



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board**

**19 January 2022**

### **Report of the Head of Head of Early Years, Inclusion and Partnerships Hayley Lervy**

**Matter** for Decision

**Wards Affected:** All

### **Pastoral Support Programmes.**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- To provide Members with information on the purpose of a Pastoral Support Programme (PSP) within schools and a rationale for the development of the new guidance (**Appendix 1**) has been developed.
- To request Members' approval to proceed with the process of consultation with all relevant stakeholders for the new guidance for Pastoral Support Programmes in order for schools to better support children and young people who may be in receipt of a reduced timetable and/or at risk of exclusion.

## **Executive Summary:**

This report will provide members with information on the new guidance for schools on the use of PSPs and request permission to consult on the new document.

## **Background:**

The Welsh Government (WG) guidance, *Inclusion and Pupil Support* (2016), outlines the framework within which schools should implement a Pastoral Support Programme. *Exclusion from Schools and Pupil Referral Units* (WG 2019) also references the use of PSPs when educating and reintegrating excluded pupils.

Within the guidance Welsh Government define PSPs as a 'school-based intervention to help individual pupils to better manage their behaviour and to identify any support mechanisms which need to be put in place. The PSP should identify precise and realistic behavioural outcomes for the child to work towards.' (WG 2016, p.101).

The current Neath Port Talbot guidance is due for review and requires change as a result of new legislation, need and practices. The new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act (ALNET) and increased research and training on trauma informed practice have provided an opportunity to strengthen the previous guidance and reflect these changes.

The new guidance provides clear information and support for schools in developing a PSP. To ensure successful outcomes the PSP must have a multi-agency approach, this is highlighted in the new guidance where clear lines of responsibility can be formalised. The guidance

also sets out clear local authority monitoring procedures which will fulfil safeguarding duties.

Children and young people's participation and the rights of the child are central to the PSP process. To ensure the best possible outcomes for learners, training will accompany the PSP on how to facilitate the PSP process using a relational and trauma informed approach.

**Financial Impacts:**

No impact

**Integrated Impact Assessment:**

A First Impact Assessment has been completed (**Appendix 2**).

**Valleys Communities Impacts:**

No impact

**Workforce Impacts:**

Positive. Further staff training and professional development will be implemented once the PSP is approved following consultation

**Legal Impacts:**

Positive. The new guidance will incorporate new statutory legislation and further strengthen our safeguarding arrangements.

**Consultation:**

Consultation will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders on the new guidance, including schools, parents/carers and children and young people.

**Recommendations:**

That members approve the new PSP guidance to go out for consultation February – March 2022.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

The current guidance is due for review and requires updating to reflect new legislation and processes. This new guidance will further strengthen arrangements and monitoring of provision for learners with PSPs.

**Implementation of Decision:**

**Decision to be implemented after the three day call in**

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Proposed Pastoral Support Guidance

Appendix 2: First Stage Impact Assessment

**Officer Contact:**

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