



PWYLLGOR CRAFFU BWRDD ADDYSG, SGILIAU A LLES

2.00 PM, DYDD IAU, 23 TACHWEDD 2023

CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD - SIAMBR Y CYNGOR PORT TALBOT A MICROSOFT TEAMS

Rhaid gosod pob ffôn symudol ar y modd distaw ar gyfer parhad y cyfarfod

Gellir ffilmio'r cyfarfod hwn i'w ddarlledu'n fyw neu'n ddiweddarach drwy wefan y cyngor. Drwy gymryd rhan, rydych yn cytuno i gael eich ffilmio ac i'r delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion gweddarlledu a/neu hyfforddiant o bosib.

1. Cyhoeddiad y Cadeirydd
2. Datganiadau o fuddiannau
3. Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Blaenorol (*Tudalennau 5 - 12*)
 - 28 Medi 2023
4. Craffu Cyn Penderfynu
Dewis eitemau priodol o agenda'r Cabinet ar gyfer craffu cyn penderfynu (amgaeir adroddiadau ar gyfer yr Aelodau Craffu)
5. Cofnod Gweithredu'r Pwyllgor (*Tudalennau 13 - 14*)
6. Blaenraglen Waith 2023/24 (*Tudalennau 15 - 16*)
7. Eitemau brys
Unrhyw eitemau brys yn ôl disgrisiwn y Cadeirydd yn unol ag Adran 100BA(6)(b) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 (fel y'i diwygiwyd)

K.Jones
Prif Weithredwr

Canolfan Ddinesig
Port Talbot

Dydd Iau, 16 Tachwedd 2023

Aelodaeth y Pwyllgor:

Cadeirydd: Y Cyngorydd R.Phillips

Is-gadeirydd: Y Cyngorydd D.Thomas

Cynghorwyr: W.Carpenter, N.Goldup-John, J.Henton,
D.Keogh, C.Lewis, R.Mizen, P.A.Rees,
S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, P.Rogers a/ac
R.W.Wood

***Aelodau
Cyfetholedig sy'n
Pleidleisio** A. Amor, M.Caddick a/ac L.Newman

***Aelodau
Cyfetholedig nad
ydynt yn Pleidleisio** R.De Benedictis

Nodiadau:

- (1) *Os yw aelodau'r pwyllgor neu'r rhai nad ydynt yn aelodau'r pwyllgor am gynnig eitemau perthnasol i'w cynnwys ar yr agenda cyn cyfarfodydd y dyfodol, rhaid iddynt roi gwybod i'r Prif Weithredwr/Cadeirydd 8 niwrnod cyn y cyfarfod.*
- (2) *Os yw'r rhai nad ydynt yn aelodau'r pwyllgor am fod yn bresennol ar gyfer eitem o ddiddordeb, mae'n rhaid rhoi rhybudd ymlaen llaw (erbyn 12 hanner dydd ar y diwrnod cyn y cyfarfod). Gall y rhai nad ydynt yn aelodau'r pwyllgor siarad ond nid oes ganddynt hawl i bleidleisio, cynnig nac eilio unrhyw gynnig.*
- (3) *Fel arfer, ar gyfer trefniadau cyn craffu, bydd y Cadeirydd yn argymhell eitemau gweithredol sydd ar ddod i'w trafod/herio. Mae hefyd yn agored i aelodau'r pwyllgor ofyn i eitemau gael eu trafod - er y gofynnir i'r aelodau ddewis a dethol yma o ran materion pwysig.*
- (4) *Gwahoddir aelodau perthnasol Bwrdd y Cabinet hefyd i fod yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod at ddibenion Craffu/Ymgynghori.*
- (5) *Gofynnir i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Craffu ddod â'u papurau ar gyfer Bwrdd y Cabinet i'r cyfarfod.*

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwriadol wag

Minutes of the Education, Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

28 September 2023

Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Port Talbot & Microsoft Teams

Chairperson:	Councillor R.Phillips
Councillors:	W.Carpenter, J.Henton, C.Lewis, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, P.Rogers, D.Whitelock and R.W.Wood
Co-opted Voting Members:	A. Amor and M.Caddick
Officers In Attendance	C.Millis, R.Crowhurst, J.Burge, C.Davies, S.McCluskie, J.Merrifield, C.Morris, M.Thomas, K.Windsor-Brown, D.Evans and P.Chivers
Cabinet Invitees:	Councillors J.Hurley, N.Jenkins and C.Phillips

1. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The chair confirmed that the committee would be scrutinising Cabinet Board agenda items 7, 12, 13 & 14

Item 12 (Cabinet Agenda)

Cllr. Rebeca Phillips – Personal - School Governor at YGG Trebannws and Pontardawe – has dispensation to speak and vote.

Cllr. Sonia Reynolds – Personal - School Governor at YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Marie Caddick – Personal - School Governor at St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School (Neath) and family member attends St Joseph’s Comprehensive School - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Adam Amor – School Governor and family member attends Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur and YGG Rhosafan - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Cllr. James Henton – School Governor at Ysgol Tregeles - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Cllr. Phil Rogers – School Governor at Catwg Primary and Llangatwg Community School - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Cllr. Robert Wood – School Governor at Ysgol Bae Baglan - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Cllr. Peter Rees – School Governor at Crynallt Primary and Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Cllr. Dave Whitelock – School Governor at Ysgol Cwm Brombil - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Cllr. Wayne Carpenter – School Governor at Melin Primary School and Gnoll Primary School. Family member works at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School - has dispensation to speak and vote.

Item 14 (Cabinet Agenda)

Cllr. Sonia Reynolds – Trustee of Canolfan Maerdy – has dispensation to speak and vote

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 25th May 2023 and 6th July 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

Members agreed that the Education Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee note and endorse the Annual Report 2022/2023 attached at appendix 1 and commend to Council.

5. **UPDATE ON THE ROLL OUT OF UNIVERSAL PRIMARY FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

The Head of Support Services and Transformation and scrutiny committee members thanked the catering staff involved in the successful roll out of the programme.

Members enquired whether there had been any feedback from parents/guardians on the roll out. Officers confirmed that no negative feedback had been received which was a positive.

This item was noted.

6. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

Prior to pre-decision scrutiny, a member raised concern regarding the breadth of the items to be considered by the Education, Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee.

The statement was noted

Increased Planned Places Blaenhonddan Primary School – Back from Consultation

Officers confirmed that this report was the second of three reports in the school re-organisation proposal and there had been limited responses to the consultation. Another report will be brought before members before the final decision is made at the end of the year.

Members asked for assurance that Maesmarchog Learning Support Centre would not close if pupil attendance numbers dropped. Officers advised members that long term assurances could not be made but confirmed that autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) numbers were increasing not decreasing. There are no plans or discussions around closures at this time but the future situation cannot be predicted.

Members asked for an estimate of transport costs. Officers advised that this would not be possible, transport costs have risen and the situation is changeable. It is not known what areas the children will travel from which could affect the costs greatly. Officers confirmed that on average taxis cost up to £350 a day but it was hoped that the introduction of the Personal Travel budget would help to lower this cost.

Members questioned whether there were plans to move qualified staff from other schools to set up the new provision, considering the difficulties in recruiting qualified support staff with ASD qualifications. Officers acknowledged that working in a unit was a more specialist role compared to mainstream classes. As part of the recruitment process, candidates will be asked for additional experience /qualifications in the field. Officers reassured members that on the opening of a new unit, a training package is put in place and transition activities are planned for the children. Staff are supported to ensure any early difficulties, lack of skills or gaps in their knowledge are filled.

Members questioned whether, non-class based staff such as taxi drivers, escorts and catering staff will receive ASD training. Officers confirmed there are two travel trainers, who work with children through transition and also specialist staff within the inclusion service. Taxi drivers and escorts are not employed by the authority so training cannot be mandatory.

Members questioned whether support staff could have the option to carry out in-house training on a voluntary basis. Officers noted this suggestion.

Following scrutiny, members were supportive of the recommendations to be considered by Cabinet Board.

School Exclusion Update

The Head of Education Development confirmed that the report was in relation to a request from members for more information regarding all types of exclusions.

Members referred officers to paragraph 13, page 251 and sought to clarify the mention of a temporary reduction in fixed term exclusions for Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN) pupils. Officers confirmed that the temporary reduction was a data capture issue related to the change over from the previous SEN system to the new ALN system. Covid has affected the amount of referrals from schools as children's attendance has dropped. Due to the long process in certain circumstances, this temporary decrease has been flagged to ensure the figures are clear in the long term.

Members commented that during the current cost of living crisis, exclusions can be a punishment to parents as well as to the children due to parents having to take leave. Members welcomed restorative justice and thanked officers for looking at alternatives to what is a national problem.

The chair thanked the officers for their work.

Following scrutiny, members noted the item for information.

Welsh Public Library Standards Assessment 2021/2022

Members requested sight of the case studies that have been sent to Welsh Government.

Members thanked officers for a good report and noted that library services are crucial to our education system and communities and should be supported going forward.

Following scrutiny, members noted the item for information.

Quarter 1 Performance Indicators 23/24 – Education Directorate

Officers advised members that some of the graph representation in the report is presented in a new format, some of the graphs will provide a clearer picture at the end of the 4th quarter.

Members referred to page 292 of the report and the 12 month rent free arrangement for Welsh Language Childcare provisions. Members noted that the number of places in Welsh/bilingual facilities has increased whilst the number in English medium provisions has decreased and questioned whether the rent free system will be rolled out to English medium provisions.

Officers confirmed that this arrangement is subject to review and a future roll out to English provisions may be an option for consideration. Officers advised members that early intervention to raise attendance at Welsh medium childcare provisions is part of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and has had a positive impact on attendance at Welsh medium primary schools. Officers noted that often Welsh medium childcare provisions are in isolated areas where numbers are small and it is difficult for businesses to make the facilities viable. Any decrease in the amount of Welsh child care provisions would have a negative impact on the WESP.

Members expressed concern that many childcare providers are struggling currently and there needs to be consideration concerning advantage in some areas and fair competition.

Members referred to page 292 of the report and asked for clarification on the type of youth interaction that has increased. Officers confirmed that interaction has increased in all areas and a further breakdown can be provided if required. Since Covid has lessened, young people are more willing to engage in activities. Where there is awareness that a young person may not move on to employment or training, a catch up is carried out. There is a dedicated homeless worker within the youth service.

Members asked for clarification of the criteria for accessing help through the Communities for Work Plus programme. Officers confirmed that this area will be covered as part of the work on employability that is included on the Forward Work Programme. Members were pleased to hear that more young people were attending youth centres, but raised concern over young people gathering in town centres, parks and public places with involvement in gangs, county lines and drug addiction. Members asked for information on outreach youth workers and what support they could give. Officers confirmed that whilst youth workers carry out work in this area, they are complimented by the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team and Cynnydd workers. Further work would be required before a complete overview could be given. The Chair requested this information be brought back to a future committee.

Following scrutiny, the item was noted.

7. **COMMITTEE ACTION LOG**

This item was noted.

8. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

This item was noted.

9. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

Councillor R.Phillips

Chairperson

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwriadol wag

Education, Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - Actions and Referrals Update – 2023-24

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Minuted Action / Referral / Request</u>	<u>Progress Update</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Target / Completion Date</u>	<u>Completed / On-going</u>	
Tudalen 13	28.9.2023	Cabinet Board Agenda Item 13 - Welsh Public Library Standards Assessment 2021/2022	Members requested sight of the case studies that have been sent to Welsh Government.	Case studies emailed to committee members 29.9.2023	Clare Davies	29.9.2023	Completed
		Q1 Performance Indicators 23/24 Education Directorate	Members asked for information on outreach youth workers and what support they could give.	Youth Service Report to be presented to the Education, Skills and Wellbeing Cabinet Board 1 st February 2024	Chris Millis	1 st February 2024	

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwiadol wag

Education, Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

(All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2023		
28 th September	Annual Report 2022 - 2023	Chair of Education Skills & Wellbeing Scrutiny Pamela Chivers (Scrutiny Officer)
	Update on the roll out of Universal Primary Free School Meals	Rhiannon Crowhurst
23 rd November		
2024		
1 st February	New Curriculum – update	Chris Millis
	Impact of energy prices on School budgets	Rhiannon Crowhurst/Julie Merryfield
14 th March	Provision for Lifelong Learning	Chris Millis
	Pupil Absence Post Covid	Chris Millis
25 th April	Professional Learning Offers available for school based staff	Chris Millis

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwiadol wag