

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the special meeting held on 21 January 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Haynes (Vice-Chair)

Councillors T LI Hughes MBE, K P Hughes, R LI Jones, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret M Roberts and Nicola Roberts.

Mrs Anest Frazer – The Church in Wales,
Mr Keith Roberts – The Roman Catholic Church,
Mrs Llio Johnson – Parent Governor – Secondary Schools Sector and ALN,
Mr Dyfed W Jones – Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector.

Leader of the Council – Councillor Llinos M Huws (for items 4, 5 and 6);
Councillor R Meirion Jones (for items 4 and 5),
Councillor Bob Parry OBE FRAGS (for items 4, 5 and 8).

Other Members of the County Council invited in respect of items 4 and 5 (Educational Matters)

Councillors Lewis Davies, Richard Dew, John Griffith, Carwyn Jones, Peter S Rogers, Dafydd R Thomas and Robin Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People (for items 4 and 5),
Director of Social Services (for item 6),
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer (for item 8),
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer (for item 6 & 8),
Head of Democratic Services,
Service Manager – Learning Disabilities & Mental Health (Adult Services)(BW) (for item 6),
Programme Manager – Adults Services (ST) (for item 6),
Chief Waste Management Officer (ME),
Project Manager (AR) (for item 8),
Scrutiny Manager,
Scrutiny Officer (SR),
Committee Officer (MEH).

APOLOGIES: Councillor Vaughan Hughes

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs Sharon Vaughan and Mr Rhys Williams – GwE (for item 4)

The Chair welcomed Mrs Llio Johnson – Parent Governor – Secondary Schools Sector and ALN to her first meeting of this Committee.

The Chair also welcomed Mrs Sioned Rowe, the newly appointed Scrutiny Officer to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Glyn Haynes declared a personal interest in respect of Item 8 but took part during discussion on the item but did not vote.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November, 2019 were confirmed as correct.

4 SCHOOLS' STANDARDS REPORT (SUMMER 2019)

Submitted – a report by the Director of Education, Skills and Young People in respect of the above.

The Portfolio Holder for Education, Youth, Libraries and Culture outlined the recommendations of the report to the Committee and noted that the priorities of the Council is to continue to raise standards in education so as to allow pupils the opportunity to achieve the best possible skills within Anglesey schools.

The Director of Education, Skills and Young People gave a detailed overview of the report and said that Welsh Government alongside several partners and experts has undertaken a fundamental review of the accountability system for schools in Wales. Findings highlighted that the existing system and its use of performance measures has many negative unintended consequences. A joint communication from Welsh Government, the WLGA and Estyn to Chairs of Scrutiny, Cabinet Members, Directors of Education, Chief Executive Officers and Managing Directors of Regional Education Consortia, published on 16 July, 2019 was included within the report to the Committee. He said that national changes in the reporting of teacher assessments has been introduced over the last two years and it supports the key objectives of the Welsh Government document : 'Our National Mission', in delivering robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements to support a self-improving system. There is now a greater focus on the use of data in schools self-evaluation. In the reformed system, schools are evaluated according to the difference they make to the progress of every child. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People further reported that the main areas of improvement as part of the Level 2 Business Plan was included at page 33 of the report.

The Chair welcomed Mr Rhys Williams, Schools Challenge Advisor (Primary) and Mrs Sharon Vaughan, Schools Challenge Advisor (Secondary) to the meeting.

The Schools Challenge Advisor (Primary) gave a detailed analysis of the performance data to the Committee.

Foundation Phase

- As with last year, the comparisons of Foundation Phase outcomes in language and mathematics to previous years at school level should be avoided as they are not measured on a comparable basis. Welsh Government is clear that the focus will be on learner progress from the baseline assessment to end of Key Stage and therefore, for the first time, this will be included at the end of year reporting;
- Overall, standards in the Foundation Phase in Anglesey are satisfactory. The percentage of pupils achieving the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI) is below the national average and has been for the past three years. As widely anticipated, following the implementation of the new Foundation Phase Framework, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected outcomes across Wales decreased in 2018/19. The Local Authority's performance reflected this in the FPI and in all areas of learning;
- The impact of the decrease in Welsh O5+ has had an impact on performance in the FPI. The number of learners achieving the higher outcomes also decreased nationally and again this was reflected in Anglesey LA schools' outcomes;
- The difference in performance between boys and girls in Anglesey has remained similar to last year, with girls outperforming boys in all areas of learning by around 14%. The anomaly is at the higher outcomes where boys slightly outperform girls in Mathematical Development;
- Welsh Government has made it clear that Value Added progress between the baseline and end of Foundation Phase should be the focus when evaluating pupil's achievement in the Foundation Phase. Progress of matched pupils from Anglesey's 2017 Reception cohort baseline to end of Foundation Phase 2019 is good. Pupils make at least 3.28 outcomes of progress in all area. The most progress is made in Welsh Language with pupils making an average of 3.67 outcomes of progress. The data confirms that the Local Authority schools demonstrate an effective and sustained approach in supporting pupils to make progress throughout the Foundation Phase.

Key Stage 2

- Overall, the standards in Key Stage 2 in Anglesey are good. Performance in 2019 was similar to the national average and to the average results of previous years in English, Mathematics and Science. However, Welsh results are considerably lower than the national average and have fallen again in comparison to 2018 results. Performance on the higher levels is also similar to the national average in English and Mathematics, and slightly below the national average in Science. Standards of attainment in Welsh are below the national average for the second year running;
- There is a slight decrease in percentage of eFSM pupils who achieved the expected outcome in 2019 in the Core Subject Indicator (CSI). At the higher levels, Anglesey pupil's performance improved in English, Mathematics and Science with more eFSM pupils achieving the higher outcomes than any previous year;

- Boy's performance decreased at the expected in the CSI, while the boys/girls gap increased from that in 2018. The greatest difference in performance in the core subjects is to be seen in English results this year. At the higher levels, the boys/girls gap has narrowed in Welsh, however, it has widened in English, Mathematics and Science. The comparison, national average for boys/girls performance at the higher levels this year shows an overall increase in the difference across the subjects.

The Schools Challenge Advisor (Secondary) gave a detailed analysis of the performance data to the Committee.

Key Stage 3

- This year's result are beginning to reflect the national changes, whereby the prime focus of teacher assessments has started to shift back to the progress and attainment of individual learners and away from aggregated data sets used to hold schools to account;
- Nationally, the percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level was lower than 2018 in the CSI and in all the core subjects. The Anglesey CSI is slightly higher than the national average with a decrease of 4.4% in comparison to 2018 performance. The performance of the 2019 cohort at the expected level was higher than the national average in almost all core subjects, with the exception of English. Performance in Welsh First language was lower than 2018 and dropped -2.1%.
- Performance of boys and girls fell in the CSI and across core subjects in 2019. The performance of boys in the CSI, Welsh and Science is higher than the national average, and their performance is on a par with the national average in mathematics. The performance of girls on Anglesey is higher than the average CSI and each of the core subjects and the performance of boys at the higher levels in Mathematics has improved this year but has fallen in the remaining core subjects;
- The percentage of eFSM pupils who achieved the expected outcomes across the Authority increased in 2019 in Welsh, but fell in the remaining core subjects and the CSI. At the higher level, Anglesey eFSM pupils' performance improved in Welsh, Mathematics and Science but fell in English.

Key Stage 4

- Welsh Government, as part of the Educational Reform Programme for Wales, introduced performance measures as to the way data of results of Key Stage 4 is reported. The main indicator (Capped 9 Point Score) is a performance for the best awards for all individual pupils in the cohort, capped at a specified volume of GCSE's or equivalent qualifications. In 2019 data was collected within Key Stage 4 on the performance of the first entry exams taken by pupils and therefore it is impossible to compare with previous performance measures because of the first entry counting rather than best outcomes;
- The Local Authority's performance in the main indicator (Capped 9) is higher than the national average with performance in two secondary schools being above the national average and modelled performance. The Authority's performance is lower than the expected performance in two secondary schools.

- The performance gap has narrowed between boys and girls this year and the performance of eFSM AND non-eFSM pupils is lower than the national average, with a slight increase in performance gap compared to 2018;
- Comparison was highlighted to the Committee (as shown at pages 27 and 28 of the report) as to performance in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate Indicators for the Island's secondary schools.

Stage 5

- A slight decrease in total number of entries at A level in Anglesey was shown. Over a 3 year rolling period there was an improvement in outcomes on A*/A and A*-C grades;
- ALPS value added data based on information submitted by schools suggests that post-16 pupils in Anglesey make strong progress. This data suggests that on the 'T' score Anglesey schools performed in the top 40% of schools in the data base of schools across both England and Wales, which is an improvement on the performance of previous years;
- Four out of the five secondary schools in Anglesey have improved their performance in the Quality Indicator with one school making excellent progress this year and is among the top 25% of schools in the data base of schools both in England and Wales.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main matters:-

- Clarification was sought whether adequate CBAC resource was now available through the medium of Welsh to allow pupils to succeed in their examinations. The Schools Challenge Advisor (Secondary) responded that it is a responsibility on CBAC to afford resource in both Welsh and English languages for Key Stage 4 and 5. She agreed that there has been cases that resources in both languages has not been available for certain subjects but recently no school has reported that the resources from CBAC is insufficient;
- Clarification was sought as to the reasons why the assessment data in Key Stage 2 as regards to the Welsh language has fallen within the last two years. The Schools Challenge Advisor (Primary) responded that primary schools assess the Welsh language data primary as Welsh first language. Performance data will need to be awaited for four years as regards to the new Education policy for those children who have not been taught through the medium of Welsh. He said that schools are aware of the issue and are continuing to monitor the situation;
- Reference was made to the national changes to the educational reform and questions were raised as to whether the recent changes has enable weak areas to be identified within the education system. The Schools Challenge Advisor (Primary) responded that it is imperative that the assessment processes within the schools is robust enough to measure the improvement of children. He considered that the new national educational changes has refined the schools processes in collecting data; GwE supports school in the monitoring processes within the education system. The Schools Challenge Advisor (Secondary) said that within the Secondary Sector, a shift has been undertaken in Key Stage 4 that secondary schools do not specifically concentrate on the performance of A*-

C but each grade is monitored as points system within the examination process; this allows schools to focus wider in respect of the grade C-D border as was previously the case;

- Clarification was sought as to why the performance of schools in England are performing better than schools in Wales. The Director of Education, Skills and Youth responded that collaborating of schools within a specific structure is paramount to improve the performance of schools. He noted that GwE is working with the Education Development Trust who have worked successfully within schools in England and other countries in relation a specific structure of working more effectively within collaboration in schools.

It was RESOLVED to:-

- **Approve the contents of the report on Anglesey's Outcomes 2019;**
- **Approve the Anglesey LA's main areas for improvement;**
- **Approve the developments in respect of the engagement work with partners in Anglesey;**
- **Approve the liability process between the Anglesey Learning Service and GwE.**

ACTION : As noted above.

5 SCHOOLS' IMPROVEMENT REVIEW PANEL : PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted – a report by the Scrutiny Manager in respect of the progress of the Schools' Progress Review Panel.

The Chair and Chair of the Schools Progress Review Panel outlined the report to the Committee and reported that this progress report contains reference to the three last meetings of the Panel over the period September – December, 2019. He said that members of the Panel have been shadowing GwE activities within schools and have monitored the challenges within schools. The governance framework for these shadowing arrangements includes arrangements for Members to report back following individual shadowing activities before an invitation is given to Head Teachers and Governing Bodies of schools to address the Schools' Improvement Review Panel.

The Director of Education, Skills and Young People and the Portfolio Holder for Education, Youth, Libraries and Culture said that they welcomed the progress made by the School's Improvement Review Panel within the Authority's schools. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People said that he is receiving positive feedback from Head Teachers who have addressed the Panel and especially to the visits by Members of the Panel in shadowing GwE activities within the schools.

It was RESOLVED:-

- **To note:-**
 - **The progress made to date in terms of the delivery of the Schools Progress Review Panel's work programme which includes robust challenge of individual school performance;**
 - **The areas of work addressed through the new arrangements introduced during the shadowing of GwE;**
 - **Outcomes of the recent taking stock and forward planning exercise undertaken by the Panel;**
 - **The need to revise the Panel's terms of reference to ensure ongoing alignment with corporate priorities and the outcomes of the taking stock exercise.**
- **The robustness of the Panel's monitoring to date.**

ACTION: To note the report.

6 TRANSFORMATION OF LEARNING DISABILITIES DAY OPPORTUNITIES

Submitted – the report of the Director of Social Services in respect of the above.

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Social Services reported that it is important to note that it is the people who use the learning disabilities day opportunities that are important whilst considering this report and the facilities that they require currently and in the future. She thanked the Officer for their work in discussions with the service users, families and service providers as to the facilities they wish to see in the future.

The Director of Social Services reported that it is necessary to reshape and modernise the day opportunities services in order to develop sustainable opportunities for individuals to achieve their potential and further improve the delivery of the service in the most cost effective way. He noted that the Council has currently a number of different day opportunities available to people with learning disabilities which some are in-house services run by the Council and some are commissioned externally. The current in-house provision is afforded at Morswyn, Holyhead, Blaen y Coed, Llangoed, Gerddi Haulfre, Llangoed and Gors Felen, Llangefni. The Canolfan Byron Workshop is excluded from the transformation of the disability day centres at present but will be reviewed under a separate work stream. Under the direction of the Adults Service Transformation Board a series of visits to various day centres on the Island were arranged with opportunities for all Elected Members to attend. Workshops were held to undertake the appraisal of the options put forward for the future of the day centres. He noted that the service is undertaking these changes in order to reflect increase in demand and to ensure sustainability for the future. Key challenges faced by the current in-house day centres was included at page 7 of the report.

The Director of Social Services further reported that the proposal is to develop a more community based opportunities for people with learning disabilities, extend the provision at Gors Felen and close the services provided at Morswyn, Blaen y Coed and Gerddi Haulre. The new service would afford flexible opportunities for

people with learning disabilities and would meet future demand including people with more complex needs.

Members agreed that there is a requirement to review and enhance the day services afforded to people with learning disabilities. However, the discussion with people who use the service and their families need to be incorporated into an honest and informative discussion as regards to the future facilities to be afforded and people with learning disabilities needs to be central to the discussion undertaken.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main matters:-

- Clarification was sought as to the timeframe the Adult's Services consider, following consultation that may result in possible closure of some the learning disabilities day facilities. The Director of Social Services responded that consultation will have to be undertaken with services users and any decision to close any learning disability facility would be undertaken over a period of time. The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Social Services said that some facilities offered by the Council in certain location may not close and third sector provider may take over the facility. Current provider services who afford support within the day centres for learning disabilities need to be consulted as regards to the services provided within these centres;
- Reference was made within the report that some service users are having to commute to and from the day services for a considerable period of time on transport afforded by the Council. The Director of Social Services responded that this is an issue that has been highlighted with people having to commute for a considerable period on transport afforded; the Adult's Services acknowledges that it is unacceptable for people having to be on buses for a considerable period of time. The Adult's Services consider that having community base facilities would be a more effective provision for service users of the learning disabilities day opportunities.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive to:-

- **Support the principle of public consultation on the proposal to develop more community based opportunities for people with a learning disabilities;**
- **Authorise Officers to conduct a formal consultation on the proposal.**

ACTION : As noted above.

7 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was RESOLVED to adopt the following:-

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item as it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

The Chair highlighted at this juncture that as the Committee had now been in session for three hours, under the provisions of paragraph 4.1.10 of the Council's Constitution, a resolution was required by the majority of those Members of the Committee present to agree to continue with the meeting.

8 WASTE CONTRACT

Submitted – a report by the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer in respect of waste collection and cleansing service configuration options in readiness for the final tender.

The Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer said that the Authority is currently in the process of procuring a new waste collection contract and have now reached the end of the first stage within a two stage tendering process. Before moving on to the final stage and the receipt of final tender submissions from the tenderers who have completed the first stage of the process, reducing the number of costed service options would minimise the financial and service risks.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED that the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Executive the recommendations as noted within the report.**

The meeting concluded at 4.40 pm

**COUNCILLOR G O JONES
CHAIR**