



Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 23-06-2020

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 15-06-2020 and considered the following documents:

- SEN – ALN Future Engagement

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for Education and Property and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny make the following observations:

- Need for the engagement exercise to be as widely accessible as possible to ensure that groups outside school age (i.e. pre and post school age – 19 to 25) are able to engage
- Suggested that clerks to governing bodies be advised of the engagement as well as other bodies such as Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin and other pre-school groups.
- Concern was expressed:
- that the Service had sufficient resource (both financial and staff) to undertake the engagement / later consultation and the implementation of the ALN – SEN Transformation.
- with regard to making school buildings / specialist centres more fit for purpose for the future, that capital funding was identified early enough for this to be in the main project rather than an add-on at a later date.
- that pupils were not disadvantaged in the short term where there were no immediate proposals for improvements to a school property.

Scrutiny was supportive of:

- the proposed training and upskilling of staff and Teaching Assistants as long as we do not also exclude those with experience from working within the service area. **(Scrutiny might wish to review progress on training in the future).**
- the review of Teaching Assistants and the sharing of good practice.
- The need for foundation level support for pupils' behavioural issues to that pupils come to school prepared to learn and pre-school multi agency support for families.
- Schools and specialist centres having a common suite of facilities which should be available in all buildings e.g. wellbeing centre.
- Need to ensure that the ALN – SEN workstream is integrated fully with other workstreams such as Welsh Language and Post 16. **(Scrutiny might wish to review progress with Welsh Language ALN – SEN provision in future).**

Scrutiny noted:

- that with the realignment of pupils between specialist centres and mainstream provision, that the funding for mainstream provision took account of this realignment.
- that the work on 19 to 25 ALN – SEN provision was in a very early stage and was a significant area of work. It was suggested that after the initial engagement the

Education Service might wish to undertake specific consultation on this single element due to its significance. **(Scrutiny might wish to also look at this workstream as a specific piece of scrutiny).**

- that the delegated ALN – SEN funding was being reviewed.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)
Need for the engagement exercise to be as widely accessible as possible especially to include pre-school and 19-25 age groups.	<p>Accept</p> <p>The engagement document will be available on the website from June 24th. We will make it clear that it is relevant to all involved with children and young people from the age of 0 to 25.</p> <p>A children and young people's version will be available.</p> <p>A further engagement exercise will be carried out with pupils with ALN when the schools reopen (depending on Covid 19 situation).</p>
That clerks to governing bodies and other organisations be advised of the engagement exercise	<p>Accept</p> <p>The ALN team send out a monthly SEN/ALN update to schools.</p> <p>The June update includes information about this engagement exercise.</p> <p>A copy of this update will be sent to chairs and clerks of governing bodies.</p> <p>We will contact specific organisations such as SNAP Cymru to advise them of the engagement.</p>

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)
19 – 25 provision - that after the initial engagement the Education Service might wish to undertake specific consultation on this single element due to its significance	<p>Partially accept</p> <p>This area of work is not as well advanced as some of the other areas. It is likely that specific engagement and/or consultation will be required at a later date.</p> <p>Dependent on the number and quality of responses to the engagement exercise in relation to 19-25, we will determine what is required.</p> <p>We already have a post-16 working group looking at this area, through the Education Transformation. This group will be working with partners over the coming months.</p>

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by 23-08-2020.

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Group / Committee on 15-06-2020:
County Councillors:

P Roberts, J Berriman, L Roberts, E Roderick, G Thomas, K Laurie-Parry, S Davies
A Davies, S. Davies, G Robson (Co-opted Members)