process undertaken between 14/09/20 and 26/10/20 in respect of two 21st Century schools Band B proposals, expansion of Trinity Fields and a new build school for YGG Cwm Gwyddon on the former Cwmcarn High site.			

Feedback / Recognition / Actions from Corporate Management Team	By Whom	By When	Update

Priority Actions for next Quarter (What support is needed from Corporate Management Team)	By Whom	By When	Update