

# CYNGOR GWYNEDD

## REPORT TO A MEETING OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 September, 2017
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Iwan T. Jones, Corporate Director
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<b>Title of Item:</b>	Education Department Performance Report

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update you on what has been achieved in the field for which I, as Cabinet Member for Education, have responsibility. This will include outlining the latest with the pledges in the Strategic Plan; where the performance measures have reached; and the latest in terms of the savings and cuts schemes.
- 1.2. I wish to remind you that all the matters have already been discussed and scrutinised in meetings of the management teams, which also included representatives from the scrutiny committee.
- 1.3. On the whole, I am comfortable with the performance of the Strategic Plan projects, and the majority have made good progress. However, I am aware that some areas are receiving special attention by the Department in order to improve performance and these are the areas that I will keep an eye on over the coming months:
  - Raising Standards Foundation Phase (up to 7 years)
  - Improve standards in key stage 4 (14-16 years) in specific subjects
  - Improve the quality of provision and standards of achievement in Key Stage 5 (post 16)

## **2. THE DECISION SOUGHT**

2.1 To accept and note the information in the report.

## **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

3.1. In order to ensure effective performance management.

## **4. STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS**

### **4.1. P1 Improve and Standardise Education Standards - Foundation Phase and Key Stage 4**

4.1.1 The purpose of this project is to improve and reconcile education standards across Gwynedd in order to ensure that children and young people attain the highest standards so that they may gain qualifications and skills, by focusing on the Foundation Phase and KS4.

4.1.2 A system has been established via the County Quality Board to monitor performance and quality at all levels in Gwynedd schools. This permits a full picture for the performance and quality of schools. It is fair to say that the County Quality Board is increasingly proving its worth and the fact that fewer schools are in a category is proof of this. It is a means for us to get a full picture of the education of children and young people in Gwynedd

4.1.3 This year, this project has concentrated on improving and standardising education standards in the Foundation Phase (up to 7 years) and Key Stage 4 (14-16 years). Although the Foundation Phase figures were heartening (86.8%) last year, I asked the Department to look into the situation as these figures had been static since 2014.

4.1.4 The initial analysis of officers indicates that one possible reason to explain the results is that we assess through the medium of Welsh only in the Foundation Phase in Gwynedd. Some pupils, who are latecomers, do not attain the expected standards in Welsh by the end of the key stage, and therefore they do not manage to reach the indicators. More detailed research will be required to confirm any initial findings.

4.1.5 The post 16 field is also something that I wish the department to look at in greater detail. I am anxious to get an analysis of results for KS5 (post 16) to include 2017 A Level results across the County.

### **4.2. P2 Improving Leadership and Management**

4.2.1 The purpose of this project is to improve the conditions for leadership in order to raise standards. We will implement proposals to improve leadership and management with the aim of moving towards the goal of having schools with non-contact headteachers, i.e. who do not teach children.

4.2.2 The work of consulting with schools and governors on the principles of 'Education for Purpose for Gwynedd' has been undertaken and I will present the analysis and the next steps to you in October.

4.2.3 Although good work has been done to develop leadership, I feel that there is room for improvement and to further fine-tune this project. I have therefore asked the Education Department to consider a comprehensive training programme that maps out what is offered by the Welsh Government, GwE and Gwynedd Council in order that the training continuum is available for existing and future leaders. I hope to be able to report further on this next time.

#### **4.3. Programme for a network of viable schools for the future.**

##### **4.3.1 P3 Bangor Project**

The purpose of this project is to review primary education in Bangor in order to ensure sustainable future provision while responding specifically to the increase in demand for places in the Penrhosgarnedd area.

The Welsh Government has confirmed that they have set aside £6.3m for investment in the provision of education in the Bangor catchment area.

As part of the initial engagement a meeting took place in June with the Local Bangor Members to discuss the process and the next steps. A Catchment Review Panel was established to discuss the project's priorities and options. The community engagement work will end in September/October and I will present a report to you on the position in November 2017.

One matter that will receive full consideration during the next few weeks will be to consider if there is sufficient capacity in the area and within specific catchment areas.

##### **4.3.2 P4 Y Gader Catchment Area - Ysgol Bro Idris**

The purpose of this project is to establish an All-through Catchment Area School for 3-16 year olds in the catchment area of Ysgol y Gader, Dolgellau.

I am pleased to say that the staffing structure is now in place and all Ysgol Bro Idris sites will open in September 2017. I feel that we need to celebrate this development as it is exciting and positive for the area.

However, it is fair to say that there are lessons to be learnt in terms of developing a school site of this scale. This will be considered in the process of developing new schools in the future. One matter that I wish us to keep an eye on is the measure of success of this new school and I am anxious to receive feedback on this regularly.

##### **4.3.3 P5 Ysgol Glancegin**

The purpose of this project is to secure an investment to provide a new building for Ysgol Glancegin, which is located in Maesgeirchen, Bangor.

The building work is proceeding and the new school building will be ready by the start of Autumn term, 2017. The Property department will confirm the arrangements with the School to transfer from the old building to the new building during the next few weeks.

By now we have heard that our bid for £60,000 of Flying Start funding has been approved to site an additional cabin for nursery age children to secure early years education on the estate.

This news is to be celebrated and it again emphasises that there are lessons to be learnt when planning new schools and having cross-departmental discussions to ensure that the brief for developing new schools is comprehensive.

#### **4.3.4 P6 Ysgol y Berwyn Catchment Area**

The purpose of this project is to create a 3-19 Welsh-medium Learning Campus on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn.

In accordance with the Cabinet's decision in June, the Council is conducting a pre-consultation with the Church in Wales over the next few months, before proposing and confirming the way forward in terms of an alternative model. The process of establishing a shadow governing body and the usual work of establishing the new school will commence following the completion of the statutory consultation process on the alternative proposal.

It is emphasised that building work is making progress in accordance with the original time-schedule and the latest developments do not have any impact on the building schedule.

#### **4.4 P7 Transforming the Provision of Additional Educational Needs and Inclusion**

The purpose of this project is to transform the service for children with additional learning needs.

In accordance with the resolution, a Strategy for Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion will be implemented fully from September 2017, jointly with Anglesey.

The latest business plan highlights savings of £422,000 for September 2017 compared to the previous year. The main savings derive from a reduction in the number of learning and cognition teachers as well as sharing the managerial costs of the service with Anglesey.

The remainder of the savings will be as a result of a reduction in the sum devolved to schools. The department is in the process of commissioning work on modelling different methods of devolving Additional Learning Needs (ALN) finance. This work will have been completed by the end of September 2017. The work of consulting on any change in the formula will commence with schools soon following this.

The ALN Joint-Committee came to an end at the end of August. New Governance arrangements have been agreed and are part of the Formal Agreement that both authorities will proceed to implement as a New Service.

### **5. MEASURING PERFORMANCE**

#### **5.1. Performance Measures**

- 5.1.1 I attach the profile of inspections in Appendix 1. As you see, the profile is very good with every school who received an inspection visit during spring 2017 receiving 'good' or 'outstanding'.

Effective action has been undertaken with each school in a follow up category and as a result each has seen expected improvements within the time-table set. However, one school has been placed in a statutory category very recently following an Estyn inspection. The Authority and GwE will work closely with this school to respond to the position and I will update you regularly on developments.

- 5.1.2 As you are aware, the results of the GCSE and A Level examinations were announced at the end of August. I intend to give you full details when I report next time in order to ensure that a detailed analysis has been made of the figures at a Gwynedd level and a National level.
- 5.1.3 To give you a snapshot of the position, on the whole GCSE results are good and the percentage that have attained grades A\*-G is 98.5%, which is substantially higher than the national average of 96.9% and an increase on last year (97.3%). This reflects the emphasis placed in Gwynedd schools on inclusion, equal opportunities and the success of pupils as individuals.
- 5.1.4 The percentage of pupils that attained five GCSE \*A-C grades, including Welsh, English and Mathematics is 58.9% in Gwynedd this year. Although this figure is lower than last year (65.9%) Gwynedd's performance continues to be in 1st position in the north Wales Region and 5th at a national level, the expected position.
- 5.1.5 These results reflect the National drop. Changes to the examination process and syllabus for subjects such as Mathematics and English has had a significant impact on GCSE results this year in Wales, especially in regards to \*A-C grades. GwE jointly with the Authority will undertake a more detailed analysis of the main issues next month and I will report further following this.
- 5.1.6 Despite this, the percentage of pupils who are entitled to free school meals and who have attained five GCSE \*A-C grades, including Welsh, English and Mathematics is 45.4%, compared to 26.2% at a north Wales regional level. This again reflects the emphasis given to ensure that every young person in the county succeeds.
- 5.1.5 The situation with A Level results is also heartening this year. The percentage who gained grades \*A-E across all subjects (97.3%) was an increase compared to 2016 (96.2). In addition, there was an established increase in the percentage that gained grades A or better (25.5%) one higher than the figure for Wales (25.0%) and it is heartening that A\*-E was 100% across the majority of subjects and this reflects the advice and guidance provided to our young people.
- 5.1.6 I stress the need to treat the above statistics with care for now, but I will confirm the situation finally in my next report to you, giving details of the trends. As the details of all the results for the key stages will not be available until October I do not present a long list of the department's measures as an appendix.
- 5.1.7 In addition, by next time I have asked the department to include the educational attainment figures for Looked After Children. These measures are important to report and measure if we want to ensure that the principle that every child and young person receives the same opportunities and the same good standard of education.

## **6. FINANCIAL/SAVINGS SITUATION**

- 6.1 On the whole, I do not anticipate a problem in realising the savings plans for 2017/18 following the Cabinet's decision on 28 March 2017 to re-profile £41,700 from the Breakfast Club Scheme for Primary School Children to 2018/19, and I am satisfied that steps are in place to ensure that the scheme is realised.
- 6.2 There is a target of £4.3m for School Effectiveness Savings (2015/16-2016/17). Originally, £990,000 of this had been planned to be realised in 2017/18 together with a further £263,000 to be implemented in 2018/19. The Cabinet resolved in its meeting on 14 February 2017 to delay the implementation of £298,990 of 2017/18 Secondary Schools efficiency savings for two years. The latest position therefore is that efficiency savings of £263,000 are expected in 2018/19 and £298,990 expected in 2019/20 to ensure full implementation of the '£4.3m School Effectiveness Savings'.
- 6.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the 'Revenue Budget 2017/18 – Identifying Early Risks' report to the Cabinet in July 2017, noting that the early review of the Education budget had identified an overspend of £358k by the end of the financial year. I will be working with the Head of Department to take appropriate steps to try to ensure that the Department operates within its budgetary provision by the end of the year.

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### **Views of the statutory officers**

#### **The Monitoring Officer:**

"No observation in terms of propriety."

#### **Head of Finance Department:**

"I confirm the accuracy of the financial aspects of the report. It is encouraging that the Cabinet Member is confident (in part 6.1 of the report) that the services within the Department will achieve the vast majority of the savings plans in a timely manner, and that the Cabinet Member is taking appropriate steps to try to ensure that the Department is acting within its financial provision by the end of the year following the early warning of an overspend."

#### **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1** School Inspections Data

