



County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW  
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir  
Caerdydd  
CF10 4UW  
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

## AGENDA

**Committee** CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time of Meeting** TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2021, 4.30 PM

**Venue** REMOTE VIA MS TEAMS

**Membership** Councillor Lee Bridgeman (Chair)  
Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins, Joyce, Melbourne, Molik, Phillips,  
Mia Rees and Singh

Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative) and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

*Time approx.*

- |          |  |         |
|----------|--|---------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>   | 4.30 pm |
|          | To receive apologies for absence.  |         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>  |         |
|          | To be made at the start of the agenda item in question, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.                       |         |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Minutes</b> ( <i>Pages 3 - 28</i> )   |         |
|          | To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on the 21 <sup>st</sup> September and 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2021. |         |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Interventions Hub</b> ( <i>Pages 29 - 32</i> )  | 4.35 pm |
|          | To receive an update on the development of the Interventions Hub   |         |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Reviewing Hub</b> ( <i>Pages 33 - 36</i> )  | 5.05 pm |
|          | To receive an update on the development of hub.  |         |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Committee Business Report</b> ( <i>Pages 37 - 50</i> )  | 5.35 pm |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Urgent Items (if any)</b>   |         |

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you have saved the Authority approx. £1.42 in printing costs

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

**8 Way Forward**

5.50 pm

To review the evidence and information gathered during consideration of each item and agree Members comments, observations and concerns to be passed on to the relevant Cabinet Member by the Chair.

**9 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee will be on Thursday 9 December 2021 at 4.30 via MS Teams.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director Governance & Legal Services**

Date: Wednesday, 3 November 2021

Contact: Mandy Farnham,

02920 872618, Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk

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

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson),  
Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins, Joyce, Melbourne, Molik, Phillips and Singh

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

Mia John (Cardiff Youth Council Representative)

60 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mia Rees. Councillor Phillips had indicated that he would be late attending.

61 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, were made:

COUNCILLOR	ITEM NO.	NATURE OF INTEREST
Cllr Bridgeman	8 – WESP	Personal – Family Member in Welsh medium education
Cllr Molik	8 – WESP	Personal – Family Member in Welsh medium education
Cllr Melbourne	8 – WESP	Personal – Family Member in Welsh medium education
Cllr Melbourne	9 – TY GLAS SITE	Personal – Ward Councillor for Llanishen and Thornhill
Cllr Phillips	8 – WESP	Personal – Family Member in receipt of ALN provision
Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Rep)	9 – TY GLAS SITE	Personal – Chair of Governors at Llanishen High School.

62 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on the 15 June 2021 and the 13 July 2021 were approved as a correct record of that meeting as proposed by Karen Dell'Armi and seconded by Patricia Arlotte.

The Chair expressed the Committee's thanks to Matthew Richards, Parent Governor Representative, who has decided not to renew his tenure on the Committee, for his commitment and contribution to the work of the Committee. A message of thanks and appreciation has been sent.

63 : CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK  
PROGRAMME 2021-22

The Chair invited Alison Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, to outline the main points of the report on the Work Programme 2021-22.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme 2021-22 be agreed and the Forward Plan be published.

64 : EDUCATION PANDEMIC RECOVERY UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), and Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning) to the meeting.

Councillor Merry was invited to make a statement, during which she provided Members with an update on activities over the summer and expressed gratitude to teachers, staff and partners who had taken part.

Officers provided Members with a presentation and provided with details of the Summer of Smiles, Enhanced Youth Service Provision, Summer Holiday Enrichment Programme, and the School September Restart.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members thanked and commended Officers on the social media campaign around the summer activities and the level of engagement it had inspired. Members sought clarification on whether participation was representative of the population of Cardiff, and whether there was any positive impact on school attendance. Members were also interested in whether there was detailed data for the different categories of young people, such as Children Looked After or with additional learning needs (ALN). Members were advised that data was being collated for a report that would address some of these questions. Attendance in September was lower than in previous years, but this was partly to be explained by the impact of outdoor events such as festivals immediately before the return to school.
- Members were interested in learning whether there were any plans to follow up the engagement particularly in relation to young people most at risk of becoming NEET. Members were advised that the identification of and intelligence on vulnerable groups had improved over the course of the pandemic because of the support that had been put in place. It is intended to build on that knowledge and share the intelligence with schools. Multi-agency support will continue in a long-term and sustainable way. Both young people who attended a project, and those who did not have been assigned a youth mentor for ongoing support. Members were advised that data in relation to tracking these young people can be provided at a future meeting together with information about the schools view of the impact of the summer programme.

- Members sought clarification on what equalities monitoring had revealed about the level of engagement with different communities. Members were advised that more information would be shared with the Committee when Officers had collated it.
- Members asked for information the guidance given to schools in relation to Track and Trace and the circumstances in which teachers and pupils have to self-isolate. Members were advised that the Council follows the Welsh Government guidance. People who are under 18 or have been double vaccinated and are close contacts of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 do not have to isolate. It is suggested that if there are people in the same household who have tested positive it is more sensible to self-isolate. This however is not a legally enforceable requirement. If cases rise more measures may be put in place.
- Members were advised about the widespread use of Lateral Flow Device Tests (LFTs), pupils in secondary schools and school staff have been very proactive in the use of these tests. The key thing is continuity of education, but staff illness or staff having to stay home as they are looking after children who have tested positive for Covid could prove a challenge. To help with this, 62 additional Non-Qualified Teachers (NQTs) have been put in place for the autumn term, funded by Welsh Government. Schools can use their top up recovery monies to fund those placements for a further two terms. Members also queried the inconsistencies in the approach taken by different schools and were advised that further conversations are taking place. Currently there are national guidelines in relation to isolation, but there are occasions when it would be prudent for pupils to remain at home, for example if there are a large number of cases recorded at the school.
- Members sought clarification on the engagement to be carried out with parents and children by schools and the Council in relation to vaccinations. They were advised that Welsh Government and NHS will be administering the programme.
- Members queried the arrangements for pupils being removed from role as they have been abroad, for example in Pakistan. Members were advised admissions are working closely with schools to ensure that the policy followed appropriately.
- Members sought reassurance that some of the successful programmes will be run again. Members were advised that there must be continued evaluation and celebration of those schemes with a view to ensuring continued funding from Welsh Government and continued involvement of partners who helps in ensuring the continued success of those schemes.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Caro Wild (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport) Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families), Simon Gilbert (Head for Planning) and Stuart Williams from the Planning Transport and Environment Directorate to the meeting.

Councillor Caro Wild was invited to make a statement in which he referred to the length of the process to date, but also stressed the importance of getting it right. Whilst 1200 responses have been received to the consultation to date, which in the main have been supportive, there is additional consultation planned for November to February to try and reach minority groups and also our young people; they are the future and the plan needs to be shaped in a child friendly way.

Councillor Sarah Merry was invited to make a statement in which she referenced the connection between the LDP, planned population growth, school provision, environmentally friendly policies and green spaces; all of which have a significant impact on our young people. It is important that the voices of our children and young people are heard.

Councillor Graham Hinchey was invited to make a statement in which he referred to the importance of providing appropriate community places and open spaces, particularly for our looked after population. They need to be planned for and embraced properly.

A presentation had been provided covering a number of topics:

- an overview of the Local Development Plan (LDP);
- the Consultation, its process and the results;
- the recommendation contained in the Cabinet Report: to approve the Replacement LDP Vision and Objectives and ISA Scoping Report;
- the LDP timetable next steps;
- the next consultation stage – strategic options; and
- Information in relation to population and household projections

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought clarification about the next phase of the consultation process, and how will it capture as many groups as possible. Members noted that officers were anxious to do more than during pandemic, for example face-to-face drop in sessions; use of videos to engage young people; digital platforms and social media; engage with schools and also the hard to reach groups.
- Members queried how far are the considerations emerging from the consultation are going to influence the development of future school sites and buildings. Planning officers advised schools

need to be placed in the most accessible place; connectivity and safe routes need to be considered, together with catchment areas.

- Members referred to the responses to the consultation and linking some of the responses with objectives of the 15 minute city. Officers believed that it was important to put in some criteria so it does not become just a badge.
- Members asked about public transport and the need to reduce or eliminate travelling through town to get to other areas of the city. Members were advised that consideration is being given to reducing the number of unnecessary journeys; increasing the number of park and ride facilities, and working with partners/large employers to create some bespoke services to get employees to work without the need for them to drive.
- Members asked whether, in relation to the new house building targets, are they realistic and feasible, particularly as there has been gaps in meeting targets previously. Members were advised that currently there are a large number of planning permissions to be built. That was not the case at the time of the previous LDP. Discussion will start in earnest in November when consultation on strategic options starts which will then inform the consultation on a preferred strategy which will be the subject of further consultation this time next year. The population projections are a starting point but should be treated with a degree of caution.
- Members sought information in relation to the engagement strategy and the detailed planning to be conducted in respect of that process. Members were reminded that there are good corporate frameworks, there is collaborative work with Access Forums to provide the right contacts to reach targeted groups, there are also champions within the organisation who are able to assist. There is an awareness that some groups need encouragement and confidence to become involved, and that a bespoke process may be required.
- Members referred to the lack of youth provision in the Cyncoed area, this does not appear to have been addressed in the previously LDP. Members were advised that the LDP does not have a budget although it was noted that planning and development management can help to ensure that any new developments contribution towards community development.
- Members made reference to the large amount of student accommodation in the area and sought reassurance that there is enough and will be enough family provision. Members were advised that part of the rationale for putting students in high density and managed accommodation is to free up family homes. It is important that we deliver a range of housing options.

- Members asked how the Committee can add value to the next stage of the consultation process; what stakeholder evidence can we bring forward; would it be of any use to you; and which external witnesses would add value, if any. Members were advised that that is a collective conversation with all scrutiny chairs, members, scrutiny officers and other officers. The process has been started through this pre-decision scrutiny by recognising the benefit of a collective voice. It helps to provide a level of diligence in a lengthy process. There will be a public enquiry on the plan which will not take place for a number of years, that enquiry is evidence based.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

#### 66 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS (BAND B) WILLOWS HIGH SCHOOL

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director, School Organisation Planning (SOP)), and Michele Duddridge-Friedl (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision) to the meeting.

Councillor Merry was invited to make a statement in which she stated that the formal process in terms of the new development and location has been undertaken; there has been a public engagement exercise on the proposals; and Cabinet will be provided with an appraisal of the responses (218) at its next meeting.

Officers advised that approval is being sought from Cabinet to implement the proposal and to change the funding mechanism from the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) to the Band B 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools capital funded programme, which is subject to Welsh Government approval.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members referred to the need for flexibility in capacity at the school and sought clarification as to whether it is anticipated that the school intake will be broadly as it is currently, or whether, once it becomes established, it will hold on to rather more of its catchment creating a 'knock on' effect with other schools. Members were advised that the aim is for the school to meet the needs of the catchment and get as close to the six forms of entry (FE) as possible. It is accepted that bearing in mind the drop in the birth rate, which normally happens in 20 year cycles, further consideration may be required. There does need to be flexibility when the numbers increase in the long term.



Cathays High School is centrally located within the City, it does draw from different areas not just Willows catchment. Consideration will be given in due course, when there is the capacity in the system, a review will be conducted.

- Members asked about the plans for marketing Willows High School, without any post 16 provision, so parents do not see that as a negative. Officers advised that the visioning exercises being undertaken at the present time. It is important that the learning pathways are appropriate for that school, appropriate for the City and are mapped out properly.
- Members highlighted the responses in the consultation in relation to traffic management and congestion. Officers advised that a full transport assessments will be conducted; there is a proposal to close part of Parc Lewis Road. This is an opportunity for place making and it is important to embrace the opportunities presented.
- With reference to the planned Sports facilities with other providers, Members queried the plans in place to ensure that the school is not let down by others involved. The agreement to purchase the 3g pitches is not quite complete but there will then be a Management Lease facility which will ensure security for the school.

Members asked whether there would be any costs to the schools budget for those arrangements and were advised that there would not be.

Members queried the contractual arrangements with House of Sport and whether those existing agreements mean they automatically pick up on new school developments, or whether, bearing in mind comments in the consultation documents, there will be a tender process. Officers advised it is not a specific model, however there is provision which the House of Sport has built and owns; it will be hugely beneficial for the school. It is not automatic however, it is dealt with on a case by case basis.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

#### 67 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: CARDIFF WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) 2022 - 2032

*Councillors Melbourne, Molik and Bridgeman advised that they had a personal interest in this item as they all have children family members  
Councillor Phillips advised that he had a personal interest in this item as he has a family member in receipt of ALN provision*

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director, School Organisation Planning (SOP)), and Michele Duddridge-Friedl (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision) to the meeting.

Councillor Merry advised that Members are being provided with a briefing at this stage, it will enable Members to feed in and help shape the proposals as they come forward.

Members were provided with a presentation which outlined the following:

- the National Policy Context;
- the ambition - the availability of Welsh Medium Education will be a key feature of meeting the target of one million Welsh speakers;
- the 2050 targets and aspirations;
- the incidence of ALN in Welsh Medium Education;
- the key priorities; and
- The timeline

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members discussed the importance of making the Welsh medium offer as attractive as possible in the future; the need to have Welsh role models; and making the plan more current and relevant for the final version in the future.
- Members queried whether there was a need to create more Welsh immersion centres and where they were currently based. Officers advised that the current primary unit is located at Ysgol Glan Ceubal. The current secondary unit is located at Ysgol Bro Eder; there was a need to increase places; and secondary aged pupils wanted to be on a site with their peer group. There needs to be proactive promotion of Welsh immersion as opposed to a reactive one; that would require greater provision. The Plasdwr model will provide greater visibility and offer more steps on the ladder to Welsh medium education.
- Members referred to the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC) 2020 figures in relation to numbers receiving Welsh medium education and sought information as to whether the reduction in figures between primary and secondary uptake was due to the lack of secondary provision or parental choice. Officers advised that there has been significant growth in the availability of primary places because there has been a spike in the population figures which started in 2005. Those are the numbers now promoting through to secondary school. There needs to be confidence that there are secondary places available.

Members queried what external environments, for example links with Cardiff University, are available for those pupils going through the Welsh medium curriculum. Members were advised that it often depends upon the manner in which schools promote it; one school, during lock down, had alumni return and talk about their experiences of going through Welsh medium education and having left school. Promoting an enhanced range of opportunities is a key priority. There is a lot more to be done highlighting that bilingualism and fluency in Welsh is really valuable in the long term.

- Members discussed how far support provided to those with ALN reaches for those who need the support and those in Welsh medium education. Members were advised that if a child chose Welsh medium education it is important that that is an assurance that they are able to succeed bearing in mind their personal needs; they have to be taken into account. There has to be high quality ALN input, which will need very careful consideration and planning to ensure linguistic parity.
- Members sought clarification of the current costs of the immersion programme and were advised that they could be circulated in due course to Members. Costs would depend a lot on where provision is based.
- Members discussed:
  - the need to ensure not only the importance of Welsh in a Welsh medium forum but also the English medium forum, there must be a balance;
  - the need to make the transition from Welsh primary to Welsh secondary as easy as possible, including in terms of transport; and
  - those children moving from Welsh to English medium education should not be penalised, an example of which was a young person who could not take a Welsh GCSE in the English medium school to which he had transferred.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

#### 68 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: TY GLAS SITE ACQUISITION

*Councillor Melbourne declared a personal interest in this item as she is the Ward Councillor for Llanishen and Thornhill. Karen Dell'Armi declared a personal interest, as Chair of Governors at Llanishen High School.*

**Members were reminded that Appendices 3 – 6 of this report contain exempt information of the description contained in paragraph 14 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director, School Organisation Planning (SOP)), and Michele Duddridge-Friedl (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision) to the meeting.

Members were advised that the recommendation to Cabinet will be to acquire the freehold interest of land at Ty Glas Road, Llanishen to allow the Council to progress options for a mainstream community secondary school and special school provision.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members referred to the allocation being reflected in the Band C programme and whether further information in respect of Band C should be provided. Officers advised that Welsh Government will support the Council with the full acquisition and demolition cost; the intervention rate will be levelled out in due course. Members were advised that it is a strategic purchase, the site is large enough. It is not possible to say that the site will be purchased for a given project at this stage.

The Committee RESOLVED that the public be excluded for discussion in relation to the confidential appendices as they contained exempt information by virtue of paragraphs 14, 16 and 21 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

After discussion in the Way Forward the Committee RESOLVED that the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

#### 69 : WAY FORWARD

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

#### 70 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were tabled

#### 71 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021

The date of the next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 7 October 2021 at 4.30 pm via MS Teams

The meeting terminated at 8.40 pm

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 OCTOBER 2021

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson),  
Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins, Joyce, Phillips, Mia Rees and Singh

Co-opted Members: Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative)  
and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

Mia John (Cardiff Youth Council Representative)

### 72 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Patricia Arlotte and Cllr Siân-Elin Melbourne. Councillor Hopkins indicated that he would have to leave the meeting at 5.00 to attend to other Council business but would re-join the meeting later. Councillor Mia Rees indicated she would have to leave the meeting at 6.30 pm.

### 73 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mike Phillips declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 on the basis that he has a family member who receives ALN provision.

### 74 : MINUTES

The approval of the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee were deferred until the next meeting of the Committee in November.

### 75 : YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families), Graham Robb (Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities), Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services) and Angharad Thomas (Operational Manager, Youth Justice Services) to the meeting.

Councillor Hinchey was invited to make a statement, during which he referred to the decline in first time entrants and the progress being made.

Graham Robb was invited to make a statement, during which he explained that the first indications of the impact of improvement work were becoming apparent. He outlined the need for caution about the reductions referred to by Councillor Hinchey and stressed the need for sustained improvement. Substantial challenges remain in performance, delivery and impact on children's lives.

Angharad Thomas updated Members on the progress being made and referred to the case study submitted in the papers.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought clarification from Officers on the key successes they wished to highlight and the principal challenges the service is facing. Members were advised that the first-time entrant work indicated that young people were being prevented from entering the youth justice system. The focus on partners and getting better pathways for young people had contributed to this. The Youth Justice Board had referenced the shared direction of travel with partners as significant. There will be a challenge in evidencing the impact on some of the most challenging children. It will be possible to make a difference for some but not all, and the latter will remain in the justice system. It is important to keep working to improve outcomes even if the result is delayed. There has been considerable progress in partnership work. The details have been received of a joint strategic needs assessment which allows for the interrogation of over-representation in the youth justice system of particular communities. There is important work being done for the first time about Additional Learning Needs of children in the youth justice system. This is a result of collaborative working.
- Members sought clarification as to whether the increased instances of violence against the person referred to in the Q1 Children's Services Report were among the challenging cases referenced above. Members were advised that there had been an increase in all categories of violence affecting young people in the last quarter. Some of the children involved might present the highest number of issues but some might not. Violence might be a key indicator of serious issues as might repeat offending. A child that is entering the justice system for the first time might present the highest risk. A key message going forward is how to work with Early Help, Safe and other strategies to ensure upstream prevention is in place.
- Members sought clarification on the impact on the capacity of the service of staff sickness absence and vacancies. Members were advised that are 3 managers in place including 2 agency who are covering until the restructuring is complete. Below the management level, 2 of the staff who are off sick are from the intensive support service. The workload has been spread across the service which corresponds to the intention that work should be shared across the service and high risk cases are not concentrated on one worker. Case planning processes draw on the strength of the whole team. There is no impact on young people from reduced capacity. The caseload has reduced due to the closure of cases and tightening up of criteria. There has been an impact on supervisions due to staff sickness, Covid, and a change in management. Staff are being encouraged to undertake peer support, group supervisions and regular check-ins.
- Members were advised that interviews had taken place for new management posts.
- Members were advised that a large proportion of staff sickness absence was due to actions being taken under HR policies and procedures to bring people to account. Members were further advised that problems with supervision were in some cases a legacy issue related to a lack of supervisions performed by managers.
- Members were advised that a victim engagement feedback survey was being undertaken which was innovative and rare. The numbers of participants was

still low because it was a new survey. The survey demonstrated a commitment to getting the views of victims on the services being provided.

- Members were interested in knowing whether the relaxation of Covid restrictions had led to staff finding it easier to engage with young people. Members were advised that the relaxation of restrictions was welcomed. There was awareness of the importance of maintaining the restrictions that were still in place. People had been engaged throughout with the use of WhatsApp and Chromebooks which allow Teams conversations, as well as socially distanced bicycle rides and walks. Staff are not yet able to bring young people into the office as they would like, but are seeing young people in school. Going forward a hybrid model will be used.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

#### 76 : CLOSER TO HOME/DEVELOPMENT OF ACCOMMODATIONS OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARDIFF

The Chair welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities), Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services) and Kate Hustler (Operational Manager, Substitute Family Care in Social Services) to the meeting.

Councillor Hinchey was invited to make a statement, during which he referred to the history of the Closer to home/development of accommodations options for children and young people and referred to the high quality accommodation provided at Falconwood.

Members were provided with a presentation outlining the development of accommodation options for children and young people in Cardiff.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members noted that out of county placements were increasing and were interested in the target for out of county placements over the next 2 years. Members were advised that the out of county concept is misleading because of the size and layout of Cardiff. More than 70% of out of county placements are within an hour's travel time of Cardiff. The Closer to home concept makes more sense. What is necessary to accommodate and support young people in Cardiff is more important.
- Members were advised that it was not desirable to place children and young people far from Cardiff when it is not in their best interest, but it is sometimes necessary to do so when the resources are not available locally. It is not sensible to set targets for the number of children placed locally, but the intention would always be for children to keep their links with their schools, families and communities as long as they were able, and to access local career opportunities when leaving care.

- Members were further advised that a high percentage of children and young people are living with family or friends outside Cardiff or Wales, but it was in their best interest to do so. The aim is for Cardiff children to be in Cardiff homes. Once there is a preferred provider within Cardiff, children are identified who are willing and able to move back to Cardiff. It is still necessary to place some children outside Cardiff because of the risks to them in the local community. Some children placed outside do not wish to return because they are settled and doing well where they are. It is still not possible to provide sufficient accommodation internally and some reliance must still be placed on external private sector providers, although the balance is shifting.
- Members were advised that significant progress had been made against what was initially very limited provision in Cardiff. Whether or not the Council directly provides the support service it is desirable that the Council owns the facility. This ensures the Council has a role in deciding placements within the facility, and allows for flexible provision should needs change. A programme board has been established and new schemes are added. Some are specifically for children. There is increasing need for the Young Persons Gateway. Tenders are awaited for The Citadel which will provide self-contained accommodation for 16-plus with complex needs. The collaborative working and alignment of service that is evident is commendable.
- Members discussed community liaison. Councillors sometimes have to deal with community members who are not sympathetic to the needs and experiences of children and young people within homes. Members sought information on the process of engaging positively with the community where new accommodation is planned or underway. Members were advised that in the case of Falconwood the Council began engaging with neighbours while the development work was ongoing, and the neighbours have been supportive. Police and PCSOs have been invited to Falconwood and are familiar with the staff and residents. The children are participating in local sports teams and an effort is being made to embed the development in the community. The development has been well-received which is not the case with all developments. The Council would seek to follow the same process with future internal developments.
- Members were further advised that the key was to have the right property in the right place. Spatial issues that impact on the local community need to be addressed. It was important to remember that the children were the Council's corporate responsibility and needed the Council's protection. Councillors had to engage positively with local communities in support of such developments. It is important that the children should not be isolated but should be embedded in the community. As community leaders and representatives Councillors need to be at the forefront of that. It is sometimes a difficult conversation but one that needs to happen.
- Members were reminded that there was a distinction between Council provision and independent provision and advised that the Council was reviewing and improving processes, building links and discussing plans with preferred providers and local communities. This was still in the early stages. The Council will be relying on the independent sector for some time. The



Council is concerned to ensure that when providers come into Cardiff, the places are filled with children from Cardiff and not children from elsewhere. It is also concerned to ensure independent providers and young people are involved in the community.

- Members were advised that the high cost of property in Cardiff had also led to a reliance on providers outside the city. The Welsh Government was now supporting the Council to increase provision in the city.
- Members sought clarification on whether the Council would have the capacity to provide permanent residential placements for children who were unable after assessment to go into foster care, return to family or go to a kinship placement. Members were advised that it would be clear after assessment that some children need to be in a small residential unit. It is hoped that the Council would be able to support them in a small local unit where they would be able to attend a school and have links with family where possible.
- Members were advised that feedback indicates that many providers are reconsidering investing in Wales for fear of being unable to keep their profits. Profit is not necessarily a bad thing depending on what is done with it. The Council will continue to be reliant on the independent sector for some time because it will not be able to make sufficient in-house provision for at least 18 months.
- Members commended the staff at Falconwood assessment centre on their commitment to the children in their care. Members invited Officers to return to the Committee with the success stories from the centre in 6 months.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

#### 77 : FAMILY DRUG AND ALCOHOL COURT

The Chair welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities), Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services) Natasha Hilderley (Operational Manager, Specialist Services) and Vicki Morris (Deputy Director, Centre for Justice Innovation) to the meeting.

Councillor Hinchey was invited to make a statement in which he referred to the high profile and innovative nature of the Family Drug and Alcohol Court.

Members were provided with a detailed presentation by both Vicki Morris and Natasha Hilderley, during which they provided an overview of the project and plans and progress to date.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members commended Officers on the project and presentation and expressed a desire to be advised on progress at a future date.
- Members were advised that the project was a pilot for Wales and would have a high profile. It would be advisable to study data from authorities in England for purposes of comparison and to benchmark any success.
- Members were interested in how the project team had gathered information and from what sources. Members were advised that a call had been made on the expertise of the team in the Social Innovation Centre to understand who it was necessary to engage with. There has been a commitment across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to collaborate. The Steering Group has required commitment and involved many conversations. Having the IFST process has allowed the process to progress more quickly than in England. Close collaboration with Welsh Government, Elected Members and key partners in Directorates has allowed the formulation of a Working Group with will, passion and drive.
- Members were advised that the project was a model for what the Council would like to achieve across Children's Services and a vehicle for changing and improving services. It would not have been possible without IFST or the work and commitment of Officers and members of the team who have performed exceptionally. The Court will greatly improve the experience of families.
- Members were advised that cultural change was always difficult to achieve but it was very rewarding when it was. Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan had worked together particularly well and the judiciary had also been supportive. It was helpful that members of the project team had already achieved similar outcomes. A great deal had been learned that could be taken back to England.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

#### 78 : CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE - Q1 2021-22

The Chair welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities), and Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services) to the meeting.

Councillor Hinchey was invited to make a statement during which he paid tribute to Officers and staff in Children's Services for their performance during the pandemic, noting that the number of children being returned home had increased. There are still pressures and work has continued on remodelling the service.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members discussed whether it would be possible to expand Cardiff Works into a recruitment agency for social workers as an alternative to using external agencies. Members were advised that the possibilities of Cardiff Works had not been fully utilised. The Council had begun to use the service in relation to care workers but there was no reason why that could not be expanded to cover a range of other staff where there are difficulties recruiting. The concept of developing the Council's own staff requires that they be recruited pre-qualification, which will necessitate apprenticeships and traineeships. There need to be opportunities for support workers and social work assistants. These are crucial if the Council is to have a pool of people for development and training.
- Members sought clarification as to whether face to face visits with children had returned to the level they were pre-pandemic, and what had been learned from the experience of virtual visits. Members were advised that face to face visits should soon be at pre-pandemic levels but there was some delay due to demand. Members were further advised that a significant amount had been learned from virtual visits. What matters is what suits the young person most. Some young people were very happy with remote contact whereas others were unhappy. Different ways of using the technology have been explored. At the start of the pandemic when it was only possible to visit children most at risk, there was concern that without being in people's houses it was difficult to be certain of the real situation for many young people. For some young people it might be important to have first-hand knowledge of their home situation.
- Members sought information on any changes in practice in relation to strategies for prevention, such as improved performance and review conferences for children on the Child Protection Register. Members were advised that during the pandemic social workers were still visiting children when it was necessary or safe to do so. Children were not at school and Early Years centres were not open. The numbers of children on the Register escalated such that it became difficult to ensure that they were seen. An additional Child Protection Conference Coordinator was brought in to review decisions at an early stage. As a result there was a significant decrease in the number of children going on the Register.
- Members were further advised that a reviewing hub is being introduced which will allow staff to better understand where children are on the pathway and step them up or down in a timely way. Work is underway on developing intervention hubs to provide support internally. Wraparound support is being increased to prevent children coming into care or step them down more quickly. While significant pressures remain the Council is moving forward with innovation and development, which will help attract social workers.
- Members sought information on evidence of a relationship between increasing youth violence and child sexual exploitation, and whether there was sufficient cooperation from partners in addressing it. Members were advised that the Council has developed the Safe Model for safeguarding adolescents from sexual or criminal exploitation. The Safe Model seeks to understand what is happening within different communities and provide wraparound support for children rather than seeing them as a problem. It allows the sharing of information about Police activities that might have an impact on children.

Internal management reviews are underway into serious violent incidents and the results will be shared across the partners.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

**79 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS: THE EXPANSION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director, School Organisation Planning (SOP)), and Michele Duddrige-Friedl (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision) to the meeting.

Councillor Merry was invited to make a statement during which she referred to the paper to Cabinet reporting back objections to the published statutory notice regarding the plan to increase capacity at Cathays High School, replace the school buildings with new build accommodation, and expand the current Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) from 16 to 50 places.

Members were reminded that the Band B programme was designed around tackling deficiency of places in secondary schools. Cathays High School was included due to its location and condition and that is why the Council is proceeding despite the objections. The Council has to weigh up the concerns that have been brought forward against the aims it was trying to achieve. Many objections have been raised regarding the moving of the cycle track. However, moving the track is necessary to provide the new school with space and playing fields, and to make provision for open access space. It also provides an opportunity to provide an improved track that will help grow cycling in the city. The new school will have enhanced sport and community facilities.

The Councillor further reminded Members that catchment areas need to be reviewed. The current catchment areas are not always logical or equal in size with centrally located schools. The expansion of Cathays High School will make it sustainable and will complement the amendment of catchment areas.

Members were advised that any decision would be subject to Charity Commission approval, and that there had been comments in relation to Crown Way. This has been examined in more detail and the Council would look to keep Crown Way open.

More than 100 emails having been received from members of the public regarding the proposals it had been decided to consider the public's concerns under 5 main headings. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

**Capacity of the site**

Members discussed whether the site would be large enough to accommodate a school of 1,450 pupils and sought clarification on the minimum requirements for a school of that size.

Members were advised that the overall proposed area of the site is 46,000 sq. metres which is the minimum size required for a school of this size. The school will meet BB requirements under a constrained site. There is insufficient space for grass fields so 2 3g pitches will be provided which would be counted twice in terms of 2 grass pitches. If required there would be supplementary sports provision at Heath Park. It is probable that the school would be able through timetabling to increase utilisation of the 3g pitches such that it would not need the Heath Park facilities, but the Heath Park provision would be available if necessary.

Members were further advised that there would be a little more than 13,500 sq. metres available for open access areas. This is more than the current provision which is around 12,000 sq. metres. The existing school site is approximately 20,000 sq. metres which is insufficient under BB guidance. The new site will be compliant and will continue to have an area for GLL and a BMX track area. There will be shared car parking with GLL.

Members discussed whether the site boundary outlined on the map was fixed or whether there might be adjustments. Members were advised that the boundary was agreed with GLL and it was not anticipated that there would be any significant changes.

Members were advised that the Building Bulletins were a capacity measuring device used in England that Welsh Government adopted as guidance, and are not a statutory requirement in Wales. Allowances are made for locations as they would be in England where sites are constrained.

### **Strategic decision for expansion**

Members discussed the strategic decision in favour of expanding Cathays High School to 8 FE and the decision to reduce the size of Willows High School. The assumption appears to be that Cathays High School will continue to take the majority of its pupils from out of catchment. Members were concerned about the implications for travel across the city. Members were also concerned about the long-term sustainability of the school in regard to the projections for declining intake in the latter half of the decade.

Members were advised that Cathays High School is being brought forward because of its central location whereas Willows High School is in the southern part of the city. It is operating at a larger size to relieve pressure on other schools. It is a misconception that the pressure is only coming from the south of the city. It is not just in one catchment area and one school that there is oversubscription. If additional places were put in other schools it would compound the problems in relation to cross-city travel.

Members were further advised that the Council had reviewed the number of school places that were going to be needed. Willows had originally been put down for 8 FE as well as Cathays, but the Council has since recognised that there is a reduction in the birth rate. Cathays has had to expand to 8 FE but Willows is not full at its current size. There will need to be changes to the catchment areas at some point.

Members were further advised that Cathays was important to the city as a 'pressure valve', taking children from catchment and local areas. If it was not available at a larger size there would be a need to transfer more children across the city. Due to its central location it provides flexibility where catchment areas are not perfectly aligned. While the number of children entering the school is expected to drop after 2024 it is expected to increase again in 25 years.

Members were advised that Cathays is expected to accommodate 6-8 FE until at least 2028 when the numbers are expected to fall, and will help to deal with the growth in north-east Cardiff. Due to its central location it is bordered by several other catchment areas. Catchment areas will need to be reorganised in the future but there will need in the reorganisation to be a school with a central location.

Members sought clarification as to whether it was expected that Willows would retain more of its catchment in the future, and what implications there were for Cathays. Members were advised that the Willows proposal was being brought forward and it was expected there would be an increase in pupil numbers. A number of children who currently attend Cathays come from Stacey Primary School. It will be necessary to consider catchment changes at the correct time to capture the right blend of children for each school. There is a challenge for Willows to meet PAN but it is important to have flexibility so the school can grow.

Members also sought clarification on the implications of housing developments in the north-east of the city and whether they meant that the numbers of children currently expected to enter Cathays might not in fact do so. Members were advised that the developments would have an impact on schools in the north of the city and also on Cathays.

Members were further advised that it was expected that the interest and community trust in Willows would be rejuvenated to the extent that the school would be filled from within the local community. Residential developments in the area are capped in relation to the location and flood defences in the area. Willows also borders fewer catchment areas than Cathays. Within Cardiff there is a fluctuation of approximately 900 pupils from the top of the intake table to the bottom over a period of 12 years. The Council can only make projections based on the visible data, historic trends and aspirations in regard to the future. The Council considers that the mix is right between the 2 schools based on the information available and the scope for development in the LDP.

Members were reminded that it is difficult to predict future birth rates and demand for particular schools.

### **Financial implications**

Members were sought clarification in regard to the financial implications of the proposal particularly in relation to the SOP revenue account, IT infrastructure and the school's delegated budget.

Members were advised that the capital contributions that would need to be supported by the SOP revenue reserve would include anything related to the project. Within the MIM project is the core MIM project and capital elements associated with it. The capital elements will be funded with Welsh Government with the usual intervention

rate of 65% to 35%. The MIM element is 19% LA to 81%. The capital element relates to preparing the site including demolition. There are early allowances allocated for capital, the remainder comes under MIM. There will be a contribution out of the reserve for the relocation of the track. This will be 100% funded rather than having a contribution rate from Welsh Government. In regard to IT and schools' delegated budgets, the Band B programme is funded in part by schools' delegated budgets. There is no commitment in this regard.

### **Velodrome project**

Members were concerned about the effect on the plans for the school if the Velodrome project did not go ahead.

Members were advised that the projects had been brought forward in close succession in order to get the alignment between the two correctly in place. It would require a Cabinet decision to proceed with the school before a significant investment could be made in the sports village. The reserve has been allocated to fund the capital for the track.

Members sought clarification on whether the allocation of the SOP reserve to fund the track was compatible with the guidance on how that funding should be used. Members were advised that it was and that the reserve would fund the capital finance. The relocation of the track is essential for the school project to proceed.

### **Scrutiny of the consultation process**

Members were concerned about the scrutiny of the consultation process and the capacity of the Committee to scrutinise the consultation as fully as it might wish to. Members do not feel well-placed to scrutinise the proposal in the detail that they might like to because certain details are not yet available.

Members were advised that the same process was followed with each development in regard to agreeing the principle of the proposals. It was understandable that there was frustration that the details of the plans were not available, however those details would follow once the principle had been agreed. Comments made during the consultation influence the more detailed plans that are presented during the pre-planning stage.

Members were further the advised that the site had been tested to check that it meets requirements and early survey work had been carried out to make sure that it is viable. The next stage of working up the designs would involve significant costs and it would be difficult to progress that without some assurance that the project would proceed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

80 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: GREENHILL AND ALN PAPER

*Councillor Phillips advised that he had a personal interest in this item as he has a family member in receipt of ALN provision.*

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director, School Organisation Planning (SOP)), and Michele Duddrige-Friedl (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision) to the meeting.

Councillor Merry was invited to make a statement, during which she drew attention to the principles underlying the proposals and reminded Members of the Council's commitment to inclusive education. Nevertheless there is an issue in regard to specialist provision and SRB. It is desirable that children should have access to the right provision for the level of need they have.

Members were advised that there are strong processes in place to continue the Council's inclusive approach. These projects were in place to ensure the Council is expanding its specialist provision because there are a high number of children and young people who need to access the more specialist environments.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought clarification on whether the combined proposals would account for the entire deficit of places or whether there would be need for further expansion in due course. Members were advised that there would be need for further provision in the future. The proposals in the current paper require a statutory consultation process. There may be others that could be progressed without a statutory consultation process. The Council will continue to work to ensure balanced provision across the city.
- Members noted the out of county provision budget for 2021-22 and sought clarification on the extent of any reduction in the out of county provision budget. Members were advised that it was possible the extra provision would reduce a further escalation in the budget or reduce the budget provision. No conclusion could be drawn as of yet.
- Members enquired as to the timelines surrounding the consultation. Members were advised that the proposals would not all be brought under the same consultation. How they would be divided up had not yet been finalised, but the intention was to bring forward the consultations as soon as possible. It is necessary to balance the desire to progress the consultations in a short timescale with the resource available. It is not possible to run a number of consultations simultaneously.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

81 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: CARDIFF WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) 2022-2032 UPDATE



The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director, School Organisation Planning (SOP)), and Michele Duddrige-Friedl (Operational Manager, Planning and Provision) to the meeting.

Councillor Merry was invited to make a statement, during which she referred Members to the presentation they had received in the previous meeting.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought information on whether there had been discussions with Welsh Government and other partners about how the availability of Welsh speaking staff might be increased. Members were advised that there had been conversations with Welsh Government and Central South Consortium on this topic. There will also need to be work done with training providers to make significant changes and improvements. Members were further advised that WG will bring out a workforce strategy to increase the number of fluent Welsh speaking staff in Welsh medium schools and staff to teach Welsh in English medium schools. Work is required to gain a firm understanding of the situation in the local area and the reasons for fluent Welsh speaking staff not feeling confident to teach in Welsh. The Council has had discussions with one of the teaching unions who were positive about the experience they could share.
- Members enquired as to whether there had been engagement with higher education to address the issue of students not using Welsh in their university courses. Members were advised that Cardiff Met is an important partner with regard to their teacher training programme. Members were further advised that the membership of the WESP Board had been increased in order to improve the involvement from the higher education sector. There are in addition other ways to support Welsh speaking teachers. Teaching assistants are able to progress through the graduate scheme. Upskilling the current workforce is important. It is also necessary to consider the wider workforce. Some teachers who were exposed to Welsh medium education may no longer be in Wales and it was important to consider how to encourage them to come to Cardiff.
- Members enquired as to what discussions had taken place regarding the possibility that there might be a 24% surplus in English medium places. Members were advised that it would be necessary to put long-term plans in place as the situation develops. It will be a challenge over a 10-year period to meet the targets set out.
- Members sought information on the strategies involved around transition points for example from nursery to reception. Members were advised that the Council has moved from responding to demand to stimulating demand as part of its strategy to encourage Welsh medium education. A range of clear information is essential so that people can make informed choices. Parents need to be able to see the journey from nursery through primary to secondary education. Where parents have chosen to put their children through Welsh medium education at whatever point there needs to be reassurance about the

level of support both within school and wider support mechanisms around the school to support language acquisition both formally and informally.

- Members sought information on whether patterns of take up were consistent across the city. Members were advised that there are certain areas where there is a much greater level of Welsh medium demand and other areas and communities with a lower take up. There is a need for in depth consideration and engagement activity to understand why those communities consider Welsh medium education is not appropriate for them.
- Members sought information about parental support in relation to Welsh language learning. Members were advised that there is a certain level of classes offered currently. In addition to family Welsh lessons, people are able to access Welsh learning through employment. The Council would want in association with further education and other partners to expand the opportunities available.
- Members discussed the importance of spreading the availability of Welsh medium education across the city. Members were concerned that an opportunity had been missed with the construction of new schools in new communities to go beyond the 50% target. Members were advised that the principle that was outlined was at least 50%. In relation to the LDP a range of options could be considered, including dual stream or all Welsh medium. A higher provision is not precluded. The target across Cardiff is 40% which is a national target. The Council would be looking at the demand from communities. The current plan is the first 10-year plan on the road towards achieving the 2050 target. The Council would expect the establishment of Plasdŵr schools with dual language provision to have an impact in regard to what families want and move the community along the bilingual continuum in a way they had not anticipated. The development of the model is expected to challenge perceptions about what English medium education may offer, combined with the national curriculum changes.
- Members reiterated their concern that it might be easier to make Welsh medium education more widely available in new schools in new communities. Members were advised that school plans would come forward over time. While the intention is to encourage the take up of Welsh medium education it would not be possible to build only Welsh medium schools if there is not the level of demand within communities. It is also important not to undercut existing Welsh medium schools. The at least 50% target gives a degree flexibility.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the way forward.

82 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were tabled.

83 : WAY FORWARD

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

84 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Committee is via MS Teams on Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 4.30 pm.

The meeting terminated at 8.45 pm

This page is intentionally left blank

---

**INTERVENTIONS HUB**

---

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Members with a brief overview of this issue. Members will receive a presentation at this meeting regarding the Interventions Hub.

**Background**

2. Children's Services have a number of intervention support services which assist families in their parenting by providing targeted support to reduce risk in order for families to remain together. These interventions also intend to ensure that parents are confident in managing the safety and needs of their children as well as increasing their confidence in their parenting. These services lie within a number of teams, i.e.:
  - Adolescent resource Centre (ARC)
  - Family Intervention Support Service (workers based in localities)
  - Rapid Response
  - Think Safe!
  - On Call Family Intervention Support Service (workers based in localities and on an out of hours rota)
3. The proposal is to bring together these teams that exist across the service into a coherent "Interventions Hub" in order to provide clarity of roles, reduce duplication, increase consistency of approach and ensure that young people and their families are receiving the right level of support at the right time.

## **Issues**

4. The presentation will take Members through the details of the proposal.

## **Scope of Scrutiny**

5. This briefing enables the Committee to be made aware of the of the proposal and provide Members with the opportunity to input their views into its development.

## **Way Forward**

6. At the meeting Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families); Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities); Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services); and Suki Bahara-Garrens (Operational Manager, Wellbeing / Protection & Support) will be in attendance to make a presentation and answer any questions Members may wish to ask.
7. Members may wish to review the information presented at the meeting and determine whether there are any comments, concerns or recommendations which they would like to pass on to the Cabinet Member, Corporate Director and Director of Children's Services.

## **Legal Implications**

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken

having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to review the information provided at the meeting and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member, Corporate Director and Director of Children's Services.

**DAVINA FIORE**  
**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**01 November 2021**

This page is intentionally left blank



**CYNGOR CAERDYDD  
CARDIFF COUNCIL****CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****9 November 2021**

---

**REVIEWING HUB**

---

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Members with a brief overview of this issue. Members will receive a presentation at this meeting regarding the Reviewing Hub.

**Background**

2. The Safeguarding and Reviewing Service undertakes independent statutory review functions for children looked after and on the Child Protection Register (CPR). Reviews for children who are subject to Care and Support Plans and care leavers are currently managed by other teams. The proposal is to bring together all the reviewing functions into a "Reviewing Hub" that will add capacity to manage the increase in number of children looked after and on the CPR, and provide increased oversight, expertise and outcome focused planning for a broader range of children.

**Issues**

3. The presentation will take Members through the details of the proposal.

**Scope of Scrutiny**

4. This briefing enables the Committee to be made aware of the of the proposal and provide Members with the opportunity to input their views into its development.

**Way Forward**

5. At the meeting Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families); Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities); Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services); and Matt Osbourne (Team Manager,

Looked After Children Teams) will be in attendance to make a presentation and answer any questions Members may wish to ask.

6. Members may wish to review the information presented at the meeting and determine whether there are any comments, concerns or recommendations which they would like to pass on to the Cabinet Member, Corporate Director and Director of Children's Services.

### **Legal Implications**

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to review the information provided at the meeting and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member, Corporate Director and Director of Children's Services.

**DAVINA FIORE**  
**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**02 November 2021**

This page is intentionally left blank

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

**CARDIFF COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**9 NOVEMBER 2021**

---

**CYPSC COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT**

---

**Background**

1. This report sets out a summary of the Committee's business and sets out the following:
  - A correspondence update arising from recent scrutiny meetings;
  - Work Programme Updates – Forward Plan and 2021/22 work programming; and
  - Update on the Scrutiny of the Replacement LDP

**Correspondence update**

2. Following most Committee meetings, the Chair writes a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member or officer, summing up the Committee's comments and recommendations regarding the issues considered. Set out below is the latest position in terms of correspondence:

**June 2021**

- *Response received* – from Councillor Merry to the Chair's letter regarding proposals in relation to the expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School and Primary School places to serve Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd considered at Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- *Response received* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair's confidential letter relating to Ty Coryton

### **July 2021**

- *Response received* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair’s letter regarding the Youth Justice Service Update considered at Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
- *Response received* – from Councillor Merry to the Chair’s letter in relation to Pentyrch Primary School and Provision for Children and Young People with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).
- *Response received* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair’s letter in relation to the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report 2020/21 and Q4 performance.

### **September 2021**

- *No response required* – CYPSC contribution to a joint letter to Councillor Wild regarding the Replacement Local Development Plan
- *Response received* – from Councillor Merry to the Chair’s letter regarding the Education Pandemic Recovery.
- *Response received* – from Councillor Merry to the Chair’s letter in relation to the future of Willows High School and the WESP briefing.
- *Response received* - from Councillor Merry to the Chair’s letter in relation to the confidential item on Ty Glas.

### **October 2021**

- *Response awaited* – from Councillor Merry to the Chair’s letter in relation to proposals relating to the future of Cathays High School, ALN/Greenhill and WESP. Please note that the Service Area has contacted the Scrutiny Officer to explain that a response is imminent, citing the Estyn Inspection as the reason for the delay.
- *Response awaited* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair’s letter in relation to the Family Drug and Alcohol Court, Closer to Home, Youth Justice Service and Quarter 1 performance.

3. Copies of the public Chair's letters and responses received can be found on the Council's website page for the relevant Committee meeting, with a hyperlink provided at the top of the page, entitled '*correspondence following the committee meeting*'.

### **CYPSC Work Programme 2020/21**

4. Attached at **Appendix A** is the latest version of the CYPSC Work Programme. This has been amended based on the latest published Cabinet Forward Plan; latest SOP Decision log; Items that have been suggested by Children's Services; and some of the Partnership Reports that are due to come to CYPSC for consideration.
5. Members are requested to consider and agree the contents of Appendix A.

### **CYPSC Forward Work Programme – December 2021 – March 2022**

6. The Head of Democratic Services has requested each Scrutiny Committee agrees the provisional items proposed for the next three months, as set out in **Appendix B**. Members will have the opportunity at the meeting to raise any issues or concerns at this meeting, and to sign off for publishing.

### **Local Development Plan Scrutiny**

7. In September 2021 the five Scrutiny Committees individually considered the draft report titled *Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan: Vision, Issues and Objectives and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report* prior to its consideration by Cabinet. Following this Scrutiny, a collective letter was sent to the Cabinet capturing the concerns and observations of all five committees.

8. The five Scrutiny Chairs agreed it would be good practice to pool scrutiny expertise and continue a culture of collaboration on this key policy for the future of Cardiff. It was agreed to progress scrutiny of the next stages of the RLDP via a Task and Finish Group with cross-representation from all five Committees.
9. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Members of this Committee were invited (via email) to express an interest in the RLDP Task & Finish Group. In turn, Karen Dell'Armi was appointed as CYPSC's representative on this Group.
10. The first meeting of the RLDP T&F Group met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, where Members considered the Group's Terms of Reference. Attached at **Appendix C** (to follow) is the output from that meeting for Member's consideration.

### **Way Forward**

11. During the meeting, Members will have the opportunity to reflect on the correspondence update; CYPSC Work Programming; CYPSC Forward Work Programme; and information relating to the RLDP Task & Finish Group.

### **Legal Implications**

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements



imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to reflect on the correspondence update; CYPSC Work Programming; CYPSC Forward Work Programme December – February; and information relating to the RLDP Task & Finish Group

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**03 November 2021**

This page is intentionally left blank

	21/09/2021	13/10/2021	09/11/2021	09/12/2021	11/01/2022*	15/02/2022	08/03/2022
<b>Committee Item 1</b>	Local Development Plan - <b>pre-decision</b>	Closer to home / development of accommodation options for children and young people in Cardiff <b>policy/ service development</b>	Interventions Hub update <b>policy/ service development</b>	National Adoption Service for Wales – hosting arrangements <b>pre-decision</b>	Court/ Moorland SRB Report - <b>pre-decision</b>	Budget <b>pre-decision</b>	Admissions arrangements (2023/24) - determination inc primary coordinated arrangements <b>pre-decision</b>
<b>Committee Item 2</b>	School Organisation Planning: 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools (Band B) Willows High School – <b>pre-decision</b>	YJS Update – <b>time/ reputational updates</b>	Reviewing Hub update <b>policy/ service development</b>	YJS Update <b>time/ reputational updates</b>	WESP 2021 – 2030 – <b>pre-decision</b>	Corporate Plan <b>pre-decision</b>	ALN Interim Arrangements/ Greenhill – <b>pre-decision</b>
<b>Committee Item 3</b>	School Organisation Planning: Cardiff Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 – <b>pre-decision</b>	Family Drug and Alcohol Court <b>policy/ service development</b>		Valleys, Vale & Cardiff Adoption Collaborative Annual Report 2020/21	Annual SOP Review – <b>pre-decision</b>	Pentyrch Primary expansion and nursery - <b>pre-decision</b>	Education Recovery Update <b>time/ reputational updates</b>
<b>Committee Item 4</b>				Children's Services Review – <b>service development</b>	Practice framework - Signs of Safety / Reunification / Family Group Conferencing <b>policy /service development</b>		YJS Update <b>time/ reputational updates</b>

	21/09/2021	13/10/2021	09/11/2021	09/12/2021	11/01/2022*	15/02/2022	08/03/2022
<b>Committee Item 5</b>	School Organisation Planning: Ty Glas site acquisition – CONFIDENTIAL <i>pre-decision</i>	School Organisation Planning: 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools: The expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School <i>pre-decision</i>		Education Recovery Update <i>time/reputational updates</i>	Central South Consortium Annual Report		Children's Services - Participation <i>policy/ service development</i>
<b>Committee Item 6</b>	Education Recovery Update <i>time/reputational updates</i>	School Organisation Planning: Greenhill and ALN Paper <i>pre-decision</i>			Corporate Parenting Annual Report OR ->	Corporate Parenting Annual Report	
<b>Committee Item 7</b>	CYPSC Work Programme 21_22						
<b>Performance Reports</b>		Q1 Performance		Q2 Performance			Q3 Performance
<b>Committee Business Items -</b>		Correspondence, Forward Work Plan	Correspondence, Forward Work Plan				Correspondence, Forward Work Plan

Colour Key – Peach (Children’s Services); Green (Education & Lifelong Learning); Yellow – Partnership/Governance; Blue (Other)

\* - Please note that this date is likely to change to w/c 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Programme**  
**December 2021 – March 2022**

Subject to review due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

**December 2021**

**National Adoption Service for Wales – hosting arrangements**

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to the hosting arrangements for the National Adoption Service for Wales

**Invitees**

Cabinet Member for Children & Families; Corporate Director for Communities and Housing and Director of Social Services; Director of Children's Services

**Valleys, Vale & Cardiff Adoption Collaborative Annual Report 2020/21**

For Members to consider the VVC Annual Report for 2020/21

**Invitees**

Cabinet Member for Children & Families; Corporate Director for Communities and Housing and Director of Social Services; Director of Children's Services; VVC Manager

**Children's Services Review**

To receive an update on planning and progress of the Children's Services Review

**Invitees**

Cabinet Member for Children & Families; Corporate Director for Communities and Housing and Director of Social Services; Director of Children's Services

**Youth Justice Service – Progress Update**

To receive an update and monitor progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service.

**Invitees**

Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board  
Cabinet Member for Children and Families  
Corporate Director People and Communities  
Assistant Director of Children's Services

## Education Pandemic Recovery Update

To receive an update on the Education pandemic recovery, including the Renew and Recovery: Delivering a Child Friendly Recovery Programme

### Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

## Q2 Performance

To receive the results of Q2 Performance from Children's Services

### Invitees

Cabinet Member for Children & Families; Corporate Director for Communities and Housing and Director of Social Services; Director of Children's Services

## January 2022

### School Organisation Planning - Court/ Moorland SRB Report

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to Court/Moorland

### Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Assistant Director, SOP

### WESP 2021 – 2030

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation the WESP

### Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Assistant Director, SOP

### Annual SOP Review

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation the Annual SOP Review

### Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Assistant Director, SOP

## Central South Consortium Annual Report

To receive and consider the Annual Report from the Education Central South Consortium

### Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills  
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning  
CSC Representatives

## Practice framework - Signs of Safety / Reunification / Family Group Conferencing

To receive a progress report in relation to the Practice Framework

### Invitees

Cabinet Member for Children & Families; Corporate Director for Communities and Housing and Director of Social Services; Director of Children's Services

## February 2022

### Corporate Plan 2022-2025 and Budgetary Proposals

To scrutinise those sections of the Council's draft Corporate Plan and draft Budget Proposals that relate to the portfolios and service areas that fall within the remit of this Committee, prior to these being considered by Cabinet.

### Invitees

Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills  
Cabinet Member for Children and Families  
Corporate Director Resources  
Corporate Director People and Communities  
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

## School Organisation Planning – Pentyrch Primary School Expansion and nursery

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to Court/Moorland

### Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills  
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning  
Assistant Director, SOP

## Corporate Parenting Annual Report

To review the CPAC Annual Report

Invitees

Chair, Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Corporate Parenting Officer

## March 2022

### School Organisation Planning - Admissions Arrangements (2023/24)

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to Schools Admissions Arrangements 2023/24

Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Assistant Director, SOP

### School Organisation Planning - ALN Interim Arrangements/Greenhill

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to ALN arrangements

Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Assistant Director, SOP

### Education Recovery Update

To receive an update on the Education pandemic recovery, including the Renew and Recovery: Delivering a Child Friendly Recovery Programme

Invitees

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

### Youth Justice Service – Progress Update

To receive an update and monitor progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service.

Invitees

Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board

Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Corporate Director People and Communities

Assistant Director of Children's Services



## Children's Services - Participation

To receive an update on planning and progress of the Children's Services Participation

### Invitees

Cabinet Member for Children & Families; Corporate Director for Communities and Housing and Director of Social Services; Director of Children's Services

## Q3 Performance

To receive the results of Q3 Performance from Children's Services

### Invitees

Cabinet Member for Children & Families; Corporate Director for Communities and Housing and Director of Social Services; Director of Children's Services

This page is intentionally left blank