
EDUCATION PANDEMIC RESPONSE - UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides Members with an update on progress in relation to the Education Pandemic Response, attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. During 2020/21 as part of its work programming, Members of this Scrutiny agreed to receive bi-monthly updates from Education & Lifelong Learning in relation to the Education Pandemic Recovery. At its work programming forum on the 19th July 2021, the Committee resolved to continue this approach during 2021/22, which also links with the Cabinet's Renewal & Recovery Agenda; and the Child Friendly City Accreditation.

Issues

3. Attached at **Appendix A** is a written brief from Education & Lifelong Services. The key issues highlighted in the attached includes:

- Re-engagement and wellbeing
- A Citywide Children and Young People's Festival – 'Summer of Smiles'
- Enhanced Youth Service Provision
- School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP)
- The Impact of Covid-19 on Children & Young People: Update Position for operation of schools

4. Since July 2020, this Scrutiny Committee has provided a number of comments, observations and views on the following issues. Links to relevant letters and papers can be found in the next Section of this Report:

- Learning and attainment for all
 - Ensuring all schools work to similar standards and approaches – learning from best practice etc;
 - Pupils who had disengaged with learning and the knock-on effect this may have in relation to their individual achievement and attainment;
 - NEETS;
 - Post 16 learning;
 - Digital Deprivation & Inequality;
 - Support for vulnerable learners;
 - Non-Formal education settings

- Planning/Preparing
 - Use of Welsh Government Funding – where is it going, how will it be used?
 - Summer Provision

- Health and Well-being
 - School Based Counselling and Pupil Wellbeing;
 - Mental health services and capacity for children & young people;
 - Staff Health and Well-being.

- Examinations and Assessments;
- Inspection Activity;
- Consultation and Engagement with Children & Young People.

Previous Scrutiny

5. This Scrutiny Committee has considered this topic on the following dates:
 - 30 July 2020¹
 - 12 October 2020²
 - In December 2020, Members of this Scrutiny Committee were sent a further briefing via email on further updates in relation to education recovery – dated 15 December 2020. This will be redistributed to Members prior to the meeting.
 - 15th March 2021³
 - 11 May 2021⁴

6. Members have also raised issues on this topic when considering the following issues:
 - Child Friendly City Agenda Item – 19 January 2021⁵
 - Corporate Plan and Budget Scrutiny – 23 February 2021⁶

Way Forward

7. A presentation will be made at this meeting, and the following witnesses will be in attendance meeting to answer any questions on this, and the information set out in **Appendix A**:
 - Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Education, Employment & Skills;
 - Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning;
 - Mike Tate, Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning; and
 - Suzanne Scarlett, OM Partnerships and Performance.

¹ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 30th July, 2020, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

² [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 12th October, 2020, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

³ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 15th March, 2021, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 11th May, 2021, 5.00 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 19th January, 2021, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

⁶ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021, 10.30 am : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

8. Members will be able to agree any comments, concerns or recommendations that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers during the Way Forward.

Legal 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 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

10. 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

That Committee considers this report, its appendix and information provided at the meeting and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Member and Director of Education & Lifelong Learning.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

15th September 2021