

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee

28 April 2016

Report of the Head of Participation Chris Millis

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Card for Minority Ethnic Achievement Support (MEAS) Team

Purpose of the Report

To present to Members the Report Card developed by the Minority Ethnic Achievement Support (MEAS) team.

Executive Summary

The attached Report Card summarises the functions of the MEAS team.

Background

MEAS is a peripatetic team in the Education Development and Inclusion Service (EDIS) which support Ethnic Minority (EM) learners at risk of underachievement and learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL) in Neath Port Talbot schools and post 16 provision.

MEAS is a team of Teacher Development Officers (2.4 Full time Equivalent (FTE), Bilingual Teaching Assistants (1.5 FTE), Administration Support (16 hours) and Casual interpreters (0 hours, employed when required).

MEAS also currently employ temporary (until January 2017) Arabic speaking BTAs to support Refugee learners (4.8 FTE).

MEAS are funded by the Welsh Government through the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) and receive additional funding for Arabic BTAs directly from the Home Office.

MEAS engage with a number of partners to provide a range of support for EM/EAL learners and their families and schools to ensure attainment/achievement, which include:

- Advice and training on a range of EM/EAL good practice
- Providing in class support for learners for learners to access the curriculum
- Interpreting and translation
- Assessment in home language and English language acquisition
- Promoting cultural diversity and anti-racism
- Supporting the attainment of first language examinations (GCSE, AS and A level)
- Transition support for learners across Key Stages and post 16
- Partnership working with community groups, national organisations and EAL services in ERW consortium and Wales.

Financial Impact

MEAS are funded annually (April - March) and have had cuts to their funding in the last 3 years due to the reduction of grant allocated from the Welsh government. The impact of this reduction has resulted in MEAS having to make redundancies in March 2015. However the additional temporary funding from the Home Office has ensured support for Syrian Refugee learners. There is an ongoing pressure to

provide continuous interpreting and translating for learners/families and schools, difficult to meet with current funding level.

MEAS bids annually for funding from other organisations such as the British Council (for Chinese teachers to work in NPTCBC schools each year - fully funded by the British Council) and Black History Association Wales (workshops and cultural diversity event). But this is not guaranteed funding.

Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the purpose of this report. However a full EIA was completed in March 2015, due to the Management of Change Procedure /Redundancies in the MEAS team.

Workforce Impacts

There are no Workforce implications for the purpose of this report. However, the appointments of additional Arabic speaking staff are having an impact on the existing MEAS staff. Reduced MEAS team members have been given additional responsibilities for induction and ongoing training of new staff as well as the Professional development of both the MEAS team and mainstream school staff.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal implications.

Risk Management

No requirement for risk assessment. However it should be noted that Home Office funding for Refugee learners will be substantially reduced /not available to MEAS after Year 1.

Consultation

No requirement for consultation.

Recommendations

Item for monitoring only.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

N/A

Implementation of Decision

N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Minority Ethnic Achievement Support Team Report Card

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