



## **EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**2.00 pm THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2018**

**COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2 - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE**

### **Part 1**

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 8*)

### **To scrutinise information and monitoring issues being reported by:**

3. Additional Learning Needs Statutory Processes (*Pages 9 - 18*)  
*Report of the Head of Transformation*
4. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
5. Forward Work Programme 2018/19 (*Pages 19 - 22*)
6. Urgent Items  
*Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290 (as amended).*
7. Access to Meetings  
*Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.*

## **PART 2**

8. To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board Reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).

**S.Phillips**  
**Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre**  
**Port Talbot**

**Thursday, 11 October 2018**

### **Committee Membership:**

**Chairperson:**                   **Councillor A.L.Thomas**

**Vice Chairperson:**       **Councillor M.Crowley**

**Councillors:**               S. ap Dafydd, M.Ellis, S.Harris, H.N.James,  
S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, M.Protheroe,  
S.Renkes, R.L.Taylor, A.J.Richards, D.Whitelock  
and R.Phillips

**\*Co-opted**                       M.Caddick and A. Amor  
**Voting Members**

**\*Co-opted Non**               R.De Benedictis  
**Voting Members**

### **Notes:**

- (1) *If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) *If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before*

*the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*

- (3) For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*
- (4) The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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## EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Room 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**20 September 2018**

**Chairperson:** Councillor A.L.Thomas

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor M.Crowley

**Councillors:** S. ap Dafydd, M.Ellis, S.Harris, S.Miller,  
R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, M.Protheroe,  
S.Renkes, R.L.Taylor and D.Whitelock

**Co-opted Voting  
Members:** A. Amor

**Officers In  
Attendance** M.W.Pedrick, M.Daley and C.Davies

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.A.Rees

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### 1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee noted the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to the following.

Cllr. Steffan. Ap Daffydd's declaration be amended as he is only a Governor of St Joseph's School and Sixth Form and not St Joseph's Infants School or St Joseph's Junior School as detailed in the previous minutes.

Cllr. R.Taylor's declaration be amended, as in the previous minutes it is detailed that her mother owns a business, however her mother works but does not own the business.

### 2. **NEATH PORT TALBOT MUSIC SERVICE**

Members were provided information on the Cerdd Neath Port Talbot Music Service.

The Manager of Cerdd NPT Music Service was present at the meeting and commended his team and the work that they do.

Members highlighted that the indication in the report is that Welsh Government would take over the funding. The Manager of Cerdd NPT Music Service highlighted that he is hoping that would be the case. It was highlighted that there is a music crisis in Wales and hoping the pressure will be moved to Welsh Government from the Local Authorities. It was noted that the funding would be centrally funded which would be a million pound between all Authorities. It was highlighted that if Cerdd NPT Music Service can grow then that would be beneficial however, they are just hoping to sustain what they currently have.

Members queried about the buses for senior groups. Officers highlighted that the Cwmtawe Brass Centre run two buses on a Wednesday which tailor for a 100 children, the bus is run from 5.15pm, it was noted that one bus picks up in Swansea and one from Port Talbot and Neath, if the demand is there then will fund for an extra one for Thursday's Music Centres.

Members asked how much children have taken up the free bus service offer from Port Talbot, Margam and Cymer Afan to Cwm Tawe and Dwr y Felin Centres. Officers highlighted that there were 6 people and it would cost a £100 a week, then it deducted to 3 children.

The Manager of Cerdd NPT Music Service highlighted that they would perform Peri Roadshows at each NPT Secondary School and would invite year 5 and 6 pupils from their feeder primary schools to attend which would commence the week of the 18th September 2018. He commended the standard of the Orchestra and recited an email commending the performances that had been performed at the Secondary Schools.

Members asked what the third music centre was as only two were listed in the report. It was noted that it was Pontardawe Welsh Primary School.

Members congratulated the service and highlighted that music is the route of other careers. It was noted that the council support the team and asked that a letter be sent to Welsh Government welcoming the indications to centrally fund the service.

Members asked why they do not hold percussion exams. It was highlighted that this year the drums are involved in the new Rock and Pop exams.

It was noted that the Cwmtawe Youth Brass Band aged 14 – 21 years of age came 3rd out of 18 of the National Brass Band Finals of Great Britain competition containing adult bands and commended the team work that they had to achieve this.

Members asked if the service becomes centrally funded would there be a dip in the funding. It was noted that the only difference would be the funding would be levelled across every authority, whereas now the service have a subsidy.

The Manager of Cerdd Neath Port Talbot Music Service highlighted that they don't pay the staff to teach at the Music centres they do it as part of their directed time under Teachers Pay and Conditions, however, would like to add an extra Music Centre if budgets allowed as we'd have to pay additional staff.

Members asked what the roles entailed for the two senior staff Member's. It was explained by officers that they carry out the Performance Management duties in the office a day a week and the rest of the time they teach.

Members asked if the Music Centre was funded for instruments. It was explained that anything raised goes to the Friends of West Glam Youth Music. The money goes back in and then back to the children.

The Cabinet Members highlighted that the previous Leader was very passionate on preserving the Music Service and commended the team and the children for the efforts that are put in to the work.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

### 3. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

Members were provided with quarter 1 performance management data, Complaints and compliments for the period 1st April 2018 to 30th June 2018 for Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate.

Members asked that the Performance Indicators for Quarter 2 be reported to the Leisure and culture sub Committee to address any queries.

Members asked for an explanation on why statements of special education are not meeting 26 week deadline. Officers highlighted that it is not regularly the fault of the team, however, there are external factors that can push it over, for example not being made aware of a parent's change of address. Members asked how many cases have occurred. Officer highlighted they would provide that information.

Members highlighted concerns in relation to the visual presentation on the Performance Indicator Reports. Officers noted the concerns and informed members they would take that information back to be looked at.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

#### 4. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

Officers explained that the Committee would be looking at the Cabinet Board Forward Work Programme on a quarterly basis to consider scrutinising particular items in advance of the meeting.

Members asked whether they could have the Implementation Plan Additional Learning Needs report at an earlier meeting to scrutinise. Officers explained that they would check with Officers.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

### **CHAIRPERSON**



## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board

18<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

## Report of the Head of Transformation Andrew Thomas

**Matter** for information

**Wards Affected:** All

## Additional Learning Needs Statutory Processes

### Purpose of the Report

- To provide Members with information regarding statutory processes for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).
- To provide Members with information in relation to current data in relation to pupils with ALN.

### Executive Summary

- This report provides members with an overview of the referral routes and processes involved for a request for a statutory assessment of Special Educational Needs (SEN), as set out in the current Code of Practice for SEN and current legislation.
- This report will provide Members with details of the latest available data and current position in relation to the number of requests for statutory assessment, growth in areas of need and specialist provisions.

## **Background**

The Current Code of Practice for SEN (2002), provides guidance to LAs, maintained schools, early years settings and other services on carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for a child's special educational needs.

The Code sets out guidance on policies and procedures aimed at ensuring early identification of any possible need, a continuing process of assessment and appropriate intervention through a graduated response. Children, young people and their parents should be involved at every stage and their views taken into account in decision making.

For the vast majority of children their mainstream setting should meet all their special educational needs.

The graduated response sets out a model of action and intervention, namely:

School Action: school based assessment, differentiation and intervention additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum. Strategies and progress should be recorded within an Individual Education Plan (IEP). In many cases the action taken will mean that the child's needs are met and progresses made.

School action Plus: as above, however, should the child's needs continue to cause concern, and only when school have exhausted all available resources additional support and advice is requested from outside professionals and agencies.

These interventions should not be seen as hurdles to be crossed before statutory assessment.

### Deciding whether or not a statutory assessment is necessary

Where a request for a statutory assessment is made by a school to the LA, the school will have demonstrated a significant cause for concern and the LA will require evidence and clear documentation regarding the pupil's progress over time, strategies implemented and advice from an external agency.

Should the LA decide not to undertake a statutory assessment it must inform the parents as to the reasons this decision has been taken and also inform them of their right to appeal.

A statutory assessment will not always lead to a statement. The information gathered during a statement may indicate the ways in which school can meet the child's needs without provision determined through a statement.

### Routes for referral

A child or young person will be brought to the LA's attention as possibly requiring an assessment through:

- A request for an assessment by the child's school or setting
- A request for assessment from the parent
- A request for assessment by another agency e.g. Health

The LA should ensure that the process is carried out in a timely manner. There are circumstances in which the normal time limits do not apply (Appendix 1).

### Decision whether or not to issue a statement

The decision whether or not to issue a statement is taken by a SEN panel, members of which consist of LA officers, specialist professionals, headteachers, SENCos and other agencies.

Where a statement is agreed, consideration will be given to the child's main area of need, additional needs and provision. The LA must name the maintained school (mainstream or special) of the parents' choice. Where the decision to not issue a statement is made, a Note in Lieu (NIL) is issued and parents will be informed of the reasons for the decision and of their right to appeal.

All statements should be reviewed at least annually; the review should be person centred and involve the child, parents, the school and other professionals.

Statements should be maintained only when necessary. The LA may cease a statement for a child with SEN after careful consideration, should it be agreed that a statement is no longer necessary to meet the child's needs.

### The current position in NPT

Requests for statutory assessments have risen exponentially from 179 in 2014/15 to 229 in 2017/18.

The growth areas of need for pupils with statements of SEN are:

- Autism (ASD)
- Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD)
- Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties (SLCD)

(Appendix 2)

There has also been a significant rise of movers into Neath Port Talbot with more complex needs with 30 pupils with SEN moving into NPT in 2017 and an additional 9 pupils with SEN from September to October 2018.

This in turn puts significant pressure on mainstream and specialist placements.

### **Recommendations**

- That Members note the content of the report and the information provided.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Statements of Special educational Needs

Appendix 2: Statements by Area of Need

### **List of Background Papers**

None

## **Officer Contact**

Andrew Thomas Head of Transformation

Hayley Lervy Co-ordinator for Inclusion

Jeffrey Thomas Additional learning Needs Support Team (ALNST) Manager

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## Appendix 1

### New Statements of Special Educational Needs 2014 – 2018

Calendar Year	Number of Statements	Within 26 weeks (statutory timescale )	Including Exceptions *
2014	77	23.37%	100%
2015	95	10.53%	100%
2016	123	45.52%	100%
2017	133	39.85%	100%
2018 (up to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.)	109	61.47%	95.71%

\*Exceptions to the 26 time limit for issuing a statutory assessment are:

- Late advice
- Further advice needed
- Delay in Health/Social Services advice
- Missed appointments
- Personal circumstances
- School holidays
- Additional meetings with parents
- Other reasons

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## Appendix 2

### Neath Port Talbot Statements by Area of Need 2012-2108\*

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ADHD	1	0	0	2	3
ASD	157	167	179	185	208
BESD	45	45	51	57	75
DYSL	23	23	21	17	18
DYSP	1	1	1	1	1
GLD	2	1	2	5	12
HI	23	20	20	19	20
MLD	236	237	245	244	234
MSI	0	0	0	1	0
P/MED	26	22	23	30	27
PMLD	30	31	31	26	32
SLCD	99	97	100	112	136
SLD	97	91	81	85	86
VI	11	12	12	11	10
Total:	751	747	766	795	862

\*3<sup>RD</sup> Qtr. Figures

ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ASD – Autistic Spectrum Disorder

BESD – Behaviour, Emotional, Social Difficulties (sebd)

DYSL - Dyslexia

DYSP – Dyspraxia

GLD – General Learning Difficulties

HI – Hearing Impaired

MLD – Moderate Learning Difficulties

MSI – Multi Sensory Impairment

PMED – Physical Medical

PMLD – Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties

SLCD – Speech Language & Communication Difficulties

SLD – Severe Learning Difficulties

VI – Visual Impairment



**(DRAFT)**  
**Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Scrutiny Committee**  
**Forward Work Programme 2018/19**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
3 May 2018		
14 June 2018	Period Poverty (cabinet Board item)	
26 July 2018	A report highlighting the successes of new school builds in terms of education and Lessons Learnt (including, Comparative attendance, performance and lessons learnt)	Andrew Thomas
	Report on the Mechanism on how to handle excessive school reserves	Andrew Thomas
	MEAS and TES	Chris Millis

20 Sept 2018	Review of the Music Service following recent Changes to service delivery	Mike Daley/ Chris Millis
18 October 2018	Statemented Children - update	Andrew Thomas
29 November 2018	Report on the results of the combating poverty pilot (presentation)	Aled Evans
17 January 2019	Results of the Youth Service Mapping Exercise to the Current Provision include information the Shep Programme	Chris Millis/ A.Spooner-Cleverly
	Youth council update (included in cabinet papers)	A.Spooner-Cleverly
	Report comparing absence figures for old school cohorts at Ysgol Bae Baglan and Key stage 4 GCSE Performance	Andrew Thomas/ John Burge
28 February 2019	Creative Schools	Mike Daley

	Welsh Government entrepreneur strategy	Mike Daley
	Respect agenda report	Andrew Thomas
11 April 2019	Play Strategy Update – included in Cabinet Paper – (Think Families report)	A.Spooner-Cleverly
	Information on highlight monitoring report to Welsh government be circulated to committee	Andrew Thomas
23 May 2019	Termly updates on long term staff absence for information	Human Resources (TBC)
	Presentation from responsible officer at Cwmtawe Comprehensive School	Chris Millis
	School improvement literacy	Mike Daley

#### **Items to be programmed in for future meetings**

- Update on how new schools were performing – Ysgol Cwm Brombil, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Dur, Ysgol Carreg Hir and Ysgol Mynydd Newydd (Autumn 2019)

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