

<b>NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	Services Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	4 June 2015
<b>TITLE OF ITEM</b>	Update – Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Strategic Review
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	Councillor Gareth Thomas
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Iwan T. Jones, Corporate Director

## 1. Background:

1.1 We present here for your attention a brief update on the Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Strategic Review.

1.2 In December of last year, this Committee agreed to establish a specific task group to scrutinise the ALN Strategy during a period of consultation (January – February 2015). The following members were nominated:

Councillor Elin Walker Jones  
Councillor Gweno Glyn  
Councillor Selwyn Griffiths  
Rev. Canon Robert Townsend

1.3 A meeting was held on January 21, where the members went through the Draft Strategy in detail, receiving comments from members of the panel that were present, and notes from Elin W Jones. These comments, along with a consultation pack, were sent to all members of the Scrutiny Committee giving everyone an opportunity to present additional comments if they desired.

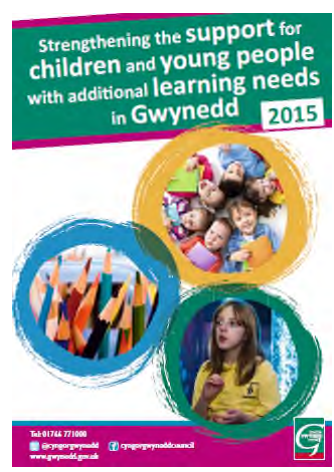
## 2. Consultation:

2.1 (Multi-agency) Information Fairs were held at 5 locations (Caernarfon, Dolgellau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bangor and Pwllheli) between 23-27 February –aimed towards parents. The following agencies were there to support us:

- ALN Joint Committee psychologists
- The authorities central Specialist Teachers
- Early Years (Dechrau'n Deg, Gyda'n Gilydd and Barnados)
- SNAP
- Derwen
- The new Special School
- Gwynedd Ni



- 2.2 17,000 flyers were distributed to the schools to be shared with every child – to raise awareness about the information fairs and the opportunity to give their opinion. Unfortunately, we cannot be certain that every school did this, and as a result the majority of parents weren't aware of the fairs. The use of Facebook helped a little. Around 80 people attended the fairs.
- 2.3 A special booklet was produced to convey the strategy's proposals in a concise way for the parents. It included a questionnaire, and there was an opportunity to complete it online. Responses were received from parents through 50 questionnaires.



- 2.4 The Consultation Pack was sent to a range of stakeholders and specific consultation sessions were held with the:
- Cognition and Learning Team;
  - Additional Learning Needs Joint Committee;
  - Isle of Anglesey County Council's Education Department and Cabinet Members;
  - Additional Learning Needs Joint Committee officers;

- Services Scrutiny Committee Task Group (see above);
- Contact Group – agencies and stakeholders;
- ‘Culture Change’ Task Group – primary and secondary head teachers;
- Chair of Governors for both special schools;
- Meirion Dwyfor new special school Project Board;
- 3 regional meetings with chair of and/or designated ALN governors

2.5 31 formal responses to the draft Strategy were received – a specific form to receive comments relating to each individual proposal was presented.

### **3 Next steps:**

3.1 There has been some delay in terms of presenting a report to the Cabinet due to discussions with Môn Council and the ‘Purdah’ period prior to the General Election. A report will be presented to the June 23 Cabinet that will:

- Summarise the response to the consultation
- Present the Revised Strategy
- Present the Business Plan
- Action plan – timetable and work programme

3.2 A special meeting has been arranged on June 11; where we will detail and present the report mentioned above. Members of the task group have received an invitation along with Gwynedd Council members of the Additional Learning Needs Joint Committee and some Cabinet members. There will be another opportunity for the task group to meet separately on June 15 if necessary. Any comments from the panel will be reported verbally in a meeting of the Cabinet on June 23.