

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children and Young People Cabinet Board

26th January 2017

Report of the Head of Participation - C. Millis

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Education through Regional Working (ERW) Business Plan 2017-20 (draft)

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the draft ERW Business Plan 2017-20

Executive Summary

2. ERW is an alliance of 6 local authorities governed by a legally constituted joint committee. Its aim is to implement the agreed regional strategy and business plan to support school improvement. ERW's vision is for a consistently high performing school network across the region with every school a good school offering high standards of teaching under good leadership resulting in all learners achieving their maximum potential.

Background

3. The ERW plan is a three year plan 2017-20 designed and delivered by the six constituent local authorities of ERW. It will be formally discussed and agreed by the Joint Committee in February 2017.

There are three priority outcomes –

- Leading learning
- Teaching and learning
- Support for learning

In addition, the region is working to reduce the impact of poverty on attainment and embed a self-improving system of school led improvement.

Standards are good and improving, when compared with other regions, with performance on all indicators improving at a sustainable and consistent pace. Overall, the region performs well with pupils in receipt of free school meals more likely to perform well in ERW than in other regions.

4. The ERW strategy sets the following expectations and priority outcomes:

Improve the quality of leadership and its impact on outcomes;

Improve the quality of teaching and learning experiences and its impact on outcomes

Reduce the impact of poverty on attainment, support vulnerable learners and ensure all learners reach their potential

Deliver high quality and bespoke support, challenge and intervention to schools

To maintain an effective and efficient organisation to support the core business of ERW.

The ERW Strategy also sets out ERW's mission to:

“Build school capacity through support, challenge and intervention to become self-improving, resilient organisations which continually improve outcomes for learners”

through ensuring effective performance in all schools across the region, managing and deploying well trained challenge advisers to challenge performance and broker bespoke support

The region is committed to working within the co-constructed National Model, and to respond to the most recent amendments.

Our collaboration locally within education services across six local authorities over the last five years has led to significant improvements in our way of working and is having significant positive impact. The region wants to further maximise our collaborative advantage in order to make the best use of our resources to influence learner outcomes. This year we will review opportunities to better use our resources beyond school improvement. We also want to continue to play a national role with other regions to deliver nationally.

Strengthening our governance arrangements and challenging each other at local authority level have been key characteristics of our work during the last few years. This robust discussion means that we have come to a consensus on the future goals and arrangements. All stakeholders, specifically LAs, are aware of what their contribution has to be to show continued improvements regionally.

An improved digital infrastructure within which to work has made our work increasingly efficient. The detailed use of data and its analysis is enabling us to better target and impact on outcomes. Our evidence clearly demonstrates the impact of multi-agency working on attendance and outcomes in all key stages and post-16. This is clearly articulated in our regional strategy. We will this year strengthen the infrastructure regionally to share information more easily so that our analysis of the bespoke needs of schools are better captured and planned for. This will enable us to drive better collaboration between schools and to enable schools to undertake some functions that traditionally would have been centrally led and delivered. Using Welsh Government's "Hwb" infrastructure to enable schools to better engage with us is part of our strategy.

However, despite having regional KS4 outcomes above the Welsh average for over five years, we recognise that the pace of improvement on the most significant indicators at all key stages is not consistent across the region and therefore not good enough. The support and intervention we have been able to give each other within and across local authorities has enabled us as a region to have no LA in follow up. This way of working is having a very positive effect with significant improvements made.

Financial Impact

5. There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

6. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

7. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

8. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

9. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

10. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

11. That members note the ERW Business Plan

Reasons for Proposed Decision

12. N/A

Implementation of Decision

13. N/A

Appendices

14. ERW Business Plan

List of Background Papers

15. ERW Business Plan 2016-19

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