

COMMITTEE: Special Educational Needs Joint Committee

DATE: 20th November 2015

TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: Report of the SEN Provider Unit

ACTION: Consider the report

BACKGROUND: Description of the work of Special Educational Needs Joint Committee during the summer term 2015.

Report of the SEN Provider Unit

1.0 Administration of Assessment and Review Processes

The post of Service Manager has now been filled on the basis of a one-year secondment and the new officer took up her post in August this year.

In October, two of the administrative assistants submitted their resignations, that is 1.4 of the 3 full-time equivalent assistants. The assistant who works 0.4 full-time will be retiring at the end of the year, while the full-time assistant has been appointed to a new permanent post and will be leaving the SEN Joint Committee in December.

At present the intention is to not fill the 0.4 post but it is hoped that we will advertise to fill the full-time post soon, for a temporary period.

In the meantime, the remainder of the team will need to take over the duties of the two who have left.

2.0 Specialist Teachers Service

There have been changes to the specialist teachers services since the previous meeting.

In the hearing service, we continue to have a strong team, with three qualified teachers, equivalent to 2.6 full-time, as well as a full-time unqualified teacher who is training at the moment. One of the teachers will be retiring at Christmas, and we have lost an experienced assistant who was highly skilled in signing, but despite this, we will continue to have a team of 2.7 full-time equivalent teachers from Christmas onwards.

In the visual service, we are working with one qualified teacher for the two authorities (who is being helped for one day a week – 0.2 – by very experienced teacher as a temporary measure) and one other teacher who is training at the moment. There is therefore 2.1 full-time equivalent teachers in the visual service. We have also two qualified assistants, 1.6 full-time equivalent, who have a high level of Braille

There have been cuts in the service for language and communication, and autism, especially. We have two teachers in this field, being 1.8 full-time equivalent, and have lost another two, i.e. 1 full-time equivalent. We have also lost the services of an experienced assistant, who was on secondment from Gwynedd. The team are finding it very difficult to meet the needs of everyone across the two authorities.

In the service for medical and physical difficulties, we continue to have two teachers, one full time and another, who is very experienced, who is working for the service for 0.3 full-time equivalent (and giving 0.2 to the visual service).

3.0 Educational Psychology Service

In the educational psychology service we continue to operate with less staff than usual, with one senior psychologist at present on secondment to Gwynedd. Two part-time psychologists have left the service which means that we can support two trainee psychologists on the course in Cardiff

We continue to operate a system where each school has its allocated psychologist, and a number of sessions are arranged for each school, and are trying to make changes to this system to ensure fairness to all schools. At the moment, a child who attends a very small school has a greater chance on average of receiving attention by a psychologist.

There are 5.9 full-time equivalent psychologists (ten individuals). But we also have the services of a experienced trainee psychologist, who is on the training course in Cardiff at the moment, and is able to take some of the schools under supervision.

This future psychologist will be qualified in summer 2016, and in more favourable financial circumstances the team would be very pleased to consider employing her

4.0 Additional Information

The tables below show the number of final statements that were produced within the statutory timetable of 26 weeks during the academic year 2013-2014. (Statutory Performance Indicators)

26 week Performance Indicators Gwynedd Academic Year 2013 - 2014		figures 2013
Total of new final statements completed	49	85
Number of final statements within 26 weeks with exceptions	14	33
Number of final statements within 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. within time limits and no exceptions noted	20	18
Number of final statements over 26 weeks with exceptions i.e. over the time limit because of, or partly because of, external factors.	15	33
Number of final statements over 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. beyond the time limit and no exceptions noted (no-one late providing advice from external agencies and no factors that were beyond the control of the education authority and/or the SEN Joint committee.)	0	1
Performance Indicator 15a: From the total of cases during the year, the percentage within the 26 weeks, exceptions or not.	48.3%	60%
Performance Indicator 15b: From the cases where there were no exceptions, the percentage that were completed within 26 weeks	100%	95%

26 week Performance Indicators Ynys Môn Academic Year 2013 - 2014	figures 2012	
Total of new final statements completed	37	36
Number of final statements within 26 weeks with exceptions	15	13
Number of final statements within 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. within time limits and no exceptions noted	6	8
Number of final statements over 26 weeks with exceptions i.e. over the time limit because of, or partly because of, external factors.	15	14
Number of final statements over 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. beyond the time limit and no exceptions noted (no-one late providing advice from external agencies and no factors that were beyond the control of the education authority and/or the SEN Joint committee.)	1	1
Performance Indicator 15a: From the total of cases during the year, the percentage within the 26 weeks, exceptions or not.	50%	58%
Performance Indicator 15b: From the cases where there were no exceptions, the percentage that were completed within 26 weeks	85.7%	89%

The number of new statements in Gwynedd is considerably fewer than last year, but this has not happened in Anglesey.

We produce statements based on a number of reports including medical reports. Those which are 'late with exceptions' are late because we have not received some of these reports in time.