

## Report to the Special Educational Needs Joint-Committee 18 March 2016

Item: Joint Review of the partnership structure  
Presented by: Officers from Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey Councils

Officers from Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey Council have held regular meetings since early January 2016. This statement was drawn up at the outset to confirm the collaboration:

Following further discussion on Gwynedd Additional Learning Needs Strategy, it was agreed to form a Joint Strategy that will address the needs of the pupils and young people of Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey effectively and efficiently. This will be based on re-modelling and strengthening the current partnership and include the entire range of services and provisions.

Agreement for collaboration on the following priorities has been reached:

- Jointly review criteria, ensuring consistency across the county. It will need to be ensured that everybody is clear about the criteria at every level.
- Joint agreement has been reached to hold a cross-county panel for the children who have the most intensive needs. The Isle of Anglesey will be considered as part of the provision and support model at an area level in the same way as we will consider Arfon, Meirion and Dwyfor within Gwynedd,
- It has been agreed to review the ALN funding delegation method to mainstream schools jointly, ensuring most effective use of finance. In addition, the monitoring system will be jointly reviewed. There will be a clear focus on outcomes, and in response, we will reconcile our data gathering and analysis procedures.
- For the first time, it was agreed to jointly establish a wholly Integrated Service that will include support for the full range of requirements. It will include, for instance, Educational Psychologists, Specialist Teachers and Specialist Senior Assistants. Further work is required to agree on job descriptions and conditions of service. The discussion on and the health service will continue and be extended to include Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey.
- It was agreed to jointly establish two specific working groups to scrutinize the Early Years and post-16 provision.
- A joint training programme will need to be prepared, for every level that will tie in with the services priorities.
- It was agreed to establish the service as an integral part of both authorities. It will be managed, co-ordinated and led by both authorities.
- Both authorities aspiration is the establishment of the core of the joint Integrated Team by September 2016, with further changes in September 2017.

Gwynedd's Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Strategy was submitted to the Cabinet on 19 January.

Resolved:

1. Continue to hold discussions with Isle of Anglesey council to explore the opportunity of preparing a Joint Additional Learning Needs Strategy that will address the pupils and young people's needs effectively and efficiently.
2. Cabinet's approval of Gwynedd Council Strategy for ALN and Inclusion; focussing on the objective in 1.

3. Approval of the Business Case - a one-off investment of up to £1,380,131 to make a permanent annual saving of at least £808,461.

Isle of Anglesey Council will present a paper to the Working Committee on 14 March, reviewing collaboration arrangements between Isle of Anglesey and Gwynedd in the ALN and Inclusion field.

They will seek the Working Committee's permission to:

- Collaborate with Gwynedd officers and the SENJC to re-model the current workforce within the SENJC, adopting a new staffing plan during September 2016 – April 2017.
- Collaborate with Gwynedd and SENJC officers to fully re-model the current workforce within the inclusion service by September 2017.
- Plan the new partnership to offer savings of 10% or approximately £500,000 over two years, to fully achieve by 2018/9.
- Plan revised structure for governance and accountability between both LEA's, to be presented to the Working Committee by June 2016.
- Plan a transitional phase of dual governance between the SENJC and amended Isle of Anglesey/Gwynedd ALN Partnership.
- Share information with schools, parents, and stakeholders on the proposed model, during summer term 2016.

Since January, officers from both counties have held a weekly meeting to collectively create a Joint Strategy within a comprehensive document detailing the individual services.

The document will provide clarity on roles and accountability as well as governance and contact. In addition, a detailed explanation will be provided of the aim, objectives, measurements, access and staffing structure of every service.

The Service Fields include:

INCLUSION:

Safeguarding  
Education Counselling Service  
Behaviour  
Educational Welfare Service  
English as Additional Language  
Children in Care  
Travellers  
Education of Sick Children at Home  
Education outside of the school

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS:

Communication and Interaction  
Senses  
Physical and Medical  
Literacy and Numeracy  
Early Years

LEADERSHIP/ CO-ORDINATION:

Psychology Service  
Education Administrative and Quality  
ALN Co-ordinators