



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4TH JUNE 2015

**SUBJECT: THE DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING
PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2014/15 AND THE PRIORITIES FOR 2015/16**

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE 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 2014/15 and the Directorate priorities for the financial year 2015/16.
- 1.2 The report also gives consideration to the Council's Outcome Agreements, "*Improving Early Years Experiences*", for which the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning is responsible.
- 1.3 The report also considers one of the Council's six Improvement Objectives for 2015/16, "*Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement*".

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A review of the Directorate's performance for 2014/15 has been undertaken as part of the Council's corporate planning process.
- 2.2 The 2014/15 review also includes performance in delivering one of the five key areas in the Council's Outcome Agreement with the Welsh Government (WG) for which the Directorate is responsible. The area is "Improving Early Years". This is a 3 year programme which delivers a grant of £1.8m each year if successful. WG have judged the programme "successful" for 2014/15.
- 2.3 Through the Self Evaluation process and taking account of Council priorities, introduced by the Council in 2014, the Directorate has identified 10 key priorities for 2015/16.
- 2.4 The Council has identified 6 Improvement Objectives for 2015-16. These were open to public consultation between April 1st and April 22nd 2015. The Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning will be responsible for one of the six Improvement Objectives, "improving outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement".
- 2.5 Members are asked to review progress and performance against agreed outcomes, and agree future priorities and recommendations.
- 2.6 A glossary of terminology is included for Members as Appendix A.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 This report is influenced by a number of national strategies including:

- Programme for Government (Welsh Government)
- Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan (Welsh Government)
- Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (Welsh Government)
- National Youth Service Strategy for Wales (Welsh Government)
- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (Welsh Government)
- Delivering community learning for Wales (Welsh Government)
- Libraries Inspire: The strategic development framework for Welsh Libraries (Welsh Government)

3.2 This report is influenced by a number of local strategies including:

- Single Integrated Plan
- CCBC Corporate Plan
- CCBC Poverty Strategy
- Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning annual Service Plan
- Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
- Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan
- Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy
- Gwent Adult Community Learning Partnership Strategic Plan
- Library Service Strategic Action Plan

4. THE REPORT

4.1 A review of the performance of the Directorate for 2014/15 has been undertaken through the self evaluation process. Managers have worked together to identify successes and areas that require development. These will form the basis for the future.

4.2 The planning process undertaken within the Directorate is outlined in Appendix B.

4.3 The Directorate review in relation to Learning, Education and Inclusion has identified the following successes:

- A 4th consecutive year of improvement in all key indicators at each key stage of education.
- The processes for those in Education Other than at School (EOTAS) have been refined and, as a result, provision and outcomes for young people have improved.
- The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Review has resulted in recommendations for future reconfiguration of resource bases, following consultation with Head teachers. A more detailed report will follow at a future meeting.

4.4 An example of best practice which has emerged from the ALN review, is the partnership between Cwm Ifor Primary School and Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre (see Appendix C for details). The respective head teachers will be presenting their views and experiences on the impact of this initiative at the Scrutiny meeting.

4.5 An example of challenge involved in raising standards within the secondary sector will be presented by Rebecca Collins, Head teacher, St Cenydd Comprehensive School. The school was inspected by Estyn in January 2013 (see Appendix D for details) and is currently in the category of Estyn Monitoring and is 'red' within the national categorisation model. Since Ms Collins has been in post the school has begun to develop strategies for improvement which will be highlighted through the presentation to Scrutiny.

4.6 The Directorate review in relation to Planning and Strategy has identified the following successes:

- The NEET's (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figure for 2014 is 3.4%, which is a 0.9% improvement on the previous year.
- The number of people achieving Essential Skills (Basic Skills) has increased from 277 (2013/2014) to 344 (2014/2015)
- Caerphilly achieved 8 out of 9 of the National Library Standards and was commended for its progress.
- The investment into Youth Service Provision has resulted in increased provision, including summer activities.
- Delivery of successful programme of statutory maintenance (electrical) across schools.

4.7 The Council's Outcome Agreement grant programme with WG delivers £1.8m in grants each year over a 3 year period if outcomes are deemed successful. The Outcome Agreement programme commenced in 2013 and is due to finish in 2016. The programme is regularly reviewed by WG. The programme is made up of 5 key improvement areas, all of which require the approval of WG. One of the key areas for delivery is the responsibility of the Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning – "Improving Early Years Experience", of which the main delivery agent is the Flying Start programme. This has been judged as "successful" because, in the main, the targets have been met and exceeded in many cases. The Flying Start programme is on track and being fully delivered in 19 areas throughout the Borough. The detailed performance of outcomes compared to targets for 2014/15 is included in Appendix E.

4.8 The 2015/16 top 10 key priorities for the Directorate, together with targets, are referred to in Appendix F and are summarised below :-

1. Improve standards of attainment for learners in all Key Stages, specifically at Key Stage 4. This includes the Improvement Objective: Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement.
2. Progress the implementation of the Behaviour Strategy
3. Complete the ALN Review and implement recommendations
4. Working in partnership, to promote the uptake of Free School Meals
5. Deliver an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people
6. Deliver Adult Community Learning to improve the level of essential skills and provide opportunities to gain qualifications (formal and non-formal)
7. Deliver high quality Library Services across the authority
8. Ensure compliance with Health and Safety policy
9. Continue to implement the 21st Century Schools Programme, this includes a review the management of small primary schools, in line with Estyn Recommendations (2012)
10. Meet the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan

4.9 Appendix F includes a brief summary of the rationale for identification of priorities and highlights the following key performance data:

- previous three years performance
- performance in 2014-15 against the target
- target for 2015-2016

4.10 The report also informs Members of the Directorate's responsibility in delivering one of the Council's six new Improvement Objective for 2015-16, "*Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement*". The information prepared for the public consultation is presented in Appendix G. This identifies the context for the Improvement Objective and outlines the following 5 key actions:

- Work in partnership with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to ensure that challenging targets are set for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement

- Work with schools to maximise the benefits of the Pupil Deprivation Grant, to ensure that pupils in receipt of Free School Meals have full access to appropriate learning opportunities.
- Implement strategies to work towards closing the gap in performance between those in receipt of Free School Meals, and those who are not.
- Introduce an appropriate assessment for pupils educated in Trinity Fields and LA resource bases (Performance Indicators for Value Added Target Setting (PIVATS)).
- Develop a multi agency strategy to providing improved learning opportunities in the St James area.

4.11 In addition Appendix G also sets out the key targets required to be achieved in 2015/16.

4.12 Copies of the Directorate's Annual Service Plan will be available in the Members' Library.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 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.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Outcome Agreement for the Council attracts grant funding from WG of £1.8m per annum over a 3 year period, if delivered successfully. Failure to achieve all key targets could result in grant funding being put at risk. To date, all targets have been successfully delivered and no reduction in grant has been experienced.

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 Members are asked to review progress and performance against agreed outcomes, and agree future priorities and recommendations.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 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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Councillor Rhianon Passmore – Cabinet Member for Education
Ros Roberts – Corporate Performance Manager
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Appendices:
Appendix A Glossary of Education and Lifelong Learning Acronyms and Abbreviations
Appendix B Planning Framework
Appendix C A partnership between Cwm Ifor Primary School, Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre and Caerphilly CBC
Appendix D Estyn Inspection Report – St Cenydd Comprehensive School – January 2013
Appendix E 2013-16 - Outcome Agreement – No2 – Improving Early Years Experiences
Appendix F Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning – Top 10 Priorities for 2015/16
Appendix G Our Improvement Objective 2015/16 - *“Improve outcomes for all learners, particularly those vulnerable to underachievement”*