

## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015

#### EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 3rd SEPTEMBER 2014

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

#### Agenda Item 4

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#### BRIEFING REPORT - SUPPORTING THE MORE ABLE AND TALENTED PUPILS IN RCT SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT.

This briefing paper is to be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation that refers to current RCT support for More Able and Talented learners, the overall position in RCT secondary schools and some planned next steps for the next year.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION.

In areas with high levels of socio-economic deprivation such as RCT, it is vitally important that our gifted learners are encouraged to have the self belief and motivation to develop their innate abilities and talents within a challenging, yet highly supportive environment. These pupils have the latent capacity to help raise the bar for other learners and in the future to lead the way in the regeneration of the Valleys.

#### 3 DEFINITION OF MORE ABLE AND TALENTED (MAT) PUPILS

- There is no universally-agreed definition of learners who generally would be recognised as more able. In Wales, the term 'more able and talented' encompasses approximately **20% of the total school population**, and is used to describe learners who require opportunities for enrichment and extension that go beyond those provided for the general cohort of learners.
- The term 'more able and talented' includes learners who are more able across subjects **within the curriculum** as well as those who **show talent in one or more specific areas**, which could include practical, creative, sporting and social fields of human activity.

## The importance of school context

- The identification of more able and talented learners is linked to a school context, regardless of how these learners compare to more able and talented learners in other schools. **In every school** therefore, you should expect to find a group of learners identified as more able and talented challenged and supported by suitable provision for their development through wise consideration of the breadth and depth of their learning experiences and activities.
- Providing an enriched curriculum will improve the quality of learning and raise standards for learners of **all** abilities and talents, giving them opportunities and encouragement to achieve their full learning potential.