

Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee

Draft Work Programme 2025 - 2026

Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer	Cabinet Member	Invited/ In attendance	How does scrutiny add value, reflect public interest, and support Council priorities
16 JULY 2025	SCHOOL GOVERNANCE	Catrin Edwards, Head of Transformation Admissions & Governance	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	<p>Gaynor Davies Director of Education and Inclusion Services</p> <p>Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century School and Transformation</p> <p>Non-Morgan, Senior Manager for Governor Support and Emergency Planning</p> <p>Tim Britton, Head of Primary Achievement</p> <p>Sarah Corcoran, Head of Achievement and Wellbeing</p> <p>RCT Governors Association</p> <p>Headteachers</p>	<p>For Committee Members to scrutinise and challenge the report.</p> <p><i>Links to Estyn Report 2023</i></p> <p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>A summary of RCT specific recommendations (in relation to Estyn Thematic Review recommendations on governors in Wales, rather just the all-Wales recommendations).</p> <p>Public speakers from RCT GA and other governors that could contribute positively to the meeting.</p> <p>Any further recommendations from the minutes of the report presented to Committee <u>29.01.25</u></p>

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	REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP	Service Director, Democratic Services and Communications	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Gaynor Davies Director of Education and Inclusion Services	For consideration, approval and endorsement to Cabinet of the Scrutiny Working Group report. <i>Links to Corporate Plan - People and Communities</i> <i>Links to Strategic Risk Register Ref 32 (school modernisation)</i>
	MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS	Service Director, Democratic Services and Communications	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Gaynor Davies Director of Education and Inclusion Services	To consider the previous Research presented to Members and consider if Members wish to scrutinise in greater depth.
25 SEPTEMBER 2025	BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT	Gaynor Davies, Director for Education and Inclusion Services	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Steffan Gealy, Service Manager, Welsh Language	For Committee Members to scrutinise any arising matters with the portfolio holder responsible for and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive. <i>Scrutiny committees play a critical role in holding the Executive to account, ensuring transparency and improvement by examining</i>

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	PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT	Louise Davies, Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Gary Black Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience Services Members of Community Services Scrutiny Committee	For Committee Members to scrutinise and make any recommendations to the report before presenting to Cabinet. <i>Links to Cabinet Work Programme (opportunity for pre-scrutiny of Action Plan.)</i>
	WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) – ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE	Gaynor Davies, Education and Inclusion Services Director	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century School and Transformation Lisa Howell, 21st Century Schools Manager Hannah Bebb, WESP Officer Daniel Williams, Head of Attendance and Wellbeing Catrin Edwards, Head of Transformation Admissions &	For Committee Members to scrutinise and challenge the Annual report. <i>Links to Corporate Plan – Culture, Heritage & Welsh Language</i> <i>Links to Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)</i> <i>Links to Estyn Report 2023 – Recommendation 2.</i> <i>Links to Strategic Risk Register Ref 28 (school attendance)</i>

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				<p>Governance</p> <p>Sarah Corcoran, Head of Achievement and Wellbeing</p> <p>Cerys Richards - Welsh Immersion Teacher</p>	<p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>More specific SMART targets/KPIs.</p> <p>The Summary of WESP Outcomes (Appendix 2) page 127 and RAG ratings, are provided at the start of future reports.</p> <p>Future iterations of the report, be provided to the committee for consideration, at an appropriate time.</p> <p>Any further recommendations from the minutes of the report presented to Committee 10.12.24</p>
10 NOVEMBER 2025	SCHOOL MODERNISATION – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME	Lisa Howells, Schools Business and Organisation Manager	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	<p>Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services</p> <p>Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century Schools and Transformation</p>	<p>For Committee Members to scrutinise and challenge the report.</p> <p><i>Links to Corporate Plan - People and Communities / Nature and the Environment Wellbeing Objectives.</i></p>

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				Nicola Goodman Lead for Strategic Planning and MIM	<p><i>Links to Strategic Risk Register Ref 32 (school modernisation)</i></p> <p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>A summary of schools which have a high backlog maintenance and are non-compliant with the Equalities Act, but not included in the SOP yet. (It was appreciated that what was in front of Members was a really good picture of the schools that have had work and investment, the schools that are on the list, but this did not necessarily give a complete list of schools to come), in order to give the Committee an idea of the breadth of the work.</p> <p>To include a section on Active Travel.</p> <p>Any further recommendations from the minutes of the report presented to Committee</p>

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					<u>29.01.25</u>
	ATTENDANCE & BARRIERS TO ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS	Daniel Williams, Head of Attendance and Wellbeing Service	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	<p>Gaynor Davies, Director of Education</p> <p>Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century Schools and Transformation</p>	<p>For Committee Members to scrutinise and challenge the report.</p> <p><i>Links to Estyn Report 2023 – Recommendation 3.</i></p> <p><i>Links to Corporate Plan - People and Communities Wellbeing Objective and Outcomes by 2030.</i></p> <p><i>Links to Strategic Risk Register Ref 28 (school attendance)</i></p> <p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>Ad-hoc positive experiences as well as negative.</p> <p>Costings as a percentage of the Education budget.</p> <p>Response rates for feedback from parents.</p> <p>Request for outcomes.</p>

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					<p>Best practice examples to evidence those areas where interventions and attendance initiatives are in place.</p> <p>Best practice examples are also shared with schools and evidence of how this is being rolled out is also evidenced in future reports so that the best practice can be shared and replicated.</p> <p>To include further data and good practice examples.</p> <p>Evidence of more specific interventions coming forward.</p> <p>Request to bring attendance initiative best practice examples from Mountain Ash Comprehensive School and Penrhys Primary School at a suitable point during the municipal year.</p> <p>Any further</p>

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					recommendations from the minutes of the report presented to Committee 14.12.23 and 11.09.24
	STRATEGIC PLAN FOR EDUCATION 2026-2030	Gaynor Davies, Education and Inclusion Services Director	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century Schools and Transformation	<p>For Committee Members consideration of the feedback obtained from the stakeholder consultation in respect of the Education and inclusion Services Draft Strategic Education Plan for 2026-2030, and to provide feedback on the proposed Strategic Plan prior to Cabinet's consideration.</p> <p><i>Links to Cabinet Work Programme (opportunity for pre-scrutiny)</i></p> <p><i>Links to Estyn Report 2023 – Recommendation 1.</i></p>
9 DECEMBER 2025	ESTYN RECOMMENDATIONS	Gaynor Davies, Education and Inclusion Services Director	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century Schools and Transformation	Report to provide an update on the progress made against the recommendations for improvement identified following Estyn's

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					<p>inspection of the education services in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in January 2023.</p> <p><i>Links to Estyn Report 2023 and Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP).</i></p> <p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>Any recommendations from the minutes of the report presented to Committee 22.01.24</p>
	SCHOOL MEALS/HEALTHY EATING IN SCHOOLS	<p>Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century Schools</p> <p>Lisa Kidner, Head of Catering Services</p>	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Gaynor Davies, Education and Inclusion Services Director	<p>For Committee Members to scrutinise and challenge the report.</p> <p><i>Links to Corporate Plan - People and Communities Wellbeing Objective and Outcomes by 2030.</i></p> <p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>New nutritional standards coming out next year (current Welsh Government consultation)</p>

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					<p>Opportunity for Pre-scrutiny.</p> <p>Previous report to Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee on Universal Primary Free School Meals 13.03.24</p>
29 JANUARY 2026	POST 16 TRANSITION AND CURRICULUM OFFER (INCLUDING PROGRESSION PATHWAYS AT POST-14 AND POST-16)	Sarah Corcoran, Head of Achievement and Wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	<p>Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services</p> <p>Tim Britton, Head of Primary Achievement</p> <p>Kate Owen, 14-19 Future Pathways Officer</p> <p>Headteachers</p> <p>Principal (Coleg Y Cymoedd)</p>	<p>For Committee Members to scrutinise and challenge the report.</p> <p><i>Links to Corporate Plan - People and Communities Wellbeing Objective and Outcomes by 2030.</i></p> <p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>Member briefing, as part of the report, on the Medr funding and how it is allocated.</p> <p>Examples that have shown the development and growth.</p> <p>Include the work of Medr (and the Coleg Cymraeg) in</p>

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					<p>supporting funding for post-16 options in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Hard data with regards to Post 16 destinations.</p> <p>Scrutiny Request Criteria Form 1.</p> <p>Consider the report and minutes of the report Careers and work related experiences (CWRE) in RCT 10.12.24</p> <p>Any recommendations from the minutes of the report presented to Committee 13.03.25</p>
	ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	Ceri Jones, Head of Inclusion Services	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Gaynor Davies, Director for Education and Inclusion Services	<p>For Committee Members to scrutinise and challenge the report.</p> <p><i>Links to Corporate Plan - People and Communities</i></p> <p><i>Links to Strategic Risk Register Ref 28 (school attendance)</i></p>

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					<p><i>Links to Welsh Government Guidance Elective home education</i></p> <p><u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>Scrutiny Request Criteria Form 2.</p> <p><u>Last Report</u></p> <p>Report to Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee on Elected Home Education Update 13.12.22</p>
17 MARCH 2026	BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT	Gaynor Davies, Director for Education and Inclusion Services	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	Steffan Gealy, Service Manager, Welsh Language	<p>For Committee Members to scrutinise any arising matters with the portfolio holder responsible for and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive.</p> <p><i>Scrutiny committees play a critical role in holding the Executive to account, ensuring transparency and improvement by examining decisions,</i></p>

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	ALN - THE CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT IN RCT	Ceri Jones, Head of Inclusion Services	Cabinet Member for Education, Inclusion and Welsh Language	<p>Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services</p> <p>Andrea Richards, Service Director for 21st Century School and Transformation</p> <p>Kate Hill Head of Learner Support Service</p> <p>Suzanne Davidson Early Years ALN & ALP Lead Officer</p> <p>Robert Kempson Head of Educational Psychology Service</p>	<p>Report is to provide an update of the Additional Learning Provision (ALP) made within the local authority for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in line with the Welsh Government legislative framework for ALN.</p> <p><i>Links to Corporate Plan - People and Communities</i> <u>Future reports to include</u></p> <p>Investment in Welsh medium LSCs to be reflected.</p> <p>To include information in relation to the percentage of the education budget that goes on access and inclusion services, and numbers of children and family that are being supported across the whole spectrum along with the out of County</p>

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					<p>expenditure.</p> <p>Progress on the new ALN School at Clydach Vale</p> <p>Include additional information on neurodiversity</p> <p>Any recommendations from the minutes of the report presented to Committee 09.04.25</p>

UNALLOCATED CABINET ITEMS

	Overarching Item	How does scrutiny add value, reflect public interest, and support Council priorities	Date/Time
1.	<u>Education and Inclusion Services - Supplementary Capital Programme 2026/27</u>	Due to Cabinet - March 2026.	To be agreed
2.	<u>Central South Consortium / School Improvement Partnership Programme (SIPP)</u>	Due to Cabinet - ongoing update	To be agreed