

Public Document Pack



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Dr Gwynne Jones,
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive

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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
CYD-BWYLLGOR ANGHENION ADDYSGOL ARBENNIG (MÔN A GWYNEDD)	SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS JOINT COMMITTEE (ANGLESEY & GWYNEDD)
DYDD GWENER, 18 MAWRTH, 2016 at 10:30 y bore	FRIDAY, 18 MARCH 2016 at 10.30 am
YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR 1, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR, LLANGFNI	COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNCIL OFFICES, LLANGFNI
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Ann Holmes 01248 752518 Committee Officer

AELODAU/MEMBERS:

Cynghorwyr/Councillors:

CYNGOR GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Annwen Hughes, Elin Walker Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Beth Lawton, Caerwyn Roberts
(*Cadeirydd/Chair*) Peter Read, Eirwyn Williams.

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN/ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Derlwyn Hughes, Trefor Lloyd Hughes, Llinos M. Huws (*Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair*),
Gwilym O.Jones, R. Meirion Jones, J. Arwel Roberts, Ieuan Williams

YR EGLWYS/THE CHURCH

Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru/The Church in Wales
Yr Eglwys Babyddol Rufeinig/The Roman Catholic Church
Mr Rheinallt Thomas (Eglwysi Rhyddion/Free Churches)

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declaration of interest by any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

2 MINUTES OF THE 20 NOVEMBER, 2015 MEETING (Pages 1 - 8)

To present the minutes of the previous meeting of the SEN Joint-Committee held on 20 November, 2015.

3 JOINT REVIEW OF THE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE (Pages 9 - 10)

To present a joint report by Anglesey and Gwynedd Councils.

(A presentation will be made to the Joint-Committee – copy provided under separate enclosure)

4 2016/17 BUDGET (Pages 11 - 12)

To present a report regarding the Joint-Committee's budget for 2016/17.

5 2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR REVIEW

To present an updated review of the 2015/16 financial year *(Oral report)*.

6 PROVIDER UNIT - AUTUMN TERM (Pages 13 - 16)

To present the report of the Principal Educational Psychologist on the work of the Provider Unit during the Autumn Term, 2015.

7 PSYCHOLOGY POSTS - POST TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS (Pages 17 - 20)

To present the report of the Principal Educational Psychologist on post-training arrangements and financial implications.

8 MEETINGS OF THE JOINT-COMMITTEE FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Friday, 24 June, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in Caernarfon

Friday, 23 September, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Llangefni *(Accounts)*

Friday, 18 November, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in Caernarfon

Friday, 17 March, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in Llangefni

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS JOINT-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November, 2015

- PRESENT:** Councillor E.Caerwyn Roberts (Gwynedd Council) (Chair)
Councillor Llinos M.Huws (Isle of Anglesey County Council) (Vice-Chair)
- Gwynedd Council**
- Councillors Elin Walker Jones, Beth Lawton, Eirwyn Williams
- Isle of Anglesey County Council**
- Councillors Gwilym O.Jones, R.Meirion Jones, Ieuan Williams
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Principal Educational Psychologist (Mr Gareth Payne)
Education Officer (ALN) (IOACC) (Dr Einir Thomas)
Senior Inclusion Manager (Gwynedd) (Mr Gwern ap Rhisiart)
Senior Education Accountant (Gwynedd) (Mrs Kathy Bell)
Committee Officer (IOACC) (Ann Holmes)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Annwen Hughes, Peter Read (Gwynedd Council),
Derlwyn Hughes, Trefor Lloyd Hughes, J.Arwel Roberts (IAOCC),
Mr Rheinallt Thomas, Mrs Delyth Molyneux (Head of Learning,
IOACC)
-

The Chair extended a warm welcome to all those present and he referred to the absence due to ill health of Councillors Peter Read and Trefor Lloyd Hughes. The Chair extended his and his fellow Members' best wishes to both Councillor Read and Councillor Hughes for a full and speedy recovery.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2. MINUTES OF THE 26 JUNE, 2015 MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the SEN Joint-Committee held on 26th June, 2015 were presented and confirmed as correct.

3. THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVIDER UNIT

The report of the Special Educational Needs Provider Unit on activities undertaken during the Summer Term, 2015 was presented for the Joint- Committee's consideration.

The Principal Educational Psychologist highlighted developments with regard to staff changes in the Administrative, Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychology Services and where those changes entailed the loss of posts i.e. through resignation, job change or completion of a secondment period he explained the potential impact on the affected service and the mitigating steps taken either by a proposal to fill a vacancy or by reconfiguring workloads within the current staff complement. The Officer referred to the following points –

- Two of the administrative assistants within the Administration Service will be leaving the service the one due to retirement (0.4 full times) and the other (full-time) to an external post. Whilst it is

hoped the full time post can be filled for a temporary period, the intention is not to fill the other 0.4 post.

- The Hearing Service continues to operate on the basis of a strong team with three qualified teachers, equivalent to 2.6 full time, as well as a full-time unqualified teacher who is currently undertaking training. Despite the impending retirement at Christmas of one of the teachers and the loss of an experienced assistant, the service will continue to have a team of 2.7 full time equivalent teachers from Christmas onwards.
- There are 2.1 full-time equivalent teachers currently in the Visual Impairment Service along with two qualified assistants (1.6 full-time equivalent).
- There have been reductions in the service for language and communication and in particular for autism. There are currently two teachers within the service being 1.8 full-time equivalent. The service has lost two teachers (i.e. 1 full-time equivalent) along with an experienced assistant who was on secondment from Gwynedd. The team is at present finding it challenging to meet all needs across the two authorities.
- The service for medical and physical difficulties continues to operate on the basis of two teachers, one full time and the other who works for 0.3 full time equivalent but who also provides 0.2 to the visual service.
- The Educational Psychology Service continues to operate with less staff than usual with one senior psychologist at present on secondment to Gwynedd Council. Two part-time psychologists have left the service meaning that it is possible to support two trainee psychologists on a professional course in Cardiff. The service continues to operate a system whereby each school has its allocated psychologist and a number of sessions are arranged for each school; the service is seeking to make changes to this system to ensure that all schools are served equitably. There are 5.9 full-time equivalent psychologists (10 individuals) within the service with the addition of an experienced trainee psychologist who is able to take some of the schools under supervision. The trainee psychologist will be qualified in the summer of 2016 and in more favourable financial circumstances the team would be happy to consider employing her.
- The data with regard to final statements produced within the statutory timetable during the 2013/14 academic year shows that whilst the number of new statements in Gwynedd has reduced from last year, the number in Anglesey is similar to the previous year.

In the ensuing detailed discussion, the following points were made -

- The Joint-Committee noted the reductions in the language, communication and autism services with concern and sought clarification of the plans to address the needs of children across the autistic spectrum as a consequence particularly in light of the ongoing pressures on the team.

The Principal Educational Psychologist said that the service has a number of temporary staff and because of the financial pressures several contracts are likely to come to an end in the summer. Whilst discussions regarding the situation are due to be held, because the bulk of the Provider Unit's expenditure is on staff, in the long term this represents the Joint-Committee's principal avenue for identifying savings. Moreover it is considered premature to be taking specific action pending the outcome of Gwynedd Council's Strategy for Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion's journey through the Council's democratic processes.

Gwynedd Council's Senior Inclusion Manager said that notwithstanding Gwynedd has been developing a Strategy for ALN and Inclusion, there are children who are currently in the system whose needs must be met. There have been discussions with Anglesey's ALN Education Officer with a view to establishing a forum to facilitate access to provision; it is felt that rather than looking specifically at the staffing issue, greater focus needs to be placed on the efficacy of current processes and practices to better ensure they are fit for purpose and to reduce the work pressures on staff and also to enable a more planned rather than reactive response. This approach could be extended to all the teams within the SEN Provider Unit.

The Senior Education Accountant said that there is provision also within the two authorities for children with autistic needs.

- The Joint-Committee welcomed the progressive approach that had been taken with regard to training two educational psychologists but expressed concern in light of the financial context regarding the long-term prospects for their permanent employment within the Joint-Committee. The Joint-Committee noted that it would be regrettable should their services be lost given the efforts and investment made to obtain places for them on the restored professional course at Cardiff University. The Joint-Committee therefore requested that it be provided with a report with regard to the arrangements made with the Trainee Psychologists in terms of committing them to the Joint-Committee for a period on the completion of their training and the financial implications for the two posts.
- The Joint-Committee expressed concern regarding the level of uncertainty and risk in relation to the staff situation which it felt could be unsettling for staff, and it emphasised the need as far as possible to try to provide stability for staff. The Joint-Committee sought assurance that the service is sufficiently equipped to provide for the needs of all those children who require support and that none are disadvantaged because resources are stretched, and it was suggested that a report be provided to give an overview of the current position to enable both counties to set a strategic direction.
- The Joint-Committee suggested that it is not meeting frequently enough to be able to maintain an effective overview of developments and the cancellation of the September meeting was cited as an example.

Gwynedd Council's Senior Inclusion Manager said that Gwynedd has conducted a strategic review of additional learning needs and inclusion and is clear in terms of the outcomes it wishes to achieve for children and young people requiring support and how those can be attained. A difficulty for the Joint-Committee is the emerging divergence in the two authorities' approach to meeting needs – the School Action and School Action Plus approach places greater emphasis on schools which in turn can lead to greater demand for services. Gwynedd Council is seeking to develop a more preventative approach to reduce the demand for additional provision.

Anglesey's ALN Education Officer confirmed that there are some differences in the authorities' approach. In Anglesey funding has been devolved to schools and there are agreed pathways between the Authority and primary schools regarding how support can be accessed. Whilst the demand for statements in Anglesey is constant, they are greater in number in the nursery phase this year. The Joint-Committee noted that this increase needs to be monitored to identify a possible trend. The ALN Education Officer said that the needs of these children are acute and go beyond the School Action Plus provision and represents a pattern that may continue. The Senior Inclusion Officer said that in Gwynedd the approach is via an Individual Development Plan rather than a Statement but with support also from schools and the Early Years Units. By utilising the Early Years Units, the level of support required subsequently in the mainstream is therefore less because of the early input, intervention and targeting.

It was resolved to accept the report and to note its contents.

ACTIONS ARISING:

- **The Joint-Committee to be provided with a report with regard to the post-training arrangements made with the Trainee Psychologists and the financial implications for the two posts.**
- **The Joint-Committee to be provided with an overview of the position in the two authorities with regard to the approach to meeting the needs of children requiring additional support because of ALN.**

4. DRAFT ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS CODE

The report of the Principal Educational Psychologist incorporating the draft Additional Learning Needs Code and commentary thereon were presented for the Joint-Committee's consideration.

The Principal Educational Psychologist reported that the Draft Code has been published to accompany the Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill which is subject

to consultation until the 18 December, 2015 and to assist in formulating a response to it. The Bill contains proposals for a new system of providing for children and young people who have additional learning needs. The Officer proceeded to highlight areas where the new draft Code differs from the current Code of Practice and the likely implications for the authorities and Joint-Committee in terms of time and resources, of the changes proposed.

The Joint-Committee noted the following points –

- That further work is needed on the draft Code to develop it into a working code of practice and guidance.
- That the draft Code has implications for all agencies involved in contributing towards meeting the needs of children and young people with additional learning needs and will require changes as regards practice.
- That it is felt the draft Code is open ended in many areas and does not provide a sufficiently precise definition of additional learning needs.
- That the draft Code has significant implications in terms of the expectations on schools as it accords the same legal entitlements to children with additional learning needs at both ends of the continuum be those needs mild, moderate or acute.
- However in cases where the school is of the view that those needs are beyond its capability, it can refer the matter to the local authority. As the Code does not provide specific criteria to determine a capability threshold, the risk is that authorities will have to develop their own criteria thus leading to potentially wide national variations.
- That an opportunity has been lost to achieve uniformity and consistency across Wales by developing one clear set of criteria that would apply to all the 22 local authorities nationally.
- That the Principal Educational Psychologist has drafted a response to the draft Bill on behalf of Gwynedd and Anglesey.

The Joint-Committee requested that it be provided with a copy of the Principal Educational Psychologist's response to the draft Bill and that further, Members of the Joint-Committee wishing to add their own comments on the contents of the Bill do so via the Chair and Vice Chair so that there is also a response on behalf of the Joint-Committee itself.

It was resolved to note the draft Additional Learning Needs Code and the Principal Educational Psychologist's summary of the main changes.

ACTION ARISING: Principal Educational Psychologist to forward a copy of the response to the draft Bill to the Joint-Committee's Members.

5. THE SEN JOINT-COMMITTEE'S BUDGET 2015/16

The report of Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance Service incorporating the SEN Joint-Committee's Budget for 2015/16 was presented for the Joint-Committee's consideration and approval.

The Senior Education Accountant reported that the budget incorporates provision for the usual changes e.g. inflation, increased national insurance contributions etc. but also a 10% reduction in the contribution by the Isle of Anglesey County Council. This is the first time that budgetary cuts have not been implemented bilaterally by both counties meaning that Gwynedd's percentage contribution to the Joint-Committee has increased from 61.37% to 64.27% (£752,046) with Anglesey's contribution reducing from 38.63% to 35.73% (£464,637 to £418,174). The Officer said that Anglesey needs to permanently identify a 10% cut of £55,210 (11.9% in real terms) and officers from the Joint-Committee and both authorities need to agree on proposed cuts to be presented to the joint-Committee.

The Leader of the Isle of Anglesey County Council said that he would report back to the Council's Head of Learning to establish the status of discussions as regards identifying cuts in service equivalent to the £55k reduction in the contribution made by Anglesey.

It was resolved to approve and adopt the budget for 2015/16 and to request that Officers present proposed cuts to the next meeting.

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION ENSUING

6. REVIEW OF THE JOINT-COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNTS 2015/16

The report of Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance incorporating a review of the Joint-Committee's 2015/16 accounts was presented for the Joint-Committee's consideration.

The Senior Education Accountant reported as follows -

- That changes to date in 2015/16 in the Joint- Committee's staffing establishment across the Educational Psychologist, Specialist Teacher and Administrative Services overall amount to a net overspend of £36k on staff costs in 2015/16 in comparison with the budget.
- That approximately £9k in training costs is to be funded from the savings on Educational Psychologists' salaries in accordance with a strategic plan to ensure Welsh qualified psychologist in the future.
- That there is a net increase of £17k in the Joint-Committee's rent costs following relocation to the Penrallt Offices meaning that permanent savings need to be identified to fund this increase. There were one-off relocation costs of approximately £4k in 2015/16.
- That the Joint-Committee has tightened spending on resources due to the overspend leading to total net savings of £11k.
- That due to the staffing situation and lack of capacity to conduct training, the income target set has now become unrealistic. There is likely to be an £8k deficit in income this year and a consequent need to identify permanent savings to bridge this gap.
- That the above considerations lead to an overspend of £65k in 2015/16.

The Officer said that the Joint-Committee had combined balances of £150k at the end of the 2014/5 financial year. Applying £65k of those balances to reconcile the overspend for 2015/16 reduces the balances to £85k at 31 March, 2016. The Isle of Anglesey County Council has implemented a cut of 10% in its contribution to the Joint-Committee's budget which leaves a deficit of £55k in real terms for the Joint-Committee to bridge on a permanent basis. A differentiating provision needs to be identified between Gwynedd and Anglesey to deal with this cut. The Officer also suggested that perhaps a situation has been reached whereby a division of the balances between Anglesey and Gwynedd needs to be considered to allow each authority separately to determine how its share might be used.

The Officer informed the Joint-Committee that she was concerned about its financial position going forwards into 2016/17 particularly with regard to the uncertainty in relation to direction and timescale.

It was resolved –

- **To accept the report and to approve the use of £65k of the combined balances to fund the overspend in 2015/16.**
- **To ask Officers to move quickly to identify the reduction in services for Anglesey in order to identify the £55k savings required.**
- **That the 2016/17 financial situation be projected as quickly as possible and steps be taken to resolve any financial problems.**
- **To ask Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils for guidance regarding the 2016/17 budget.**

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION ENSUING

7. GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S STRATEGY FOR ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS AND INCLUSION

The Senior Inclusion Manager of Gwynedd Council updated the Joint-Committee verbally with regard to progressing the Strategy following a review of the provision and experiences of children and young people with additional learning needs in Gwynedd, and he said that legislative intentions and financial pressures have accelerated the implementation timetable. A report on the proposed changes to the

ALN and Inclusion Service will be considered by Gwynedd Council's Services Scrutiny Committee next week and the report will be presented thereafter for Cabinet approval in December, 2015. A comprehensive consultation process has been undertaken with approximately 400 stakeholders the feedback from which has contributed to shaping a revised ALN Strategy which contains some modifications as regards the model of provision but whose basic principles remain the same. The Officer confirmed that the revised ALN Strategy proposes de-commissioning the SEN Joint-Committee and moving to local models of provision based on Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd.

The Joint- Committee made the following points –

- That it would have been helpful to the Joint-Committee to have received the report that is to be presented to Gwynedd Council's Services Scrutiny Committee to it in understanding the position and the details regarding the proposals for change that are under consideration by Gwynedd, and that it was disappointing that it was not available to Members at this meeting.
- That it was disappointing that Members of the Joint-Committee had not been kept informed and involved in discussions regarding the development of models of delivery as part of the Strategy as was agreed would happen at the previous meeting.
- That whilst both Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils share the same vision in terms of seeking the best experiences and outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs the Joint-Committee noted that the two councils' strategies for achieving the vision differ in a way that now brings the long-term future of the Joint-Committee into question. It was also noted that the position needs to be clarified from the perspective of Anglesey's role in the partnership.

It was resolved to note the position and the information presented.

NO ADDITIONAL ACTION ENSUING

8. NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT-COMMITTEE

It was noted that the next meeting of the Joint-Committee is to be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, 18 March, 2016 in Llangefni.

**Councillor Caerwyn Roberts
Chair**

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:

<u>INCLUSION:</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS:</u>	<u>LEADERSHIP/ CO-ORDINATION:</u>
Safeguarding	Communication and Interaction	Psychology Service
Education Counselling Service	Senses	Education Administrative and Quality
Behaviour	Physical and Medical	ALN Co-ordinators
Educational Welfare Service	Literacy and Numeracy	
English as Additional Language	Early Years	
Children in Care		
Travellers		
Education of Sick Children at Home		
Education outside of the school		

COMMITTEE	Special Educational Needs Joint Committee
DATE	18 March 2016
TITLE OF REPORT	Budget 2016/17
REPORT BY	Head of Finance Service

Budet 2016/17

The budget incorporates provision for –

- +1% for psychologist and teachers from September 2016
- +1% for administrative staff from April 2016
- salary increments
- changes to national insurance contributions - £22k increase
- full-year effect of the increase to teachers' pension contributions from 14.1% to 16.48% in September 2015
- general inflation
- Anglesey's 10% cut in 2015/16 needs to be implemented

The Joint-Committee's present establishment is –

- 8.1 Psychologists
- 7.6 Specialist Teachers
- 6.4 Administrative Staff

The actual staffing levels for April 2016 is –

- 8.7 Psychologists (includes 2 trainees)
- 8.0 Specialist Teachers
- 1.4 Higher Teaching Assistants
- 5.4 Administrative Staff

Due to the employment of trainees within the psychology team, with 1 trainee accepting a bursary, there are savings of £51k in comparison with the establishment budget. There is a £38k saving due to vacant posts in the administrative team. There are additional costs of £49k for employment of teachers and higher teaching assistants in 2016/17.

As previously reported the rent and services fee has increased due to relocating the offices to the Penrallt building in Caernarfon.

Gwynedd's contribution increases from £752k to £777k with Anglesey's contribution increasing from £418k to £432k in 2016/17. Anglesey's contribution is dependent on delivering savings of £55,210 on services in Anglesey during 2016/17 i.e. if the savings are not delivered Anglesey's contribution will increase by £55,210.

Recommendation

The Joint-Committee is requested to approve and adopt the budget for 2016/17 and request that officers present proposed cuts to the next meeting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS JOINT COMMITTEE

Budget 2016/17

		Budget 2015/16 £	Inflation and other costs £	Job evaluation £	Staff changes £	Budget 2016/17 £	actual staffing
Expenditure	staffing establishment						
Employees	April						April
Salaries	2014						2016
- Psychologists	(8.1)	536,310	11,617		-51,560	496,367	(8.7)
- Specialist Teachers	(7.6)	390,400	15,565		49,169	455,134	(8.0 + 1.4)
- Administration	(6.4)	193,380	5,749	24,402	-38,200	185,331	(5.4)
Training		9,520	0		0	9,520	
Liability Insurance		3,000	1,300		0	4,300	
Building							
Rates		4,940	266		0	5,206	
Rent and Services		11,630	16,671		0	28,301	
Transport							
Travelling Expenses		50,780	0		0	50,780	
Supplies and Services							
Resources / Office Supplies		17,480	0		0	17,480	
Notice of Final Accounts		0	1,080		0	1,080	
Audit Fee		0	1,000		0	1,000	
Telephone		8,960	-5,960		0	3,000	
Post		1,880	0		0	1,880	
Central Charges Ynys Môn		1,630	0		0	1,630	
Central Charges Gwynedd		4,960	50		0	5,010	
Savings to be found - Anglesey		-55,210	0		0	-55,210	
Total Expenditure		1,179,660	47,338	24,402	-40,591	1,210,809	
Income							
External Income		9,440	-7,440		0	2,000	
Cyngor Gwynedd Contribution	64.27%	752,046	35,206	15,683	-26,088	776,847	
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn Contribution	35.73%	418,174	19,572	8,719	-14,503	431,962	
Total Income		1,179,660	47,338	24,402	-40,591	1,210,809	
Total Net Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	

COMMITTEE: Special Educational Needs Joint Committee

DATE: 18th March 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 during the autumn term 2015.

Report of the SEN Provider Unit

1.0 Administration of Assessment and Review Processes

We continue with the Service Manager who is with us on secondment.

Following the resignation of two of the Administrative staff in December 2015, a full-time ALN Clerical Support Worker was appointed, temporary until the end of May this year. There will not be a decision regarding filling this post permanently until the work of reviewing the administrative arrangements and systems of the Provider Unit have been completed.

The unit has been exceptionally busy working on all the year 6 reviews, as well as the reviews of the delegated schools, that were received in December and January. The revised statements were all completed by the appropriate date, i.e. the 15th of February.

2.0 Specialist Teachers Service

We are currently operating with the following staff.

Hearing Service:

Equivalent to 2.7 full-time teachers, three individuals.

All three of the teachers are now qualified.

The contract of the one who has recently trained will come to an end in the summer.

Visual Service:

Equivalent to 2.2 full-time teachers, three individuals, one (1.0) still in training.

Equivalent to 1.6 full-time assistants with a high level of skills in Braille.

Language and Communication Service:

Equivalent to 1.8 full-time teachers.

There are difficulties in ensuring an adequate service to Anglesey in particular in this area at the moment.

Physical and Medical Difficulties Service.

Equivalent to 1.3 full-time teachers.

3.0 Educational Psychology Service

At the moment, we are operating with:

Equivalent to 5.9 psychologists (9 individuals), and there are two trainee psychologists on placement with us at the moment from the course in Cardiff.

The principal psychologist and the two senior psychologists have time allocated to duties other than working in schools, and one of the trainee psychologists is close to completing her course and has taken some schools.

This means that the equivalent of 4.9 psychologists are working directly with the schools, 1.8 in Anglesey (37%) and 3.1 in Gwynedd (63%).

This compares unfavourably with the figure for February 2011, when there were the equivalent of 8.1 psychologists.

We are also of course supporting two trainee psychologists in Cardiff at the moment who will be ready to work as psychologists in September 2017

With this team, we can provide a basic service to every school in both authorities, that is, arrange for every school to have a designated psychologist, and consult regularly with the schools concerning individual children and other matters relevant to Additional Learning Needs.

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 during the 6 months between 1/9/15 -29/6/16	
Total of new final statements completed	24
Number of final statements within 26 weeks with exceptions	7
Number of final statements within 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. within time limits and no exceptions noted	4
Number of final statements over 26 weeks with exceptions i.e. over the time limit because of, or partly because of, external factors.	12
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
Performance Indicator 15a: From the total of cases during the first 6 mths of 2015/16, the percentage within the 26 weeks, exceptions or not.	36.8%
Performance Indicator 15b: From the cases where there were no exceptions, the percentage that were completed within 26 weeks	80%

26 week Performance Indicators Ynys Môn Academic during the 6mths 1/9/15 – 29/2/16	
Total of new final statements completed	28
Number of final statements within 26 weeks with exceptions	2
Number of final statements within 26 weeks without exceptions i.e. within time limits and no exceptions noted	3
Number of final statements over 26 weeks with exceptions i.e. over the time limit because of, or partly because of, external factors.	23
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
Performance Indicator 15a: From the total of cases during the first 6 mths of 2015/16, the percentage within the 26 weeks, exceptions or not.	8%
Performance Indicator 15b: From the cases where there were no exceptions, the percentage that were completed within 26 weeks	100%

Principal Psychologist’s Report on the Arrangements for When Training has Finished and the Financial Implications.

Number of Educational Psychologists at Present

Psychologist	Total time	Time in schools	Time in Anglesey	Time in Gwynedd
Principal psychologist	1.0	0.1	0.1	-
Senior psychologist	0.2	-	-	-
Senior psychologist	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.5
Psychologist	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.5
Psychologist	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.5
Psychologist	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.7
Psychologist	0.5	0.5	0.5	-
Psychologist	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.3
Psychologist	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3
Trainee psychologist	1.0	0.3	-	0.3
total	6.9	4.9	1.8 (37%)	3.1 (63%)

Proposed Plan for the Future

This is the plan we were considering for the new system in Gwynedd, before Anglesey came into the negotiations.

Principal psychologist	1.0
Specialist Senior Psychologist	1.0
Specialist Senior Psychologist	1.0
Specialist Senior Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
total	7.0

With Anglesey taking part in the system, this would increase to the following.

Principal psychologist	1.0
Specialist senior psychologist	1.0
specialist senior psychologist	1.0
Specialist senior psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
Psychologist	1.0
total	10.0

Other Services

As we have discussed, educational psychologists have the skills to be able to contribute in a number of areas other than working with children directly in schools, including the areas below.

1. Training for individual schools or clusters of schools

Where the need for training in a particular area arises through the psychologist consulting with the school, and she arranges this locally with, sometimes, the support of other team members

2. Training at the level of the authority

Where the authority arranges for the Educational Psychology Service to provide more formal training, on matters concerning ALN, including learning difficulties, behavioural difficulties, varieties of techniques and ways of working, the results of research in the area, etc.

3. Working with the education officers

In developing more strategic arrangements involving provision and arrangements for ALN, and when considering complex individual cases.

4. Conducting research

Following work to discover new information, for example how effective a given type of provision or intervention is, compared to others.

5. Producing Materials

There is a lack of assessment tools in particular, especially in the Welsh language.

6. Attending training

In order to ensure we keep up with developments in the field, to inform our daily work, and to be the basis of training we can then give to others. It is also necessary according to the national regulations for educational psychologists that we keep up to date with our skills and ways of working.

7. Working together with other agencies

There are regular meetings with agencies such as CAMHS, Derwen/SCS, Speech and Language Therapy, the Offending Team, and there is some co-operation with these with individual cases and on other matters

8. Recent local developments

Gwynedd Authority, now working together with Anglesey, have already made plans which give more responsibilities to psychologists, especially through working together with specialist teachers in areas such as Early Years, Cognition and Learning, Language, Speech and Communication, Behaviour, Emotional and Social, Sensory, Physical and Medical.

9. Proposed national developments

The education authority will have responsibility for making arrangements for Additional Learning Needs for a broader range of children and young people during the next few years, including children and young people up to the age of 25yrs, and Further Education colleges.

The Number of Psychologists for the Future

These figures suggest that we will need four new psychologists to ensure this level of service.

Advertisements could be made for the time these arrangements come into being.

Should this be, which seems unlikely, after September 2017, the time the two psychologists we are supporting finish their course, we would be able to interview them and any other appropriate applicants for these posts. We are now aware of Welsh-speaking psychologists who may be interested.

If the new arrangements come into being before this date, I suggest that we consider interviewing the two who are in Cardiff for these posts

It would then be possible to employ them from September 2017, of fill only two posts and interview them again closer to the time they finish in the University.

Gareth Payne March 2016

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