

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES EDUCATION BOARD
REPORT OF HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION – ANDREW THOMAS

3rd December 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED:

All Wards

Reorganisation and Inclusion of the Provision of pupils who receive their education otherwise than at school.

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members approval to implement the proposal previously agreed for consultation with amendments following the consultation process.

Executive Summary

2. The Consultation Report sets out the Local Authority's strategic approach to wellbeing and behaviour provision with particular reference to pupils who are taught outside of the school setting, in relation to the Home Education and Engage Service areas.
3. The proposal has been further developed following consultation. Whilst there was general agreement that there needed to be changes to the service offered there was concern from staff and parents regarding some aspects of the proposal.
4. The Consultation Response recognises these concerns and as such it amends the proposal in two key areas.
 - 4.1 The education of pupils who are school refusers or have significant and serious medical needs – currently these pupils are educated at home by the home

education service. The authority will maintain this provision for those pupils currently utilising the service and whose needs are such that they cannot leave their home, employing if possible, the same teacher as at present, with the teacher coming under the management of the pupil's mainstream school.

- 4.2 Schools may choose whether or not to use this service in relation to any new pupil whose condition prevents them from leaving their home to be educated. Costs incurred by the authority will be recharged to the schools sector budget.
- 4.3 There are a number of pupils, particularly at Years 10 and 11, for whom education at mainstream school is unsuitable, this includes pupils twice excluded, a small number of movers in to the authority at Year 11 and pupils who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties that cannot be addressed at school or at either Secondary Education Nurture Centres.
- 4.4 The provision currently based at Bevin Avenue caters for most of these pupils but in unsuitable premises. The authority will source and staff an alternative site for the education of up to 24 pupils with three teaching and four non-teaching staff. This cost will be met within the existing budget cost base. The provision will be placed under the management of a yet to be determined school.
- 4.5 The proposal does indicate a new Secondary Education Nurture Centre (SENC); this will be placed within a yet to determined school and will cater for 16 pupils with behavioural difficulties. The SENC based at Ysgol Hendrefelin will continue to cater for 16 pupils with school anxiety issues.

- 4.6 The reintegration of pupils currently on the Home Education Service will be managed during the Spring Term 2016, with each pupil identified as 'returning to school' being supported by the teacher they currently work with. It is inappropriate to reintegrate the 22 Year 11 pupils currently educated outside of the school setting, these pupils will be supported within the service until the end of their education.

Background

5. The authority has consulted on a proposal: 'A Reorganisation of the provision for pupils who receive their education otherwise than at school' (Appendix 1). The authority has considered its response to the consultation (Appendix 2) and amended the original proposal into a final document 'A Reorganisation and Inclusion of the provision for pupils who receive their education otherwise than at school'. (Appendix 3)
6. Officers recommend that the proposals be implemented with the identified amendments.

Financial Appraisal

7. The proposed new model will be met from the cost base of the current Education Outside of School Setting and the Engage Continuation budget.

Equality Impact Assessment

8. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken, amended following consultation to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged by implementation of the proposal. (Appendix 4). The Equality Impact Assessment has found that there is no adverse effect on any particular group and the process has checks and monitoring in place.

Workforce Impact

9. The creation of 9 posts outlined within the proposal will be supplemented by the development of the alternative site for pupils whose social, emotional and behavioural difficulties cannot be met at a mainstream school; this will lead to three additional teaching and non-teaching posts. The proposal will impact on current staff employment upon implementation existing staff will cease to be employed but will be eligible to apply for posts in the new structure as they will possess many of the skills required in the new structure.

As part of the reorganisation process all staff will be supported by the relevant authority policies and procedures which will include full consultation. Employees identified at risk of redundancy will be given access to the Council's prior consideration register. Throughout the process the Council will be working to secure the employment of staff. Previous experience has shown that some staff may wish to secure employment in the structure but others take the opportunity to take on new challenges elsewhere. The Council is proud of its track record for supporting staff in such situations.

Legal Impact

10. The authority discharges its duty of providing an education for pupils of statutory school age.

Consultation

11. The reorganisation proposal has been subject to external consultation. Copies of the consultation responses have been provided for members in the Members Rooms at Port Talbot and Neath Civic Centres.

Recommendations

12. Having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment and consideration of the consultation responses, Members are asked to approve:

- a) The closure of the Council's Engage service
- b) The development of alternative arrangements for pupils who would normally receive their education via the Education Outside of the School Setting and Engage services, through a suitable provision to be managed by a school (schools) governing body, yet to be confirmed and at a site(s), yet for to be identified.
- c) Delegation of authority to the Head of Transformation to implement the recommendations

Reason for Proposed Decision

1. To support schools in providing an inclusive education for all their pupils.
2. To ensure that pupils that have to be taught out of school due to exclusion, health or social, emotional, behavioural difficulties receive an education appropriate to their needs.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – A Reorganisation of the provision of pupils who receive their education otherwise than at school

Appendix 2 – Consultation Responses

Appendix 3 – A Reorganisation and Inclusion of the provision for pupils who receive their education otherwise than at school.

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Statement

List of Background Papers

Education other than at school: a good practice guide (Estyn June 2015) 'Review of Inclusion in Neath Port Talbot 2014', March 2014
Inclusion Review Action Plan, October 2014.

Officer Contacts

Andrew Thomas - Head of Transformation

E-mail: a.d.thomas@npt.gov.uk

Telephone: 01639 763314

Hayley Lervy

E-mail: h.lervy@npt.gov.uk

Telephone 01639 763143