

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale. on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor W. Lewis – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

J. Brencher	M. Powell	S. Rees
A. Calvert	R. Smith	
H. Fychan	S. Powell	

Co-opted Members

Mr J. Fish – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative
Mr S. Jones – Voting Elected Parent/ Governor Representative
Mr M Cleverly – Representing NASUWT and Teachers Panel
Mr C Jones – Representing GMB
Mr D. Price – Representing UNISON

Officers in Attendance

Ms E. Thomas – Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Mr P Nicholls – Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community and Children's Services
Ms.W. Edwards – Head of Community Services
Ms. A. Richards - Head of 21st Century Schools

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Borough Councillor S. Rees-

Owen.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – that in accordance with Members Code of Conduct, there were no personal interests made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

75. THE WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)

The Director of Education and Life Long Learning along with the Head of Community Services presented Members with Rhondda Cynon Taf's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Members were informed that the report provides an update on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 the contents of which were agreed by Cabinet on the 15th December 2016 and approved by the Welsh Government on 15th March 2018.

It was explained that the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 places a duty on Local Authorities to consult, produce and review three year plans that provide the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of Welsh medium and Welsh language education in the Authority.

Members were informed that a number of recommendations were made for consideration prior to the plan being submitted by September 2017.

Officers explained that the WESP includes seven outcomes setting out how Local Authorities will be expected to improve Welsh – medium education in their area.

- Outcome 1: More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2 : More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary schools
- Outcome 3 : More 14- 16 year old students studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 4: More 16 to 19 year old students studying through the medium of Welsh in schools and colleges and work based learning
- Outcome 5 – More learners with higher skills in Welsh

- Outcome 6 – Welsh –medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

It was explained to Members that the Welsh in Education Strategic Group, comprising of key officers and external partners met promptly and agreed on amendments and the inclusion of clear objectives against the required outcomes and the plan was submitted to the Welsh Government in line with the set timetable.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan was finally approved on the 15th March 2018 without further modifications.

Members scrutinised the plan in great depth and put their question forward to officers. Members felt that the report contained a vast amount of information and asked for the report to be presented in more manageable categories.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Provide Members with an update against the Action Plan
- Provide Members with comparative data from other Authorities across Wales
- Receive an update from the Strategic Working Group informing Members of their progress
- That the Chair, Vice Chair and a small group of Members will meet with Officers to consider what specific data is needed for the Committee to further scrutinise this subject area in depth and when this data will become available.

Meeting Closed at 6:15pm

Cllr W. Lewis

(Chair)

