

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 9 May 2024

LOCATION: Hybrid

TITLE: Update from the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Workstream

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide feedback on the work of the workstream

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:

BACKGROUND:

The Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee established four workstreams for raising awareness, training purposes, exploring topics in greater detail and for identifying aspects which require further scrutiny at its meeting on 11 October 2012 as part of the forward work programme planning process. The workstreams were reviewed during 2022, and the four workstreams were streamlined into three (as below). The members of the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are divided between the three new workstreams and the Chairman and Vice Chair attends and contributes to all three.

Ensure that local and national priorities are delivered effectively	Ensure equity for all pupils	Ensure an effective and efficient infrastructure to meet our priorities
Councillor: Endaf Edwards Chris James Euros Davies Rhodri Davies Elizabeth Evans	Councillor: Endaf Edwards Chris James Paul Hinge Marc Davies Amanda Edwards Mark Strong Ann Bowen Morgan	Councillor: Endaf Edwards Chris James Meirion Davies Eryl Evans Gareth Lloyd

All Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are invited to the current workstream meetings.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Ensure that local and national priorities are delivered effectively **Visit to Ysgol Henry Richard and Ysgol Y Dderi**

The 'Ensure that Local and National priorities are delivered effectively' workstream met on 19 January 2024. The workstream attended Ysgol Henry Richard during the morning.

Aled Rumble, Curriculum for Wales Co-ordinator, provided a presentation on the Curriculum for Wales that built on the presentation given during the workstream visit to Plascrug School twelve months previously. The Members then received a presentation by two year 8 pupils that started on the curriculum journey in year 7. They provided the example of learning about the wool industry. The stimulus for this was a trip to the National Library to learn about the agriculture and wool industry in Tregaron which developed into the idea of wool-bombing the school in order to give a modern look to an old local tradition.

During the covid lockdown period wool squares were knitted by the pupils and the community. This unique project united the school with the community. During the National Eisteddfod the trees were wrapped in the wool squares. The wool squares were then taken down, washed, and year 7 pupils created Happy Blankets which adhered to the school's principle of Re-Love. The workstream acknowledged how the school had successfully achieved blending the national priorities into the local priorities.

The head pupils Elin Williams and Delun Davies gave a tour of the school to the workstream highlighting the importance of the history of Tregaron and that the local history/traditions play an important role in their curriculum.

The workstream heard that the Transition Days are very effective to bring pupils from other schools together, these include hosting a bbq and participating in activities arranged by pupils.

'Cyngor Disglair', the council responsible for making sure that the curriculum at Ysgol Henry Richard is pupil centred, i.e. pupils have an opportunity to input to the schools' curriculum in order to make it personal, suitable and contemporary.

The pupils' vision for Ysgol Henry Richard:

Assessment and progress
We recognize as a school that the purpose of assessment is to support each individual learner to progress appropriately ensuring that they are supported and challenged accordingly. Our main focus is to continuously support individual learners and identify, track and reflect on their progress over time. In addition to that we encourage learners to reflect independently to steer future provision and to recognize individual improvements.

Human Rights
Our school will promote knowledge and understanding of Part 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, among those who provide learning and teaching.

Careers and experiences related to the world of work
Our curriculum will incorporate careers and work-related experiences for all our learners.

Religion, Values and Ethics
Guidance on Religion, Values and Ethics is one of the mandated requirements of Curriculum for Wales and is compulsory for all learners aged 5 to 16. Parents do not have the right to request that a child be withdrawn from the Guidance on Religion, Values and Ethics in the Welsh Curriculum. As Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance is a locally determined subject, the agreed syllabus sets out what should be taught in Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance within the local authority and our curriculum will reflect the guidelines on this.

Relationship and Sexuality Education
Our school curriculum covers the RSE guidelines and the mandatory RSE Code. Our RSE provision will have a positive and empowering role in the education of our learners and will play a vital role in supporting them to realise the four purposes as part of a whole school approach. Helping learners to form and maintain a range of relationships, all based on mutual trust and respect, is the foundation of RSE. These relationships are essential to the development of emotional well-being, resilience and empathy.

Language Medium
This is a school with a strong Welsh ethos. Pupils will study the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh until the end of year 2. From year 3, English is introduced as a subject of learning. The school is defined as a Welsh Medium school.

Review
We will self-evaluate our curriculum as part of the ongoing process of improving and evaluating the school. Any actions will feed into school improvement plans and specific areas. All the school's stakeholders will be part of the process of developing and revising our curriculum. This will ensure that the curriculum is flexible and broad to the requirements of our learners in order to ensure appropriate progress for all learners.

The workstream then attended Ysgol Y Dderi where pupils had prepared a two course meal for Members with produce grown in the school garden and local produce. Pupils were aware of the importance of knowing where the ingredients come from and what is in the food that you eat. By questioning your food sources and making changes to what you put on your plate, pupils learn that you can support your local community, improve the nutritional quality as well as the taste of the food on your plate. Pupils from year 6 took the Members on a tour of the school visiting all class rooms to enable Members to observe teaching and to discuss learning with pupils. The tour also included a visit to the school garden where pupils explained the benefits of having a school garden.





Ensure an effective and efficient infrastructure to meet our priorities

Visit to Cardigan Secondary School

The 'Ensure an Effective and Efficient Infrastructure to meet our Priorities' workstream met on 6 December 2023. The workstream attended a visit to Cardigan Secondary School.

As part of the Monitoring School Standards Workstream the Headteacher and Chair of governors previously attended a workstream meeting to discuss the performance and standards of their schools.

A presentation was delivered by each school on the following areas at this time:

- a. Attendance
- b. Challenges
- c. Exclusion rate
- d. Key Stage results
- e. Leadership
- f. Regional School Improvement Data
- g. Safeguarding

Areas of good practice and areas of challenge were reported to the main Committee. Cardigan Secondary School was very forthcoming in their desire for the Scrutiny Committee to visit them to gain a greater appreciation of the physical challenges that they were experiencing (vis-a-vis the building infrastructure) as well as to see what they have already achieved with limited resources. The Committee accepted the kind invitation from the Chairman of Governors, Mr Chris Evans and the Head teacher, Mrs Nicola James and visited the school in 2017. Following the meeting the scrutiny committee recommended that the school should be a priority for funding.

On the 6 December 2023 the workstream undertook a follow up visit and received a presentation and a comprehensive tour of the school led by the

Headteacher. The tour, following the presentation, gave Members the opportunity to see for themselves the changes that have been made following the investment and extension to the school. The £2.73m renovation and extension project saw the existing 1950s school, renovated and expanded by 423m², increasing to an overall 1766m².

Works include a new look to the school's main entrance and reception area, a new link extension that brings together the two buildings, a new staff support area and a two-storey rear extension with additional fire exits and WCs, and a new lift will provide access to the Junior block.



School restructuring

The 'Ensure an Effective and Efficient Infrastructure to meet our Priorities' workstream met on 1 February 2024 to discuss the restructuring of schools. Officers had met with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to consider the challenges of the latest financial situation facing schools, in September. They had to consider the implications of this when planning the effective and efficient use of resources to ensure the sustainable infrastructure of our schools for the future. The Principles for Ensuring Sustainable Education Infrastructure document was referred to during the discussions and the core principles were highlighted. The Welsh Government Paper 'School Organization Code Guidance for reviewing school arrangements' was discussed and factors that to consider are:

- School capacity
- Spare capacity

- Pupil numbers over the last 3 years
- Projected pupil numbers
- Headteacher teaching time
- Condition of building
- Backlog of maintenance cost
- Cost per pupil

Members were reminded of the process for reviewing schools and the role that scrutiny plays in the process.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

No

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: N/A
Collaboration: N/A
Involvement: N/A
Prevention: N/A
Integration: N/A

RECOMMENDATION (S):

To note the work of the workstream

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

Contact Name: Lisa Evans
Designation: Scrutiny and Standards Officer
Date of Report: 15/04/24
Acronyms: