



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

2 October 2019

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, LEISURE AND LIFELONG LEARNING

- A. Evans

Matter for: Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title:

1. Wales Audit Office (WAO) - Well-being of Future Generations: An examination of the step 'We will work with partners to ensure that we target support to those children at risk of adverse childhood experiences in the first 1,000 days of their lives' – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council June 2019 (Appendix 1)

Purpose of the Report:

2. To present to Cabinet the WAO's review of the Council's approach to working with partners to support children in their early years, to assess the extent to which we have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and for Cabinet to note the proposed actions in response to the review findings.

Background:

3. During the period November 2018 to February 2019, the WAO undertook fieldwork to examine the extent to which the Council is acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle in its work with partners to ensure support is targeted to those children at risk of adverse childhood experience in the first 1,000 days of their lives. The review looked at evidence of planning over an appropriate

timescale, resources allocated and through interview assessed officers and elected members' understanding of current and long-term needs and the associated challenges and opportunities.

4. Actions in relation to supporting children in their early years, particularly those at risk of adverse childhood experiences in the first 1,000 days of their lives have been identified as a key objective under the Public Services Board's (PSB) Well-being Plan. Progress against this objective is reported to the PSB on a regular basis.

Main Findings:

5. The review found that the Council is acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle in developing the step but there are opportunities to further embed the five ways of working.
6. The report contains six actions that the Council has identified as responses to the opportunities identified through the fieldwork. These are as follows:

O1: Develop a more systematic approach to understanding communities and the vulnerabilities of families, including:

- introducing/embedding a new model of leadership that supports a more joined-up approach across services (including joint goals) and better shared understanding; and
- engaging with communities to develop a narrative of school readiness.

O2: The Council to help drive a fundamental change in working with partners and explore how to measure outcomes – to deliver sustainable change. This could include: trying different methodologies, including the possible use of case studies and learning from practice in a systematic way to facilitate ongoing learning and help professional practice to evolve.

O3: Develop an understanding of community assets across the Council and how these might be utilised/developed to support communities.

O4: Participate in the Early Action Together programme initiated by South Wales Police. Introduce a pilot in Sandfields West to focus on ACEs to consider how agencies work together more effectively to support communities.

O5: To look at adjusting service models to re-balance budgets and resources towards spending on the preventative agenda.

O6: Commit IT and corporate policy resource to develop data analytics and intelligence.

Next steps: Above actions will be incorporated into an action plan and presented to the PSB for approval. Latest work and progress on this objective is included in appendix 2 and has been reported to the PSB.

Financial Impact:

7. The audit work undertaken by the Wales Audit Office has been delivered within the budget allocated for audit and inspection work.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

8. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

9. No implications.

Workforce Impacts:

10. No implications.

Legal Impacts:

11. Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) and Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Auditor General for Wales is required to carry out audit work of the Council's business throughout the year as agreed in the audit programme and to assess whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

Risk Management Impacts:

12. The Audit has not identified any corporate governance issues.

Consultation:

13. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

14. That members note the WAO findings, following their examination of the Council's approach to Well-being of Future Generations: An examination of the step 'We will work with partners to ensure that we target support to those children at risk of adverse childhood experiences in the first 1,000 days of their lives'.

Reason for Proposed Decision:

15. N/A

15. Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

16. Appendix 1 – Wales Audit Office (WAO) - Well-being of Future Generations: An examination of the step 'We will work with partners to ensure that we target support to those children at risk of adverse childhood experiences in the first 1,000 days of their lives' – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council June 2019

17. Appendix 2- Updated Action Plan as presented to the PSB.

List of Background Papers:

18. Wales Audit Office audit programme 2018-19.

Officer Contact:

19. Aled Evans, Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning
Telephone: 01639 763298, email: a.evans@npt.gov.uk.