

**CYNGOR GWYNEDD**  
**EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE**

**(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972)**

**19 January 2026**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Attendance:**

**Councillors:** Councillor Cai Larsen (Chair)  
Councillor Rhys Tudur (Vice-chair)

Councillors: Beca Brown, Jina Gwyrfa, Gareth Tudor Jones, Gwilym Jones, Beth Lawton, Dewi Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Richard Glyn Roberts, Huw Llwyd Rowlands, Gwynfor Owen, Dawn Lynne Jones, Geraint Parry, Elwyn Jones and Sian Williams.

**Co-opted Members:** Colette Owen (Catholic Church), Sharon Roberts (Arfon Parents/Governors Representative) and Gweno Glyn Williams (Dwyfor Parents/Governors Representative), Elise Poulter (NEU).

**Officers present:** Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Consultant), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer) and Jasmine Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

**Present for item 4 –** Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Council Leader), Councillor Menna Trenholme (Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Supporting Families), Councillor Dewi Jones (Cabinet Member for Education), Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive), Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services), Aled Gibbard (Interim Head of Resources, Children's Department), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education Department), Alison Halliday (Assistant Head of School Support), Llion Williams (Safeguarding and Well-being Quality Leader), Catrin Love (Assistant Head of Corporate Services) and Ffion Mai Jones (Senior Executive Manager).

**Apologies:** Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn.

**CYNGOR GWYNEDD**  
**EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE**

**(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Regulations (Meetings) (Wales) 2020)**

<b>Date of EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE Meeting</b>	19 January 2026
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**SUBJECT**

Item 4: RESPONSE PLAN TO THE OUR BRAVERY BROUGHT JUSTICE REPORT

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**DECISION**

1. Accept and note the report and work programme, and request an update in 6 months.
1. Recommend to the Cabinet:

**Work Stream 1: Voice of the Child and Supporting Victims**

- Measurable arrangements should be established that clearly show how the child's voice and victims' experience directly influence decisions and outcomes;
- Long-term support for victims needs to be ensured without causing further trauma;
- Children facing challenges need to be given appropriate attention and unconscious bias should be avoided;
- Relevant information should be easy to read and accessible to children.

**Work Stream 2: Managing Allegations and Concerns About Adults Working with Children**

- The arrangements for managing allegations and concerns should ensure that any doubt about the suitability of adults to work with children and vulnerable adults is assessed at an early stage, is appropriately escalated and independently challenged, regardless of the status of the practitioner;
- Clear safeguards are needed for individuals who raise concerns;
- Incidents that do not directly relate to children need to be examined;
- Evidence should be gathered to show that change is taking place and to enable future scrutiny;
- Consideration should be given to extending the time period for the audit in Part 5, Wales Safeguarding Procedures, by more than two years;
- It should be checked that there is a mechanism in place to ensure, if necessary, that there is a transition from human resources processes to Part 5 procedures.

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### **Work Stream 3: Training and Policies**

- Policies and training should be rigorous and reviewed to support professional judgement and challenge;
- There needs to be evidence that training changes behaviour and decisions in practice, and is not solely a matter of attendance;
- Safeguarding records should be regularly reviewed and supervised by a specific officer to ensure that they are in accordance with the requirements;
- 'Grooming' should be specifically identified in the training arrangements, and given timely attention.

### **Work Stream 4: School Governance**

- School governance arrangements should be strengthened to identify patterns of risk over time, to ensure clear pathways of escalation, and include an element of independent challenge or assurance;
- Appropriate support should be offered to equip governors to appropriately challenge and identify patterns;
- Consideration should be given to the training provided for Chairs and Designated Safeguarding Governors.

### **Work Stream 5: Reasonable Force**

- It should be ensured that staff understand when the use of reasonable force is appropriate, and that they feel confident and supported to take action to protect children;
- It should be ensured that reviews focus on learning lessons rather than blaming.

### **Work Stream 6: Crisis Planning and Crisis Response**

- Crisis planning and response should be treated as a living process that is part of the safeguarding process and should be tested regularly;
- Clarity is required in relation to roles;
- Effective communication with staff should be ensured;
- Arrangements need to be continually reviewed to ensure that lessons learned from Ysgol Friars remain operational over time.

### **Work Stream 7: Supporting and Stabilising Ysgol Friars**

- Supporting and stabilising Ysgol Friars should be used as a basis for whole-system learning, proving that stability has led to sustainable improvement in safeguarding and cultural change across schools;
- Schools should be required to:
  - include information about their safeguarding arrangements prominently on their websites;
  - consider adapting their relationships education curriculum content to reflect what happened at Ysgol Friars.

### **General**

- There is a need to ensure that there is an overview of the work streams in their entirety;

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- Consider putting arrangements in place to ensure that the Council responds immediately and checks its systems when a significant concern arises which may be systemic in nature;
- Attention should be given to the arrangements for communicating information with parents and families to ensure effective communication;
- Consideration should be given to releasing as much information as possible to ensure transparency;
- The 2023 Estyn Inspection Report on the Council's Education Department should not be quoted or referenced in the Response Plan.

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## THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	13
Against	0
Abstentions	0

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## DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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