

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 3 November 2016

Report of the Head of Participation

Chris Millis

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected:

All wards

Service Report Card for the Traveller Education Service

Purpose of the Report

To present to members the report card developed by the Traveller Education Service Manager

Executive Summary

The attached Report Card summarises the functions of the Traveller Education Service

Background

The Traveller Education Service (TES) works with all pre-school, primary, secondary, Further Education Colleges and special schools in Neath Port Talbot to provide support for pupils from the Gypsy/Traveller community. We are a small, team who have recently expanded our workforce from one teacher/manager, one fulltime teaching assistant and two part time teaching assistants to a further fulltime teaching assistant and one part time teaching assistant. One part time member of the team remains on maternity leave.

Staff are funded through the Education Improvement Grant, funding is not ring fenced. The majority of our budget is spent on staffing-£91,944, with further expenditure on home-school transport, resources and equipment. The projected revenue budget for 2016/17 is £119,927.

Staff undertake a wide range of activities to support pupils, parents, schools and outside agencies.

- TES liaises with housed families and those living on one of our three sites in Neath and Port Talbot. We work with other professionals in order to facilitate provision of educational support within the county where deemed necessary.
- We also focus on social development and behaviour and when necessary provide information to assist assessment, through agencies like Team Around the Family, Behaviour Support Team and the Support For Learning.
- At secondary level we offer support for pupils to study a broad curriculum, through integration into mainstream schools. Where mainstream attendance is not possible for cultural reasons, engagement with other agencies to provide educational courses is supported and encouraged.
- We strive to improve literacy and numeracy for both pupils and parents, assisting with support for parents to attend adult education courses. Our parents can then help support their own children as they become more confident and act as essential role models.
- We provide links to careers advisors and give support for pupils and adults in completing Curriculum Vitae's and in gaining their driving theory test through revision materials.
- The team provides 1.2.1 support for secondary pupils who would not otherwise attend, through small group intervention. We provide a vital link between schools and families and are often called upon to assist with agencies engaging with families who would otherwise find it difficult to engage for example Social Services, Benefits Agency.

- At times we offer advice to other provision providers like Hillside Secure Unit who may have Traveller children in their care. We work with the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) as well as the Home Education Service. We monitor attendance in liaison with schools and the EWO service, attending homes on site or within the housed community in order to promote school attendance
- We visit unauthorised, roadside camps offering help and support to families. We also engage with fairground and circus families travelling through the area.
- We provide regular updates of pupil numbers and family movements as required, working in liaison with the Traveller Liaison Officer. We currently work with a number of agencies through the Neath Port Talbot Gypsy/Traveller forum which was set up in order to provide more cohesive support for the community.
- We compile and submit bids to organisations in order to secure funding where possible. Regular reports are provided for the Swansea Bay Equalities forum and meetings are attended. We provide information to the Local Authority (LA) and Welsh Government (WG) as requested. We attend meetings and prepare reports as needed for agencies working with our families. We also represent the authority in meetings both locally and nationally. Promotion of equal opportunities and inclusion is paramount to our service.

Gathering accurate data still presents a challenge due to the transient nature of our service users. A great deal of time is spent tracking families in and out of the area, passing on and receiving updates and in ensuring information is relayed to relevant parties.

Financial Impact

The Traveller Education Service is funded through the Education Improvement Grant.

Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality impacts associated with this report

Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

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

Items for monitoring only

Reasons for Proposed Decision

N/A

Implementation of Decision

N/A

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Traveller Education Service Report Card

Officer Contact

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