



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4TH NOVEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT: SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE
2014-2015 – 6 MONTH REVIEW**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update elected members on the midyear (April 2014 – September 2014) performance of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate against the improvement actions set within the Service Improvements Plans 2014-15, and the performance against national and local performance indicators.
- 1.2 In addition, the report is to update elected members on the progress of Improvement Objective 3 (IO3) – Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people, for the 6 month time period April 2014 – September 2014, and provide the service's evaluation of whether the IO is currently being delivered successfully or not.
- 1.3 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities that improve the life of citizens. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) use Improvement Objectives and other data/information to evaluate the Council's annual progress on key performance indicators to measure the outcomes and impact on the citizens of Caerphilly.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides a summary of the following items in relation to the Service Improvement Plans, dated 2014-15.
 - *Improvement Actions Plans*
An update on the current status of each of the improvement actions specific to Learning, Education and Inclusion, and Planning and Strategy (inclusive of 21st Century Schools)
 - *Directorate Risks*
A review of the risks to the service identified within the Service Improvement Plans, and provides a update on their current rating.
 - *Scorecards*
An update on performance against key service indicators, both national and local, for each service area
- 2.2 The Council has identified the development of the Youth Service as a priority, through IO3. At the midyear point all actions have progress made against them, and each one is progressing in a timely manner for completion in March 2015. For this reason the Directorate class the current status of the improvement objective as successful.

Members are asked to review progress and agree the recommendations.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Directorate sets its service improvement actions using a variety of methods, taking into consideration statutory responsibility, national, regional and local strategic documents and the aspirations of CCBC.
- 3.2 The Directorate has key role to play in the delivery of the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017, with the main focus on the Learning element of the plan which includes:
- L1: Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and informal) to improve the life opportunities for families.
 - L2: Develop a multi agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment
 - L3: Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities.
- 3.3 The Improvement Objective, focusing on the Youth Service, is one of the Councils' six priorities that were published to the public in July 2013. This objective also deliver on key Welsh Government Guidance which includes the recently published Youth Engagement and Progression Framework – Implementation Plan (2013) and the National Youth Service Strategy (2014)

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Service Improvement Plans identify 5 improvement actions for Learning, Education and Inclusion and 12 improvement actions for Planning and Strategy. The actions are as follows:

Learning, Education and Inclusion

1. Improve standards of attainment, particularly at key stage 2 in literacy and key stage 4 at the Level 2+ threshold
2. Review the Behaviour Strategy and implement recommendations
3. Review all data systems held within the Directorate and streamline as appropriate
4. Complete the ALN Review and implement recommendations
5. Review provision and outcomes for EOTAS pupils

Planning and Strategy

1. Identify, support and monitor young people and adults disengaged, or at risk of disengagement from learning.
2. To review and update the Directorate MTFP planning process to deliver the savings required on behalf of the Council.
3. Ensure service provision meets the formal, informal and non-formal learning needs of young people and adults.
4. Create opportunities to strengthen employability skills.
5. Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people.
6. To improve the recording of FSM pupil's entitlement in CCBC.
7. Implement tracking and transition arrangements between services, for the benefit of all learners.
8. Review of Public Library Service and future delivery options.
9. Implement new Management Arrangements for Library Service.
10. Review of Community Centre Service and future delivery options.
11. Take urgent action to reduce surplus capacity in schools generally and secondary schools in particular.
12. Ensures facilities for formal, informal and non-formal learning are fit for purpose.

- 4.2 In Summary, all action plans identify that timely progress is being made. The detail of each action plan and the progress made against individual targets can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Through the development of Service Improvements, services are required to consider the potential risks within the area of work, score the severity and likelihood of the risk, and highlight any mitigating action that could be taken. At the midyear point, managers have provided updated information which is provided in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 Appendix 3 provides the Scorecards for each service area, which contains information on national and local performance data.

For academic data, the data for Key Stage 2 and 3 is final data that refers to the 13/14 academic year. The Key Stage 4 and 5 data, and the attendance and exclusions data are currently provisional and will be finalised in December 2014 and January 2015.

Where possible, 6 month progress data has been presented in the scorecard, and has been colour coded to indicate if they are on track to achieve their target for 2014/15.

- 4.5 The Improvement Objective “Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people” (IO3) provides the Youth Service with a priority focus in terms of delivering quality personal and social education to the young people between 11-25 years of age living in Caerphilly County Borough Council. The Improvement Objective focused on six priorities including:

- Consult, publish and implement the Youth Service Strategy.
- Increase the numbers of young people engaged by the Youth Service
- Work closely with schools, to provide youth work in schools
- Increase the numbers of young people securing non formal learning qualifications.
- Improve equality of access to Youth Service provision
- Refine methods of data collection to better evidence Youth Service outcomes.

Work has started on each of these actions, and a summary is provided in Appendix 4. At the midyear point all actions have progress made against them, and each one is progressing in a timely manner for completion in March 2015. For this reason the Directorate class the current status of the improvement objective as successful.

- 4.6 The Service Improvement Plans and Improvement Objective have been monitored on a regular basis by Education, Lifelong Learning’s Senior Management Team (SMT) as part of the Directorates performance management process.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report although the objective seeks to address inequities and promote opportunities for learning for young people.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

8. CONSULTATIONS

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Scrutiny Committee consider the content of the report and note the progress made in meeting the actions set out in the action plans.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Council undertakes effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.
- 10.2 To apprise members of progress made in meeting the improvement objective and the impact on young people.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Measure 2009.

Author: Elizabeth Lewis – Connecting Communities Manager (with responsibility for Directorate Performance Management)

Consultees: Sandra Aspinall – Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Tony Maher – Assistant Director Planning and Strategy
Keri Cole – Manager, Learning, Education, Inclusion
Bleddyn Hopkins - Assistant Director – 21st Century Schools
Tanis Ann Cunnick – Manager, Youth Community and Adult Education
Gareth Evans – Manager, Libraries and Community Centres
Councillor Rhianon Passmore – Cabinet Member for Education
Ros Roberts – Corporate Performance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix A – Service Improvement Plans 2014/15 – Summary of 6 Month Progress

Appendix B – Directorate Risks 2014/15 – 6 month Status Update

Appendix C – Education and Lifelong Learning Scorecards – Progress update as of 30th September 2014.

Appendix D – Improvement Objective 3 – 6 month Progress Report.

Appendix E – Service Improvement Plans – Education and Lifelong Learning 2014-15 – Presentation