

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

22 August 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander
Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language

SUBJECT: Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme
2018-2021

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the wide ranging national reforms of the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme which will affect every school in Wales. The reforms will affect all young people with Additional Learning Needs across the 0-25 age range, all local authorities and related service providers including Health, Children Services and Social Care, arising from the passing of the *Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (Wales) January 2018*.
- 1.2 Information is provided in this report on the Powys County Council response to the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunals (Wales) Act 2018 and the proposed approach for local implementation of the national reforms and compliance with new legislative requirements arising from the Act.
- 1.3 This report provides a summary of the progress made up to July 2018 by Powys County Council in terms of the local organisation, planning and implementation by the Education Service in response to the national reforms.
- 1.4 Commentary is provided of the links and coordination between the continuing development of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision in Powys and the Council's current priorities within the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) 2018.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Programme Management Plan (PMP) for the *Powys Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Transformation Programme 2018-2021* designed by the Education Service is used to

provide the structure and direction of the Powys response to the national Additional Learning Needs reform and that this approach receives the full support of the Council.

- 2.2 It is proposed that annual progress reports are brought to Education Scrutiny and Cabinet to provide assurance on pace, effectiveness of progress, outcomes and key risks and issues arising from the Powys Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme 2018-2021. This will include new forms of working with local Health authorities, Children Services, Social Care providers and all schools within Powys.

3. Options Considered / Available

- 3.1 There is an expectation that each local authority in Wales, working closely with relevant partners, stakeholders and service providers will respond appropriately and within recently published timelines for national reform and change to statutory duties as part of the new act.
- 3.2 The reforms are outlined in the attached local Due Diligence Exercise **(See Appendix A)** which analyses the Additional Learning Needs thematic areas of national reform and indicates the required types of change to Additional Learning Needs provision in Powys.
- 3.3 The Due Diligence Exercise also summarises the key areas of statutory duties, guidance and related requirements and actions contained within the Act. The summary chart within this document offers an initial indicative RAG rating of broad compliance in Powys with key elements of the Act, indicating that change is required in most areas of Additional Learning Needs Provision in Powys. This is in line with most other local authorities.
- 3.4 A response by each local authority in Wales will require both locally designed and managed transformation programmes and that these work in coordination with regionally organised and funded Additional Learning Needs development projects.
- 3.5 The design of local Additional Learning Needs transformation programmes and regional development work will vary across local authorities. However, the Welsh Government has issued broad guidance on thematic areas **(See Appendix B)** which will need to be addressed to meet the requirements of the national reform programme and which have served to inform the Powys response to date.
- 3.6 Locally, Powys has developed a Programme Management Plan V8.1 **(see Appendix C)** for the local Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme covering the period 2018-2021. The Programme Management Plan has been organised within the context of the Powys County Council Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) framework, aims and priorities.

The local Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme will also coordinate with the Wales south west region development work on additional learning needs and will respond to direction from both subsequent national Welsh Government guidance and from their appointed regional lead for the Additional Learning Needs transformation process. In the case of the Wales south west region, of which Powys is a part, the regional lead is Huw Davies, seconded Estyn HMI. Huw Davies has met with the programme sponsor, Ian Budd, Director of Education in Powys. It has been commented by the regional lead that Powys' Transformation programme is in an advanced stage to many other local authorities and that there is much work contained within it that could be used as examples of best practice.

- 3.7 The design and scope of the local Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme 2018-2021 has been endorsed by the Powys Education Portfolio Holder, Education Service Director (Project Sponsor), the Education Service Management Team, Corporate Executive Management Team, Programme Steering Group and Programme Officer Team and has been presented to two stakeholder workshops with a wide range of representation including schools and Health.
- 3.8 Additionally, the three year transformation programme approach proposed by Powys has been considered in some detail by Huw Davies, Regional ALN Lead for the Welsh Government, who has commended the programme design and scope and is supportive of the programme structure, milestones and related planning.
- 3.9 The Powys ALN Transformation Programme 2018-2021 has been assessed for projected service impact and efficiencies and a resource management proposal submitted through an initial Business Plan was approved by corporate finance for the 3 year period of the programme.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 The rationale for the Powys management of change approach and the requirement to implement national reforms locally is based on three key principles:
 - a. Achieving efficiency around service provision and impact by combining and synchronising the local response required to the national reform with the local continuous improvement process undertaken by the Education Service;
 - b. Ensuring the design and scope of the local transformation programme includes an appropriate response to the key requirements of the national reform including:

- placing the pupil at the centre of the additional learning needs process;
 - effectively integrating local services for additional learning needs provision;
 - effectively transitioning local ALN policy from SEN-based procedures (which will cease completely in due course including SEN Statements) to the new Additional Learning Needs Code of Practice (and use of Individual Development plans) being introduced as a key part of the national reform across all additional learning needs provision in Wales.
- c. Ensuring the design and scope of the local response will meet the timeline and thematic requirements of the national reform including legislative changes in statutory duties, guidance and related actions.
- 4.2 The Powys Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme 2018-2021 commenced in early spring 2018 following a local service review of Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion service provision across the local authority.
- 4.3 The design and scope of the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme 2018-2021 has been able to consider both the outcomes of the local service review alongside the emerging national guidance on reform being introduced by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. This timing provided a strong base for producing the Programme Management Plan for the new three year transformation programme.
- 4.4 Additionally, the Programme Management Plan (PMP) was designed to commence at the beginning of the 2018-19 financial year and to cover the three year period to March 2021. The timeline and milestones within the Powys Programme Management Plan allow for achieving implementation of the requirements of the national reform. This will mean that the programme will fit in with the national timeline and comply with the implementation date of September 2020. The PMP further includes a period from September 2020 to March 2021 to undertake local review and evaluation of the transformation process.

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? **Yes**
- 5.2 If yes is it attached? **No**

The impact assessment will be completed following receipt of further information from Welsh Government giving us full details of the draft ALN code and the format for the new IDP's. Although the Welsh Government have not given a specific date for the delivery of this information they have advised that it will be completed in Autumn 2018.

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 The ALN Transformation programme has been recognised as a significant project for the council and is therefore included as a key commitment within Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan. It will support delivery of key outcomes both within the Learning and Skills Programme and Health and Care (Start Well) programme, ensuring that children and families have the best start in life.

7. Local Member(s)

- 7.1 The Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme will impact on all locations where additional learning needs support is provided and in all wards of the council.
- 7.2 The impact of any changes will be support equity, equality and parity of service provision across all areas of Powys

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? **Yes**

If so please provide their comments:

Health and Children and Social Care

This programme will ensure that further steps are taken to develop an integrated service provision for vulnerable children and young people. The changes will improve processes and impact on outcomes for vulnerable young people.

The ALN transformation programme will mean that there will be increased links with Health and Children and Social Care because of the need to provide a service to children and young people across the 0-25 age range building on the current 5 – 16 statutory education provision. The new individualised development plans (changing from statement of special needs) for children and young people will include the need to consider family and social support and will need to have Social care involvement in complex cases.

The new individualised development plans will also include the health needs of children and young people and involve the agencies that support these needs.

Start Well Programme

The ALN Transformation Programme is being managed within the schools service but will also require strong collaboration with the Start Well (CYPP) programme to ensure joined up delivery of the 'Disabilities and ALN' work stream.

9. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

Have they made a comment?

Information report, no pro-active communication action required at this stage.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

10.1 Legal

10.2 Finance

The Schools Finance Manager notes the content of the report. Finance advice and support is available for the service area should that be required at a later stage.

10.3 Corporate Property (if appropriate)

N/A

10.4 HR (if appropriate)

There do not appear to be any workforce implications at this stage, however, HR advice and support is available for the service area should that be required at a later stage.

10.5 ICT (if appropriate)

The use of ICT is one of the major focusses of the ALN Transformation Programme. Digital competency is also a key framework within the new Welsh Curriculum. The Framework encapsulates the skills that will help learners thrive in an increasingly digital world. **(See Appendix D)**. The transformation will allow the Council to audit its use of digital learning for KS4 and Post-16 provision, and assess whether it can improve access to a wider curriculum for KS4 and Post-16 learners by investing in new technology.

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? No

12. Statutory Officers

(The views of both the Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer **must** be set out below)

13. Members' Interests

(To be completed by the Monitoring Officer)

14. Future Status of the Report

Members are invited to consider the future status of this report and whether it can be made available to the press and public either immediately following the meeting or at some specified point in the future.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
This is an information paper to support and endorse the ALN and Inclusion Transformation Work Programme 2018-2021 outlined in this report which brings together the Welsh Government ALN Transformation Programme and the local ALN priorities.	In order to be compliant with the Additional Learning Needs Education Reform Bill

Relevant Policy (ies):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Current Powys CC Additional Learning Needs Policy and Procedures- Current Powys CC SEN Policy and Procedures- Current SEN Code of Practice and Legislation		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	All
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Imtiaz Bhatti
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	September 2020

Is a review of the impact of the decision required?	Y
If yes, date of review	TBC
Person responsible for the review	Imtiaz Bhatti
Date review to be presented to Portfolio Holder/	TBC

Cabinet for information or further action	
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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
Powys Additional Learning Needs Policy and Procedures 2014/2015
Additional Learning Needs Programme Management Plan March 2018
Additional Learning Needs Due Diligence Exercise May 2018
Additional Learning Needs Business Plan March 2018

CABINET REPORT VERSION 4

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