



**EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

2.00 pm THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

COMMITTEE ROOM 1/2 - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE

PART 1

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 3 - 12*)

To scrutinise information and monitoring issues being reported by:

3. Neath Port Talbot Music Service (*Pages 13 - 18*)
Report of the Head of Participation
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 Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972

S.Phillips
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Friday, 14 September 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 Voting Members** M.Caddick and A. Amor

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

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.*

EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Members Present:

26 July 2018

Vice Chairperson: Councillor M.Crowley

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

Co-opted Voting Members: M.Caddick and A. Amor

Officers In Attendance A.Evans, C.Millis, A.Thomas, J.Burge, H.Lervy, R.Crowhurst and J.Davies

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

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Cllr. S. Harris	Private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as she is a governor of Creunant Junior School
Cllr. S. Dafydd	Report of the Head of Transformation re: Strategic School Improvement Programme and the private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as he is a governor of St. Joseph's Infant and Primary School and 6 th Form and Ysgol Bae Baglan.
Cllr. R. Taylor	Report of the Head of Transformation re: Pupil Attendance and the private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as she is a governor of Eastern Primary School and Groes Primary School, and the report of the Head of Participation re: Implementation and

- Delivery of the Childcare Offer Wales as her mother owns a childcare business in one of the areas where the scheme will be trialled.
- Cllr. M. Protheroe Report of the Head of Transformation re: Pupil Attendance and the private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as he is a governor of Melin Primary School and Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School.
- Cllr. D. Whitelock Report of the Head of Transformation re: Pupil Attendance and the private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as he is a school governor and has grandchildren of school age.
- Cllr. S. Miller Report of the Head of Transformation re: Strategic School Improvement Programme and the private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as she is a governor of Melin Primary School.
- Cllr. M. Crowley Private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves and the report of the Head of Transformation re: Additional Learning Needs Reform as he is a school governor.
- Marie Caddick Private Report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves and the report of the Head of Transformation re: Pupil Attendance as she is a school governor.
- Cllr. D. Morgan Private Report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as he is the chair of governors of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm-Nedd.
- Cllr. M. Ellis Report of the Head of Participation re: Home to School Transport 2017/18 as he is a governor of Ysgol Cwm Brombil.
- Cllr. H. N. James Report of the Head of Transformation re: Pupil Attendance and the private report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves as he is a shadow governor of Ysgol Bro Dur, Ysgol Carreg Hir and Llansawel Primary School.
- Adam Amor Report of the Head of Transformation re: Pupil Attendance, the report of the Head of Participation re: Home to School Transport 2017/18, the private Report of the Head of Transformation re: School Reserves, and the report of the Head of Transformation re: Pupil

Attendance as he is governor of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, and a company Director at a business that is a supplier of MEAS.

2. **MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14TH JUNE.**

Members referred to section 3.1 of the minutes in relation to the Welsh Government Feminine Hygiene Grant, and queried whether representations had been made by Officers and the Committee to Assembly Member Julie James regarding the terms of the grant. Officers explained that all schools had been engaged in order to gain an understanding of the practices currently in place before formulating a response to Welsh Government (WG), and that the process was now complete. Officers informed the Committee that a letter had been sent to WG acknowledging receipt of the grant and that money would be distributed to the schools in September. Officers added that they did not envisage that the terms of the grant would place restrictions on how the money would be spent on feminine hygiene products.

The Committee noted the minutes.

3. **STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - A REPORT ON A NEW 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL BUILD**

The Committee received the Strategic School Improvement Programme – A Report On A New 21st Century School Build as contained within the circulated report.

Members referred to point 19 on page 17 of the report which stated that 27% of pupils had additional learning needs, and queried whether these learning needs were considered minimal, moderate or significant, or if there was a mix. Officers informed Members that there was a mix.

Members questioned how the Key Stage Four results at the new school compared to the Key Stage Four results at the previous schools. Officers explained that it was difficult to compare as they were different cohorts and there was a higher number of pupils in the previous schools with learning needs which made it difficult to compare. Officers stated that the results in the new school were higher than expected and exceeded the targets that had been set.

Members queried whether absences for the old cohorts had been recorded at the new school. Members added that when the previous schools were in existence it was anticipated that attendance figures for the following term were due to decline. Officers explained that the information was no longer recorded for the old cohorts. Officers stated that attendance at Ysgol Bae Baglan was generally of a good standard. Officers informed Members that the Education and Welfare Officers had reported no real issues under the new school arrangements. Members stated that it was important to track issues regarding absences from the old schools through to new schools in order to establish whether the issues had been addressed under the new school arrangements, so that lessons could be learnt for the future. Officers explained that 40% of the children who were in the previous schools had not moved to the new school and there was a risk that any data and analysis could be inconclusive. Officers stated that work would be undertaken with the school to identify pupils from the old cohorts in order to compare absence rates under the previous and current schools.

Members requested for the Mike Tate from Ysgol Bae Baglan to be invited to a future meeting to give a presentation on their experiences and the lessons learnt. Officers stated that they would invite the relevant officer to a future meeting.

Members referred to point four on page 14 regarding the review with key focus groups and questioned the format of the review. Officers explained that focus groups were preferred to surveys, and were held over a day and a half. Officers added that other reviews such as the Safeguarding review was also taken into consideration. Members queried whether parents had been included in the review. Officers stated that parents had not been included in the review due to time constraints, but it was anticipated that governors would have raised similar issues.

Members complimented officers on the seamless transition from the previous schools to Ysgol Bae Baglan, and on the good work carried out to date.

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

4. **MINORITY ETHNIC ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE AND THE TRAVELLER EDUCATION SERVICE REPORT**

The Committee received the update on the issues of funding the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service and the Traveller Education Service as contained within the circulated report.

Members commented that it was important for the Authority to receive an equal share of the funding. Officers reassured Members that every effort would be made to maximise the amount of funding received by the Authority.

Members queried whether other agencies would receive a percentage of the money to administer the funding. Officers stated that there had been no clarity from WG yet, but further information would be brought back to the Committee as it became available.

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

5. **HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT 2017/18**

The Committee received information on the Home to School Transport 2017/18 as contained within the circulated report.

Members referred to point 12 on page 41, and queried what the reasons were behind the five appeals. Officers stated that the applications in question did not meet the criteria and were focused on convenience for parents instead of the needs of the children. Officers added that the cost of the service was expensive and had to be strictly managed.

Members commented that they welcomed the inclusion of the Voluntary Aided Pupils following previous discussions.

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

6. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19.**

Following discussions with officers during Item 4 - Strategic Schools for 21st Century – A Report On A New 21st Century School Build, it was agreed that figures regarding pupil attendance and absences for the old cohorts would be brought to the meeting on the 17th January 2018.

Members requested for the verified Key Stage Four results to be placed on the Forward Work Programme for the meeting in December. Officers stated that unverified Key Stage Four results would be circulated via e-mail and that the verified results would be available in December or January and would also be circulated via e-mail. Officers added that Members would also have the opportunity to scrutinise the results when the quarterly performance monitoring data was reported to the Committee.

Following discussion with officers during Item 6 – Home to School Transport 2017/18, Members requested a copy of the Home to School Appeals Panel Process and Policy. Officers stated that this would be circulated to Members via e-mail, and if there was a requirement for further information this could be raised at the next meeting.

Officers referred to the item programmed in on the Forward Work Planner for the 18th October titled Statemented Children – Update, and queried what information was required by the Committee. Members requested an explanation on how the process worked in practice.

Members questioned whether it was possible to programme in updates on how new schools such as Ysgol Cwm Brombil, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Dur, Ysgol Carreg Hir and Ysgol Mynydd Newydd were performing once they had become fully operational. Members queried whether it was possible for this information to be reported to the Committee in May 2019. Officers stated that no meaningful feedback or data would be available regarding the new schools until Autumn 2019. The Committee agreed for the updates to be brought back at this time.

The Committee congratulated the Chair on his achievement of being called to the bar.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

7. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:-

Cabinet Board Proposals

7.1 Additional Learning Needs Reform

The Committee received a presentation from Officers on the Additional Learning Needs Reform as contained within the circulated report.

Officers informed Members that this was the single biggest change to legislation for learners with additional learning needs in 25 years, and it would have a significant impact on resources. Officers stated that a Local Implementation Plan would be drafted and taken to Cabinet Board in the Autumn.

Members queried whether additional funding had been identified to implement the changes. Officers informed Members that WG would provide funding up until March 2020, and then the Authority and the schools would have to fund any additional costs.

Members acknowledged that the act placed significant pressure on the Authority, schools and other agencies with the introduction of additional duties and responsibilities. Members queried what the percentage was currently for pupils with additional learning needs. Officers explained that approximately 30 extra individuals were identified each year with additional learning needs. Officers informed Members that under the new legislation the Authority would be accountable for Individual Development Plans (IDP) for all agencies within the county borough.

Members queried whether there had been positive dialogue with other agencies and partners. Officers explained that a conference had taken place and an implementation plan had been prepared for WG. Officers informed Members that regular meetings were being held with Neath Port Talbot College, and discussions had taken place regarding the preferred method of training for the college to prepare for the legislative changes.

Members queried how the Authority would deal with the new demands imposed by the new legislation when resources were already at full capacity focusing on three to sixteen year olds. Officers stated that regular communication and partnership working would help to remedy the situation.

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

7.2 Pupil Attendance Update

The Committee received information in relation to Pupil Attendance as contained within the circulated reported. Officers stated that the data was not for a full academic year. Officers explained that there had been a significant increase in unauthorised absences during holiday periods, and that this was a typical pattern across Wales. Officers informed Members that compared to the rest of Wales the figures were not a cause for alarm.

Members commented that the attendance rate used to be a lot lower, and that the vast majority were now over 90%. Members added that the recent decrease in attendance was marginal

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

8. **URGENT ITEMS**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in the Minute No. 4(i) below, the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the time element.

PRE SCRUTINY

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:-

Cabinet Board Proposals

8.1 Implementation and Delivery of the Childcare Offer Wales

The Committee received information in relation to the Implementation and Delivery of the Childcare Offer Wales as contained within the circulated reported.

Members queried whether citizens from other wards not identified in the pilot could take advantage of the childcare offer if they were prepared to travel to the nearest pilot ward. Officers stated that the eligibility criteria was restricted to citizens living within the pilot wards only.

Members queried when the pilot was due to start, and when would the scheme be available to all wards. Officers stated that that pilot would begin in September 2018 and the scheme would be rolled out to all wards from January 2019 providing there were no issues identified during the pilot stage.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposal to be considered by Cabinet Board.

9. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

10. **SCHOOL RESERVES REPORT (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

The Committee received information in relation to School Reserves as contained within the circulated report.

Officers stated that various factors could affect school reserves. Officers informed Members that schools could build up reserves over a period of years in order to fund a particular project. Members queried whether recently amalgamated schools that had not spent their allocation due to time constraints would be at risk of having their reserves partially clawed back. Officers stated that each case was considered on its own merits.

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

CHAIRPERSON

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

6th September 2018

Education Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Head of Participation Chris Millis

Matter for Information: Cerdd NPT Music

Wards Affected: All wards

Purpose of the Report

To present members with information on the Cerdd NPT Music Service

Executive Summary

The attached report gives a full account of the current position of the Cerdd NPT Music Service

Background

The Cerdd NPT Music Service was established in September 2016 as a stand-alone Music Service for Neath Port Talbot following the disengagement from Swansea and the discontinuation of the West Glamorgan Music Service. The service continues to work very closely with all regions within the ERW Music Hub.

Staffing levels at present are one Manager, two Senior Team Leaders, twenty-four contracted teachers (18 FTE) and three self-employed teachers. All contracted staff undertake performance management, administered by the Senior Team Leaders.

Core funding was originally £272,000 but since the split from Swansea and in our first full financial year, the service ran efficiently with a £170,000 subsidy, achieved by restructuring the work force, re-setting timetables and cutting travel time and costs. This year's core funding is £160,000.

Our highly skilled team of peripatetic teachers deliver weekly high quality instrumental, vocal and full class music curriculum lessons to nearly all primary schools (with the exception of Alderman Davies and Maesmarchog), both all through schools, all secondary schools and one special school in Neath Port Talbot at a very competitive rate compared to other music services in Wales. Information from our most recent data tells us we deliver to just under 5,000 NPT children a week and 2,000 of these receive vocal or instrumental lessons. We are in constant contact with schools in order to deliver bespoke music packages which suit the individual needs of the schools.

“Buy back” is at the discretion of headteachers and dependent on how much they value music within their school. The feedback from schools and heads of music continues to be extremely positive. In presentations to both LLAN and NAASH we were promised full support from both bodies, who stated they are very satisfied with the new service and the team of peripatetic staff are held in very high regard.

Cerdd NPT Music staff run three after school Music Centres where NPT students are invited to join one of our five ensembles and are offered many opportunities to perform in public as well as taking part in masterclasses and residential courses. The focus at music centres is on improving standards, pupil attendance and inclusion. We have started a new Woodwind section at one of the Music Centres and we are now providing a free bus to Dwr Y Felin and Cwmtawe Music Centres to encourage children from Port Talbot, Margam and Cymer Afan to attend the centres to enhance their musical experiences.

We have recently established a Senior String Orchestra and hope to build on this to eventually form a County Youth Orchestra in NPT.

The Cwmtawe Youth Band, which is the competing band within our Senior Youth Brass Band, has recently qualified to represent Wales in the 4th Section at the upcoming National Brass Band Championship Finals held in Cheltenham.

We had strong representation on the ERW (Six Counties) Brass Band course and expect good representation on the ERW Orchestral course next year. Six NPT pupils

have been offered places on the Welsh National Youth Brass Band course this summer.

Our Cerdd NPT Music Summer Concert at Margam Orangery in July showcased over 200 NPT pupils in five ensembles and was a great success. Our next Cerdd NPT Music concert will be a Remembrance Sunday Concert held on 11th November 2018 at Saint David's Church commemorating the centenary of the end of WW1.

As part of our new 'Young People's Well Being Project' we held three Choir Workshop days for year 7 to year 13 pupils attending NPT Schools or College. We hope to have further workshop days and form a County Youth Choir by seeking grant funding for this project. We held four free Music Days for all year 4, 5 and 6 pupils at The Princess Royal Theatre and Pontardawe Arts Centre in September 2017. The children were entertained by a Staff Orchestra and Soul Band and had a chance to learn about the different instruments at a 'try them out' instrument session. This was a very successful project and there was an increase in take up of music provision in some schools as a result. We are extending the project this year to include year 7 and 8 pupils. We will now perform shows at each NPT Secondary School and they will invite year 5 and 6 pupils from their feeder primary schools to attend. This will take place from September 18th to the 28th. We are also developing a 'P-buzz' workshop to deliver a one-off full class lesson on plastic wind instruments to involve as many NPT pupils as possible.

We have established a County Instrumental Examination structure for brass, woodwind, strings and harp which starts at Initial Level (pre Grade 1), Grade 1 and Grade 2 Level. This allows NPT instrumental pupils to experience the music examination process from preparation to the exam itself at no cost to parents.

In addition to County exams staff also prepare students for Trinity College, London, ABRSM, GCSE, AS and A Level practical music examinations and following the external examinations, the Grade 3 to 5 examination pieces can be used for the practical section of Music GCSE, Grade 5 to 7 for AS and A level. The higher grades of all the instrumental exams offer UCAS points to pupils and are a useful addition to University applications.

Cerdd NPT Music were granted Examination Centre status at Baglan Education and Training Centre in 2017 by Trinity College, London. We have hosted successful sessions of brass and woodwind exams at BETC and our first string exams took place there in January 2018 with a 100% pass rate across each instrumental discipline. Our most recent success has been to be certified as a Rock and Pop Examination Centre and the first of these exams were held on the 21st July 2018 with a 100% pass rate.

The WAG Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee launched a Report on their 'Inquiry into funding for and access to Music Education' in June 2018. The report contained sixteen recommendations. There is a strong feeling that this could result in Music Services throughout Wales being centrally funded by Welsh Government as the report suggests there is a 'Music Culture Crisis' due to cuts to Music Service funding over many years.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

N/A

Workforce Impacts

N/A

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

There is no requirement for consultation

Recommendations

That members note this report for information

Reasons for Proposed Decision

N/A

Implementation of Decision

N/A

Appendices

National Assembly for Wales Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Hitting the Right Note, Inquiry into funding for and access to music education

<http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11595/cr-ld11595-e.pdf>

Officer Contact

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(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	Report on the results of the combating poverty pilot	Andrew Jarrett/ Aled Evans
	Review of the Music Service following recent Changes to service delivery	Mike Daley/ Chris Millis
18 October 2018	WESP	Aled Evans
	Statemented Children - update	Andrew Thomas
29 November 2018		
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		
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 – HR
- Creative Schools – Mike Daley
- School improvement literacy – Mike Daley
- Welsh Government entrepreneur strategy – N/A
- Respect agenda report – Andrew Thomas
- Presentation from responsible officer at Cwmtawe Comprehensive School

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