
PANDEMIC RECOVERY IN SCHOOLS

Purpose of the Report

1. For Members to receive a brief update of this issue ahead of a presentation on the latest position in relation to Pandemic Recovery in Schools being made at this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Background

2. At its work programming forum on the 19th of July 2022, Members of this Committee agreed that they would wish for **“Covid-19 Recovery in Schools”** to be a priority topic during 2022/23 and that bi-annual reports be considered by the Committee.

Issues

3. At this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, Members will receive a presentation on the following issues. The presentation will be sent to Members as soon as it is available:
 - School funding
 - Attendance
 - Attainment across all sectors.
 - Support the LEA is giving to those schools in need of additional support whilst in a period of “doing more, with less”
 - Impact of ALN reform and policy
 - Exclusions

- Mental health and wellbeing – staff, pupils etc.
 - Vulnerable Learners
 - Role of the Cardiff Recovery Board in developing a “Recovery Plan”
4. The aim of the presentation at this meeting is to update Members on the above issues and, at this time, **not** a deep dive/ hold to account session. The Chair has agreed that, at this Committee’s meeting on the 12 March 2024, a further deep dive will be held, where Members will receive a further opportunity to scrutinise this issue, along with the following:
- Central South Consortium Annual Report
 - Head Teachers invited to update the Committee on pandemic recovery
 - Further update on any issues arising from this meeting
 - Session with Health on ALN and addressing referral waiting times; neuro diversity diagnoses; mental health etc.
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.
 - 15th March 2021³
 - 11 May 2021⁴
 - 21st September 2021⁵

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, 21st September, 2021, 4.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

- 13 December 2022 ⁶
- 4 July 2023 ⁷

Way Forward

6. A presentation will be made at this meeting, and the following witnesses will be in attendance meeting to answer any questions:
 - Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education;
 - Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning;
 - Suzanne Scarlett, Operational Manager, Partnerships & Performance, Education & Lifelong Learning
7. Members will be able to agree any comments or views that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers during the Way Forward and decide whether they wish to receive further updates from witnesses in the future.

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

⁶ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 13th December, 2022, 4.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

⁷ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 4th July, 2023, 4.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

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

That Committee considers this report and information provided at the meeting and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Member, Head Teachers in attendance and Senior Officers in Education & Lifelong Learning; and any future scrutiny Members may wish to undertake on this issue.

Leanne Weston

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

29 November 2023