



## 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)   |
|---|--|
| <p>Need for the engagement exercise to be as widely accessible as possible especially to include pre-school and 19-25 age groups.</p> | <p><b>Accept</b><br/>           The engagement document will be available on the website from June 24<sup>th</sup>. 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> |
| <p>That clerks to governing bodies and other organisations be advised of the engagement exercise</p>                                  | <p><b>Accept</b><br/>           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)   |
|---|--|
| <p>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> | <p><b>Partially accept</b><br/>           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)