

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

REPORT TO A MEETING OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

Date of Meeting:	23 July 2019
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Cemlyn Rees Williams, Cabinet Member for Education
Contact Officer:	Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive
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Title of Item:	Education Department Performance Report

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 on the pledges in the Council Plan, reporting on the Department's day-to-day work, and the latest in terms of the Department's savings and cuts schemes.
- 1.2. I wish to remind you that all the matters have already been discussed and scrutinised at Performance Challenging meetings, which also included representatives from the Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3. We are now implementing the 2018-23 Council Plan, and I herein report on progress since April to the end of June 2019.

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. COUNCIL PLAN PROJECTS

4.1. Strengthening Leadership

- 4.1.1 This project will encourage and promote the professional development of the current leaders of our schools, and ensure that they follow an appropriate programme of professional teaching.
- 4.1.2 The Council has agreed on a procedure with GwE to put relevant training arrangements in place to support the career development of future leaders, and to promote the professional development of the existing leaders in our schools, that system is now in place.

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4.1.3 The first scheme of this project will address the challenges around attracting and recruiting leaders and middle managers at Meirionnydd Secondary Schools where the greatest challenges lie ahead.

4.2. 21 Century Schools Programme

The 21 Century Schools Programme plans and realises innovative projects to adapt or build new schools for Gwynedd's children and young people to be educated in the best possible learning environment.

4.2.1 The aim of the **Bangor Catchment Area** project is to review the primary education provision in Bangor, looking to put a new plan into action that will improve the future provision.

4.2.2 Following a decision to build a new school for Ysgol y Garnedd and to close Ysgol Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda, the construction work of the new school has commenced and is going well.

4.2.3 Following a decision to extend Ysgol y Faenol, the planning right has been approved, and the tender has been released. We aim to commence work on the site on 1 August 2019.

4.2.4. **Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn** will be a 3-19 Learning Campus, that will also provide services for the local community. The construction work, valued at £10.27million, has ended, with only minor work yet to be completed. The new Headteacher has commenced in post since the beginning of the year, and every post within the staffing structure has been filled. The school will open its doors on 2 September 2019.

4.2.5 As the new Governing Body seeks to set a budget for the school a number of budgetary issues have emerged that will require consideration by the Cabinet in due course. I will report on that in a separate report once we have come to the bottom of the matter.

4.2.6 Initial work has commenced to look at constructing a new school in Cricieth, including research work into the number of pupils in the catchment area, identifying and assessing a list of potential sites, and initial meetings with the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Treferythyr and Ysgol Llanystumdwy.

4.2.7 Research work continues on the **post-16 education provision**, which includes desktop research work by a team from the Education Department, and two reports have come to hand from consultants. I anticipate that a report will be submitted to Cabinet in December 2019.

4.3 Transforming the provision for Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

4.3.1 The purpose of this project is to transform the additional learning needs and inclusion service, in order to ensure that children and young people who need it have access to the most suitable support to enable them to fulfil their potential.

4.3.2 The focus now is on adapting the service to cope with the change in ALN legislation, with 10 work streams deriving from the Act. We collaborate regionally, and discuss consistency whilst ensuring this in the context of our priorities in Gwynedd.

4.3.3 One aspect that needs to be addressed is the fundamental question, whether we can invest more and earlier in children's lives. I am eager to see the Early Years intervention and the 16-25 Provision being discussed by the Supporting People Board in due course.

4.4 Secondary Sector Language Strategy

4.4.1 The purpose of this project is to ensure a robust follow-up to and build upon the Language Charter for primary schools by extending the support to the Secondary Sector Language Strategy.

4.4.2 The language web is in the process of being undertaken once again at schools in order to measure the trends against the baseline established back in September 2018.

4.4.3 Following the decision of the Cabinet on 2 April 2019, work is moving forward at the Language Centres. It was resolved to implement the pilot scheme of a teacher and assistant at the Maesincla Language Centre, where every Language Centre had submitted a draft plan for providing their own after-care during the Summer Term, from September 2019 onwards.

4.5 The Education Department's day-to-day work

4.5.1 The purpose of the **Catering and Cleaning Service** is to provide nutritious and healthy food for the pupils of Gwynedd Schools and to keep educational establishments clean and safe to assist pupils to reach their potential. Whilst the information we have shows that the service is performing well, sickness levels are high in the service, and further work is being done to understand the reasons for the sickness and to try and resolve the situation.

4.5.2 The purpose of the **Additional Learning Needs Service** is to ensure a consistent and deserving quality support for children and young people. The service is working with schools to improve the system and develop processes for checking quality; and, as a result, we have already seen substantial progress at some schools. I continue to ask the service to consider relevant measures for the field.

4.5.3 The **Behaviour Support Service** collaborates with Gwynedd and Anglesey schools to seek a positive change in the behaviour of young people who experience behavioural, emotional and social development difficulties, with the aim of improving behaviour and reducing the risk of exclusion from school. The service includes four elements, namely early intervention, Llechen Lân, Pecyn 25 and Home Schooling.

4.5.4 It is a pleasure to report that the number of pupils referred for central support have reduced only 22 pupils compared to 38 in 2017/18.

4.5.5 Work is underway to consider an alternative model of providing Pecyn 25 (the scheme that supports those facing exclusion). The aim is to ensure a provision that offers a better range of experiences and qualifications for the learners.

4.5.6 The **TRAC project** is a scheme funded by European funding, which aims to reduce the risk of children leaving Year 11 and being out of education, training and employment. The project offers tailored provision for the individual. So far, the project in Gwynedd has offered support to 657 of the most vulnerable pupils. The project will still be operational until July 2022, and there is an intention to undertake

an evaluation of the project, which will be an opportunity to gather information about the impact of the project locally, along with pre-planning for the period when the current funding for TRAC ends.

5. MEASURING PERFORMANCE

- 5.1. I will report on the performance measures for 2019 later in the year, when the data is available.

6. FINANCIAL/SAVINGS SITUATION

6.1 2016/17 Schemes

- 6.1.1 The saving of £28,681 in 2016/17 for *Ffordd Gwynedd – Salaries and Contracts Unit* has been achieved by the Department, but the self-service element has not been implemented due to the lack of resource from the Finance Department (ICT)

6.2 2017/18 and 2018/19 Schemes

- 6.2.1 In relation to the *Schools' Additional Savings Scheme*, the saving of £298,990 is to be realised by Secondary Schools in 2019/20, with the savings of £198,000 in 2020/21, and £65,000 in 2021/22 on track to be achieved on time.

- 6.2.2 The scheme to *Reduce the time and / or raise a fee for childcare element within the Free Breakfast scheme in primary schools* has not been realised, with the latest situation suggesting a deficit of £103,000, and the Department is considering some schemes in order to fund the deficit.

- 6.2.1 In relation to the *Increase the price of primary schools meals from £2.30 to £2.50* scheme, the latest prospects suggest that there is a deficit of approximately £50,000, as the numbers who order dinner have reduced since the price hike in September 2017; therefore, the scheme is not making expected savings.

6.3 2019/20 Schemes

- 6.3.1 Two new efficiency savings schemes for 2019/20 have been realised.

- 6.3.2 We anticipate some risks to achieving the savings in full for the *Increase the fee for the pre school care club* scheme. These savings are not being realised on the anticipated level, with the latest prospects suggesting a deficit of approximately £10,000 on the income. The Department will research other schemes to achieve this saving beyond the pre school care club.

7. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

7.1. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

I note in part 4 of the report that there are significant developments with financial implications in the field of Education, including the 21st Century Schools Programme capital investment mentioned in section 4.2 of the report.

The report presents a fair picture of the situation of the Education Department in terms of realising the savings plans, with a number of savings schemes already being realised or on track to deliver on a timely basis. However, I note (in section 6.2.2 of the report) that the Department does not wish to realise the saving from the protection fee (relevant to the free breakfast scheme), and that an alternative plan will be required to close the gap.

Similarly, an alternative plan will be required to realise the remaining savings target of raising the price of school meals (see section 6.3.2 of the report).

Finance officers will assist the responsible Cabinet Member to monitor progress against all the plans, and we will be in a position to report further on the progress and alternative schemes following the next financial review.

7.2. Views of the Local Member:

7.2.1 Not a local matter.

7.3. Results of Any Consultation:

7.3.1 None to note.

Appendices:

None.

Background Documents:

None.