

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

28th February 2019

Report of the Head of Transformation – Andrew Thomas

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Wards

REPORT ON EMBEDDING THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC) WITHIN NEATH PORT TALBOT SCHOOLS.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members with an update on embedding the UNCRC across all our schools through the implementation of the Unicef Rights Respecting Award (RRA).

Executive Summary

2. This report provides members with an overview of the rationale for embedding the UNCRC across all our schools and the benefits of this approach.
3. This report will provide Members with an update on progress in implementing the RRA across schools.

Background

4. Following the Review of Inclusion in Neath Port Talbot 2014 and the Reorganisation of Provision for Pupils who receive their Education Otherwise than at School 2015, a continuum of support for children and young people with social emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) has been developed.

The continuum outlines the different stages of support and interventions for pupils in NPT schools, from a universal offer of provision for all pupils through to specialist provision for pupils with more complex needs. The Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) provides a universal offer.

This programme provides a whole school framework for wellbeing, supporting schools to embed children's human rights in their ethos and culture. The award recognises a school's achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve wellbeing and help all children and young people realise their potential.

The UNCRC is embedded in Welsh law with Welsh Government placing a duty on themselves to have due regard to children's rights when making decisions. It is explicitly referenced in the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 as a duty to have regard to the UNCRC and a duty to have regard to the UNCRC on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The RRSA works towards our local authority objective *to improve the well-being of children and young people*, as well as fitting in with person centred approaches which are integral to ALN Reform placing the child firmly in the centre of planning and decision making. It also supports the outcomes focussed approach being used by Children's Services.

Impact evaluations are carried out by Unicef UK and the main areas of impact are:

- Improved self-esteem and wellbeing
- Improved relationships and behaviour (reductions in bullying and exclusions and improved attendance)
- Improved engagement in learning

- Positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction of prejudice
- Children and young people's enhanced moral understanding
- Children and young people's support for global justice
- Children and young people become more involved in decision-making in schools.

This impact has been recognised by local authorities across Wales with many now starting to implement it within their schools.

The RRA supports all initiatives currently being delivered in our schools including Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA), Relationship Based Play and Attachment Aware Schools. The award will also support further innovative interventions and the development of projects to enhance the school curriculum. It will give schools a whole school framework for wellbeing, which is a key area under within the new Estyn framework. The UNCRC is one of the priorities for the Children's Commissioner for Wales and it also being developed in the New Curriculum for Wales. Supporting our schools to develop this will ensure even more positive outcomes for our pupils, schools and communities.

Update on NPT Progress

41 schools have registered for the award, 18 have achieved Bronze and 7 have achieved silver. See Appendix 1

Feedback from schools so far has been positive.

Financial Impact

5. A partnership agreement between Unicef UK and Neath Port Talbot LA is in place setting out the commitments from both parties to deliver the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) to all schools in Neath Port Talbot. This includes providing schools with the cost of registering and achieving the Bronze award. It gives schools access to training and support to ensure they can achieve Bronze accreditation as quickly as possible. Individual schools will also receive tailored support visits or bespoke training. This implementation will cost on average £20k each year for 3 years. This cost will be met from within existing resources.

Integrated Impact Assessment

6. There are no impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

7. There are no implications on workforce.

Recommendations

8. That Members note the content of the report and the information

Appendices

9. Appendix 1 - Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)

List of Background Papers

10. None

Officer Contact

11. Andrew Thomas Head of Transformation
Hayley Lervy Co-ordinator for Inclusion
Liz Dennis Wellbeing Team Manager

Appendix One

Account Name	Registration Date	Bronze Completion	Silver Completion
Abbey Primary School	03/10/2018	13/02/2019	
Abergwynfi Primary School	01/10/2018		
Alderman Davies CIW Primary School	15/09/2010		
Alderman Davies CIW Primary School	03/10/2018		
Alltwen Primary School	02/12/2016	11/07/2017	
Awel y Môr Primary School	03/10/2018		
Baglan Primary School	17/01/2014	05/05/2014	01/07/2015
Blaenbaglan Primary School	09/11/2018		
Blaengwrach Primary School	01/08/2016	02/08/2018	
Blaenhonddan Primary School	03/10/2018		
Bryncoch CIW Primary School	12/10/2018		
Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School	14/06/2017	22/10/2018	
Coedffranc Primary School	04/02/2014	01/03/2016	11/12/2017
Coed Hirwaun Primary School	30/07/2014	28/06/2016	19/07/2016
Creunant Primary School	18/10/2018		
Crymlyn Primary School	05/07/2018	15/01/2019	
Crynallt Primary School	30/07/2014	03/12/2014	09/07/2015
Cwmnedd Primary School	10/05/2018	22/10/2018	
Cwmtawe Community School	13/04/2018	29/01/2019	
Cymer Afan Comprehensive School	02/07/2014	08/05/2015	25/06/2015
Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School	06/07/2017	16/01/2018	
Gnoll Primary School	24/10/2018		
Godre'rgraig Primary School	03/10/2018		
Llangatwg Community School	18/10/2018		
Rhydyfro Primary School	15/12/2015	10/12/2018	
Sandfields Primary School	03/10/2018		
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School	31/07/2018		
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School	03/10/2018		
St Joseph's RC School and 6th Form Centre	01/10/2018		
St Therese's Catholic Primary School	10/09/2018		
Tairgwaith Primary School	03/10/2018		
YGG Castell-nedd	29/09/2016		
YGG Cwm Nedd	03/10/2018		
YGGD Cwmllynfell	12/10/2017	09/11/2018	
YGGD Trebannws	24/09/2018		
YGG Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	01/03/2016	13/02/2019	
YGG Pontardawe	16/07/2014	02/11/2016	25/11/2016
Ynysfach Primary School	20/06/2014	20/06/2014	07/07/2014
Ysgol Bae Baglan	12/10/2018		
Ysgol Carreg Hir	18/10/2018		
Ysgol Maes Y Coed	29/08/2018		
Total	Count		