

**COMMITTEE:** Special Educational Needs Joint Committee

**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**TITLE OF THE REPORT:** Report of the SEN Provider Unit

**ACTION:** Consider the report

**BACKGROUND:** Description of the work of the SEN Joint Committee Provider Unit

# **Report of the SEN Provider Unit**

## **1.0 Administration of Assessment and Review Processes**

There have been some difficulties in this service this year. The Service Manager is at the moment absent from her work for health reasons, and one of our experienced administrative officers has also been absent for some time. This has caused some difficulties, but the remainder of the staff have succeeded in shouldering some of their burden and the service has continued to meet the demands placed upon it. We have a new member of the team who has settled well and is doing excellent work.

Members of the team have taken part in training in Personal Centred Planning techniques (PCP), as part of the preparations for the new legislation that will expect Welsh education authorities to utilise these techniques when considering children's Additional Learning Needs

## **2.0 Specialist Teachers Service**

The specialist teaching service has also attended the two-day course on Personnel Centred Planning. As with other SEN Joint-Committee officers, the educational psychologists, they will be working together with our schools to promote the use of this and to ensure consistency in the way review meetings are held. I am aware that they have already commenced with this work.

We have lost one member of the teaching service for children with hearing impairment, who has now started working in a nearby county, and we wish her every luck in her new post.

## **3.0 Educational Psychology Service**

We have an additional member of the team, following the secondment of one of our senior psychologists to work on the Strategy. We hope that she has begun to settle with us and we are very glad to receive her service.

The team has also taken part in the Personal Centred Planning training, and has in fact already trained in this area. We have commenced on this work in schools. As the name implies, these techniques try to ensure that the individual concerned, that is, of course, the child who has the Additional Learning Needs, takes the prominent position appropriate for him/her as the focus of the meeting, and take a full part in it. Another aspect of this new way of holding review meetings will be to ensure more detail and consistency in the nature and amount of additional help the children receive.

We have continued to provide a service supporting the schools of the two authorities, including working with individual children, consulting on other matters involving additional learning needs, and conducting training within individual schools at their request.

## Information 2006-2016

Information on the work of the Provision Unit producing statements over the last 10 years.

The number of statements vary, and it is not clear that this is reducing.

### Number of statements

	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Anglesey	34	45	39	45	43	28	15	45	38	58
Gwynedd	23	54	61	99	75	69	55	89	37	37
total	57	99	100	144	118	97	70	134	75	95

The difference in ratio between the two Authorities varies; there was a period when Anglesey was low, but Gwynedd has been lower over the last two years.

### Statement percentages

	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2008-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Anglesey	60%	45%	39%	31%	36%	29%	21%	34%	51%	61%
Gwynedd	40%	55%	61%	69%	64%	71%	79%	66%	49%	39%

We complete most within the statutory 26 weeks, if you do not consider delays because of waiting for replies from people who are not working within Education.

### Within 26 weeks without exceptions

	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2008-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Anglesey	92%	85%	100%	100%	93%	100%	86%	86%	100%	100%
Gwynedd	100%	90%	89%	98%	98%	97%	93%	96%	100%	89%
average	Gwynedd	95%	Anglesey	94%						

We fail to complete a significant number within the statutory 26 weeks because of professionals outside Education, and perhaps this is increasing.

### Within 26 weeks including exceptions

	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2008-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Anglesey	71%	76%	67%	44%	67%	86%	87%	58%	58%	60%
Gwynedd	57%	67%	70%	86%	93%	88%	73%	62%	59%	54%
average	Gwynedd	71%	Anglesey	67%						