

Committee	Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report	Education Annual Report 2022-23
Date of meeting	23 January 2024
Author	Gwern ap Rhisiart, Head of Education
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Beca Brown

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In accordance with the wishes of the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee, the Education Department's Annual Report for 2022-23 is submitted before the committee.

1.2 The Education Department acknowledges that it is no easy task to ensure effective scrutiny of a document covering a years work by the Education Department at a committee meeting. As a result the report attempts to highlights the Department's main projects, the usual main day to day work of the Department, positive aspects, challenges, along with areas that need addressing over the next period. The Annual Report is to be found in Appendix 1.

1.3 In addition, GwE will detail what they have achieved in the field of school improvement to ensure a complete overview of the area for the committee for 2022-23.

2. THE CONTEXT FOR 2022-23

2.1 As a result of the pandemic period which started in March 2020, over the past year, we as a department, along with schools have continued to face the new 'normal'. This new 'normal' has meant continuing getting children and young people back to school, to support their physical and mental well-being, together with the well-being of staff, responding to behavioural challenges that are a side effect of the pandemic, with the aim of being able to provide quality education to all learners.

2.2 During the year we face the Estyn inspection and received a positive report on our Education Services here in Gwynedd. We are proud of what is highlighted as good practice in it, but accept that there is work to be done in other aspects, such as attendance and inclusion.

3 THE PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

3.1 We are aware that the future will be increasingly challenging as we respond to the challenge of financial austerity and a reduction in the number of learners here in Gwynedd.

3.2 Here is a taste of the departments' priorities over the next period:

- Education Strategy
- Education Language Policy
- Evaluate the provision of the Immersion Education System
- Well-being of staff and learners
- Education Transport
- Leadership in Schools

- Inclusion
- Attendance of learners
- Decentralize the Integration Budget

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The members are asked to present any observations on what the Education Department has achieved during the year which is outlined in the Annual Report in Appendix 1, together with any observations on the Department's priorities for the next period.