

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson),
Councillors De'Ath, Philippa Hill-John, Joyce, Morgan, Phillips and
Singh

Co-opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative),
Carol Cobert (Church in Wales representative), Rebecca Crump
(Parent Governor Representative) and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent
Governor Representative)

43 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rhys Taylor

44 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

45 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on the 14 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

46 : CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM'S CONTRIBUTION TO RAISING STANDARDS IN CARDIFF SCHOOLS

The Chair welcomed Mike Glavin (Managing Director, Central South Consortium), Stuart Sherman and Kate Rowlands (Senior Challenge Advisors), Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills) and Nick Batchelar (Direction of Education and Lifelong Learning) to the meeting.

Mike Galvin and Stuart Sherman presented the report and outlined the following information to Members:

- The 5 priorities contained in the consortium business plan for April 2017 – March 2018
- Performance across the Central South region in 2017;
- Performance in Cardiff Council Schools
- Challenge and support provided by the Consortium on behalf of Cardiff Council. Updated figures were provided to Members:
 - There were 67 schools requiring green support and 54 requiring yellow support; and
 - The number of schools requiring a 'red' level support has fallen to 3 and now only 8 schools require an amber level of support.
- Additional support requested through the Local Authority Annex

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which welcomed the content of the report and in particular the agreement of the Consortium in relation to improvements that have been made.

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

Members were invited to comment, seek clarification, or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought clarification as to how the consortium will ensure the consistency with Challenger Advisors and were advised that initially there had only been limited input from the Consortium, however there are now regularly network meetings, certainly with the pioneer schools; unfortunately there is no funding available for non-pioneer schools.
- Members asked whether there had been a decrease in the number of vacancies for Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher positions and were advised that although precise information could not be given at the time, there was still an issue with recruiting the right calibre of staff in all areas.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the Way Forward.

47 : CARDIFF SCHOOL'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills), Nick Batchelar (Direction of Education and Lifelong Learning), Jackie Turner (Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), Richard Thomas (Headteacher at Ysgol Pencae), and Siân Voyce (Headteacher Hywel Dda Primary School) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she referred to the key strength's in Cardiff's performance in 2017, and in particular to the continuing reduction in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training; 8% in 2010 and currently 1.7%.

The Assistant Director presented the report and provided Members with a presentation.

Members were invited to comment, seek clarification, or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members requested further information as to whether there were year on year comparisons in relation to the 2017 Summary Headline Results across all key stages as opposed to results for 2011-12 and 2016-17 and were advised that the provision of data every 5 years is common practice.
- Members sought information from the Headteachers about their greatest challenges and the impact the Consortium has had and were advised that managing tight budgets was one of the most difficult issues but that the support from the Consortium has been good. Both head teachers also advised Members that the number of pupils with additional learning needs; with a statement; with 1:1 support, was also challenging.
- Members expressed concern in relation to the Key Stage 4 outcomes for looked after children and were advised that educational attainment of looked

after children was a priority across all key stages. Members also expressed concerns about the arrangements for education provision for those looked after children in out of county placements.

- Members were also advised that whilst education provision is improving there are still challenges, particularly in relation to traveller/Roma young people.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the Way Forward.

48 : IMPROVING PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) 2018 - 2022 (DRAFT CABINET REPORT)

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills), Nick Batchelar (Direction of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Jennie Hughes (Senior Achievement Leader – Inclusion) to the meeting to present the Cabinet Report.

The report outlines the three priorities:

- successful implementation of the ALN and Educational Tribunal Act;
- strengthening the Councils collective capacity to meet all needs; and
- ensuring sufficiency, high quality additional needs provision.

It also sets out the proposals in respect of 8 schools; Ty Gwyn Special School, The Hollies Special School, Greenhill School, Meadowbank Special School, Allensbank Primary School, St Mary the Virgin Church in Wales Primary School, Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Glantaf.

Cabinet will be asked to authorise officers to consult on the proposals, the outcome of the consultation will be reported where authorisation will be sought to publish the statutory notices.

Whilst Members did not have any questions of the Cabinet Member and Officers, a number of questions had been provided in writing from Members of the public.

- In relation to Meadowbank Special School officers confirmed that the proposal is to change the designation from specific language impairments, a term or diagnosis no longer used, to speech language and communication needs and complex learning disabilities. The change in terminology does not mean a change in the type of need.
- It is anticipated that there will be additional places for complex learning disabilities, it is anticipated that those places would be filled and would therefore ensure continued financial viability for the school.
- The proposal to phase out the SRB at Allensbank School and to open an 8-place early intervention class for children with speech and language needs is not to the detriment of Meadowbank School, it is a different type of need.

- Members sought clarification in relation to the revenue and capital investment needed for learners with additional needs, and referred specifically to in the increased demand anticipated for learners with emotional health and wellbeing needs; complex learning disabilities; and autism spectrum conditions. Officers advised that these are seen as very distinct areas of additional needs, but that they might be in the same school. It is important to make the most effective use of the resources available.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the Way Forward.

49 : URGENT ITEM - PROPOSED CHANGE OF STATUS OF ST DAVID'S CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Merry to make a statement in which she indicated that the decision to change the status of St David's Catholic Sixth Form College to become a Voluntary Aided School, maintained by the authority is ultimately not a decision for Cabinet, it is a decision for Welsh Government. The report to cabinet will make recommendations about the Councils response to the proposal.

The Director provided Members with the background details and advised Members that a consultation exercise is underway, and that the Council is the final consultee.

Members were invited to comment, seek clarification, or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members were advised that the change in status would have no material impact on current students, although it is hoped that there will be an expansion in student numbers in due course.
- Members queried whether there would be an impact on local schools and were informed that there will not be, it is something that has been raised at length in the consultation process.
- Members asked whether it would mean a change in the school admission arrangements and were advised that sixth forms are their own admission authority and already abide by the admissions code.

AGREED: That the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the Way Forward.

50 : WAY FORWARD

Members discussed the information received and identified a number of issues which the Chairperson agreed would be included in the letters that would be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the relevant Cabinet Members and officers, and the Consortium.

51 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is the budget meeting on 13 February 2018 at 10.00 am.

The meeting terminated at 7.00 pm

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