

Committee	Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Report Title	Assessment of current post-16 education provision in Gwynedd
Date of meeting	23 January 2018
Report by	Garem Jackson, Head of Education
Designated Cabinet Member	Cllr Gareth Thomas

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Education Department wish to appoint a contractor to conduct an assessment of post-16 education in Gwynedd. Assessment findings may form the basis of further discussion on the county's future post-16 provision pathway.

2. BACKGROUND

Historically in Gwynedd, all of the 14 secondary schools had a sixth form that provided A Level courses for the young people of Gwynedd. The core subjects were offered at every school and the broader provision was reliant on every individual establishment's specializations and time-table. There was very little inter-school travel involved.

In the 1990s, a significant change occurred in the manner in which post-16 education was provided in Dwyfor and Meirionnydd specifically. Sixth forms were abolished in these areas (except for Ysgol y Berwyn) and a tertiary college was established to which the pupils transferred at the end of their statutory education at 16 years of age. No changes were made to the post-16 provision in Arfon in the same period.

The current post-16 provision in Gwynedd is provided at six secondary schools in Arfon, namely Ysgol Brynrefail, Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle, Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Ysgol Friars, Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen and Ysgol Tryfan, and at two further education colleges, Coleg Menai (Bangor) and Coleg Meirion Dwyfor (Pwllheli and Dolgellau) that forms part of Llandrillo Menai Group. There is also a sixth form at Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala.

In addition, Arfon secondary schools in partnership with Gwynedd LEA, Isle of Anglesey Secondary schools and Isle of Anglesey LEA and Llandrillo Menai Group form a Consortium (Gwynedd and Ynys Môn post-16 Education Consortium) that sets the area's post-16 curriculum through a partnership arrangement. This, amongst other aspects, enables the schools to address *Learning and Skills Act (Wales) 2009* that notes that every post-16 establishment must provide a choice of 30 courses for learners of which five should be vocational courses.

3. STUDY AIM

Gwynedd Education Department wish to commission a report that analyses the county's entire current post-16 provision. This involves scrutinizing the county's entire current provision, drawing comparisons between the merits of the currently implemented different provisions.

The aims of the study are to specifically examine:

- current governance arrangements
- available options for young people in Gwynedd
- available courses including general, vocational education and apprenticeships, and any gaps in current provision
- the quality of current provision in Gwynedd
- and identify excellence and any shortcomings of the current provision
- the available post-16 provision for ALN learners
- the language medium of courses and central administration by providers
- young people's experiences in the post-16 sector in Gwynedd
- value for money and viability of provision going forward

4. STUDY BRIEF

Appended is a draft version brief to commission a contractor to assess the current post-16 education provision in Gwynedd. The draft version of the brief details the specific tasks that the contractor is requested to undertake, as well as work time-table and outputs.

Comments or questions are invited from Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee members on the submitted draft version of the brief.