

No

## LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Hybrid Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor R.R. Thomas (Chair); Councillor H.M. Payne (Vice-Chair); Councillors A. Asbrey, W. Gilligan, R. Godfrey, E.J. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson, N. Marshallsea, J.M. Norman and E. Penn.

Co-Opted Members: M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), G. van der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector), R. Goodjohn and A. Emmerson (Vale Youth Forum); J. Clemett and T. Williams (Vale Youth Council).

Also present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), E. Goodjohn, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), Dr. I.J. Johnson, E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

The Chair, with the approval of the Committee, advised that the urgent item, Agenda Item No. 11(a) – Industrial Action Pencoedtre High School, would be dealt with as the first item of business on the agenda and that the remaining items of business would not be dealt with in the order of the published agenda.

### 675 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

### 676 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from R. Morteo (Church in Wales).

### 677 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

No

#### 678 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor E.J. Goodjohn declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 – Youth Service Update 2022-2023, as Mother of Rhys Goodjohn (Co-opted Member of the Committee), who was also a member of both the Vale Youth Council and Vale Youth Forum.

R. Goodjohn (Co-Opted Member) declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 – Youth Service Update 2022-23 and Agenda Item 8 – Youth Engagement and Progression update – as he was a member of both the Vale Youth Council and Vale Youth Forum.

#### 679 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIR HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matter which the Chair had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

#### 680 INDUSTRIAL ACTION PENCOEDTRE HIGH SCHOOL (DLS) – **(Matter which the Chair has decided was urgent by need of updating Members on industrial action at Pencoedtre High School)**

The item was introduced by the Director of Learning and Skills who outlined the context of the report. The Director referred to paragraph 2.5 of the report and the challenges around the location of the Successful Futures unit within the school.

Notification had been received from the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 of industrial action consisting in the first instance of six days discontinuous strike action.

The National Education Union (NEU) notified the Chief Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 of the successful ballot of NEU members at Pencoedtre School.

Dispute resolution documentation was received from the NASUWT on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Meetings were held with the NASUWT and the NEU prior to the end of term in December 2023.

Dispute resolution actions were discussed and agreed at those meetings.

Following the Director's presentation of the report Pencoedtre High School's headteacher provided the following advice:

- 14 disputes and issues had been raised. The key dispute with the local authority was to do with the unit for pupils with the highest degree of need and also related to truancy on the school site.

M. Morris from the NASUWT advised that Pencoedtre High School should be a safe space and that violence and abuse were not acceptable. He added that teachers

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were not seeing positive change, but advised further that the Union had agreed not to take action straight away.

S. Daly (NASUWT) advised that the Union had been in discussions with the school for some time, and that the Union wanted a whole term of strike action, however, many resolutions had been met. She added that teachers did not strike until they had no other option, and asked the Committee to understand the huge toll on the mental health and wellbeing of staff and pupils, that the situation was taking. She suggested that solutions may include changing the location of the unit aforementioned.

N. Butler (NASUWT) advised that negotiations had so far been cordial, but also that the Union's members did not feel safe at Pencoedtre High School. He advised further that immediate actions were required including locking classroom doors.

Councillor Payne subsequently referred to 136 exclusions at Pencoedtre High School so far this year, and queried how many young people this related to. In response, the headteacher advised that although they did not have the specific numbers to hand, these were submitted to the local authority. She added that it would not equate to 136 young people, as there were some repetitions, however the numbers were significant.

Councillor Penn subsequently advised that they were encouraged that dialogues were going well, and also that he found it to be unfortunate that strike action had been taken. He advised that a solution may take a year to put in place, and that this was too long but that lessons could also be learned from the situation.

The Director for Learning and Skills subsequently advised that she had not stated that relocation of the unit would take 12 months but as outlined in the report before members, a new building would require planning permission and the contract tendered and awarded before work on a new building could commence.

In response to a question from Councillor Marshallsea, the Director for Learning and Skills also advised that interviews had taken place to recruit a new headteacher at the school, however, an appointment was not made and therefore the position would be advertised again.

Councillor Godfrey subsequently referred to pupils wandering in corridors at the school, and queried how and why this was happening, and whether doors within the school were locked. In response, the headteacher advised that doors in and out of the school were locked, but that it was not appropriate for teachers to lock their classroom doors. They further advised that sometimes pupils wanted to be in school but not in class, and that certain pupils had a multitude of complex issues to contend with. They added that such pupils may leave lessons or refuse to enter classrooms and may gather in groups, creating disruption and issues.

Councillor E.J. Goodjohn subsequently advised that the local authority was trying hard to reach solutions and resolutions on these issues and that discussions taking place was a positive step. They further advised that planning laws added a challenging element to the situation. They subsequently advised that it was

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important that teachers in schools felt safe, and also that pupils were supported appropriately.

Councillor Goodjohn continued by advising that employment was currently very challenging, particularly in relation to the post-Covid situation, and also the current cost of living crisis. The Councillor advised that the Council were looking at the short-, medium- and long-term plans around the school, and asked whether it would be suitable and possible to bring in Youth Workers to the school's setting to support the issues raised.

The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources subsequently agreed with Councillor Goodjohn that there needed to be quick mitigations put in place at Pencoedtre High School around access to the unit in question, and that this was intended to be implemented to help in the short term. The officer also advised that the option to add a new building onto the school site was also being discussed. The officer advised further advised that funding had been secured for the unit, and work was scheduled for March 2024, incorporating an holistic approach to the support offered at the school for children and families.

Councillor Hennessy subsequently asked the Union representatives whether further strike action would occur if the issue of challenging behaviour at the school was not improved. In response, the Union representative confirmed that this would be the case.

The NASUWT union representative advised that progress was being made in negotiations, but that steps needed to be taken quickly. He further advised that problem behaviour at the school was ongoing, and should be risk assessed and addressed.

Councillor Hennessy subsequently asked whether the NASUWT was consulted on the layout and design of the school prior to it being built, and if not, whether this should have been the case. In response, Mr. Morris advised that it was not standard practice for unions to be consulted on such matters, but that he would welcome being involved in this manner. He further advised that the layout of the was poor.

The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources advised that there were a number of regulations involved with the design of the school, that it was not designed in isolation, and that regular reviews were undertaken on this subject. Councillor Norman subsequently advised that the design of the school building was an issue. They added that students are taught separately but shared communal spaces. The Councillor further advised that staff managed pupils well around the school, however, when pupils mixed with others including those from within the unit which comprised of approximately 24 pupils, issues arose.

S. Daly subsequently advised that they would also welcome a visit to look at the physical aspects of the school and to speak to staff. They advised that the building was not fit for purpose, and that the Union were extremely concerned about the 24 vulnerable pupils at the school.

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N. Butler subsequently advised that they were looking at long term solutions, and needed their members to feel safe at work, which would also require a quick fix.

The Chair subsequently advised that having “boots on the ground” would provide an immediate fix, and queried what else could be done to help the situation.

Mr. Butler advised that they were talking to members of the union, and also that negative pupil behaviour at the school needed to be responded to appropriately. He further advised that other non-disruptive pupils needed to also be protected.

All guests were thanked for their contributions.

With no further comments or queries Committee

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the action being taken to resolve the industrial dispute at Pencoedre High School, be noted.

(2) T H A T the Committee considers a visit to Pencoedre High School.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

681 YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE 2022-2023 (DLS) –

The report was presented by M. Dacey, Lead Officer for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing. The report apprised Committee of the following:

The Youth Service achieved the Silver Youth Work Quality Mark in October 2022.

The Youth Service had been making positive steps in relation to post-covid recovery and the service had been providing young people with new and exciting opportunities to support them achieving their full potential. These actions were outlined within the newly developed Curriculum Plan and Participation Policy.

The Youth Service’s European Social Fund (ESF) programmes Inspire to Achieve (I2A) and Inspire to Work (I2W) ended in December 2022. A new Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) project within the Vale of Glamorgan named STRIVE had been launched to support both pre and post 16 learners in line with the new Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) guidance. The project incorporated the Youth Homelessness project. An update with regards to the Youth Service’s statutory duty in relation to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework was to be presented in a separate Scrutiny report later in the agenda.

Following their presentation of the report, the Officer reassured Committee that additional resources were already being allocated, including to sports and mentoring projects, to better understand the young people involved. The officer added that

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such engagement did take some time to be fully realised. The officer continued by advising that the Youth Service was getting close to achieving the Gold Standard Award. They further advised that European Funding for the projects mentioned in the report had come to an end, but also that another project was being implemented, nevertheless.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language subsequently advised that grant funding was a concern, but also that positive points were to be raised regarding, for instance, the Youth Council - with young people involved taking a really informed interest in world matters. They further advised that these young people were the voters and politicians of tomorrow. They added that the young people had wide ranging knowledge and were prepared to take unpalatable decisions. The Cabinet Member advised that they could not speak highly enough of the young people involved in projects such as these.

Councillor E.J. Goodjohn subsequently advised that they were very proud of the Vale's Youth Service, and asked for further information regarding the BTEC suite and Strive Awards mentioned within the item.

Councillor Goodjohn also queried which schools had provision for support with homelessness for families. P. Williams subsequently advised that level 1 or 2 qualification equivalent to two A\*s grades were available. These covered subjects including personal growth and development and leadership skills.

The officer further advised that the Strive Project was available in all Vale of Glamorgan schools, and that referrals from schools could be made directly, as well as coming from parents.

J. Clemett subsequently advised that they had taken advantage of a significant amount of opportunities due to being involved with Youth Services within the Vale of Glamorgan. They further advised that they had recently been offered a place at Oxford University, due in part to the experience gained from their engagement with the Vale Youth Services.

T. Williams subsequently advised that Youth Club Services were very important, in their experience.

The Vice-Chair remarked that it was very positive to hear the voices of young people on this item, and congratulated all involved in the work outlined within the report.

Councillor Marshallsea subsequently highlighted paragraph 2.14 of the report relating to the Urdd, its role at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. The Councillor also highlighted grant funding for extending clubs and Welsh provision within both Welsh and English medium schools, as well as holiday schemes. They added that good progress had been made over the last 12 months in the areas covered in the report.

With no further comments or queries Committee subsequently

No

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made by the Youth Service in the last 12 months and the ongoing developments and achievements of the service, be noted.
- (2) T H A T a further progress update report in October 2024 regarding delivery, awareness of grants and potential risks post March 2025, be received by Committee.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To further update Committee on the Work of the Youth Service in the year to October 2024.

682 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRESSION UPDATE (DLS) –

The item was presented by the Lead NEETs Project Officer. The report made Members aware of the percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority (LA) in 2022/2023, as well as updates to the NEETs agenda from Welsh Government and the work being undertaken locally within the Vale of Glamorgan.

The report consisted of annual destination data of school leavers conducted by Careers Wales on behalf of Welsh Government in October 2022, with the statistical report for the destination survey being released in April 2023.

The data highlighted that the level of young people classified as NEET had reduced in National Curriculum Year (NCY) 12 by 0.2%, whereas in NCY 11 and 13, the figures had increased by 0.5% and 0.25% respectively. Although there was an increase in NCYs 11 and 13, the LA remained below the Welsh average, which also saw similar increases of 0.5%, 0.3% and 0.51% for NCYs 11, 12 and 13.

- Year 11 young people classified as NEET in the LA was 1.50%, below the Welsh average of 2.10%;
- Year 12 young people classified as NEET in the LA was 0.20%, below the Welsh average of 0.70%;
- Year 13 young people classified as NEET in the LA was 2.25%, below the Welsh average of 2.80%.

Careers Wales noted in the 2022/2023 data that the percentage of Year 11 leavers who were NEET across Wales (2.1%) was the highest since 2015. They also acknowledged that 2022 was the first year since the Covid pandemic where learners sat examinations, resulting in grades that were not centre-determined grades.

Within the LA, it was recognised that not as many young people were returning to education as in previous years, however more detailed work was being undertaken,

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with strong partnerships in evidence with Careers Wales, Council departments, education and training providers.

The 2022/2023 data cleansing process was normally undertaken by the targeted Youth Service Team. Due to the closure of the Youth Service's European Social Fund (ESF) projects Inspire to Achieve and Inspire to Work, and the additional audit processing required for this, the impact and dedication of resource was not as comprehensive as in recent years, which may have had an impact on the LA's data sets.

Following the presentation of the report the Engagement Manager advised that funding had now been secured via the Shared Prosperity Fund, covering the period until 2025 only. The officer also clarified that additional Youth Service staff had been allocated to Pencoedtre High School since September 2023.

Councillor E.J. Goodjohn subsequently advised that it was very important to keep funding secured for the service, which they advised should be a statutory one.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently:

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the progress made in the last 14 months of the continued implementation of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to reduce the number of young people classified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in the Vale of Glamorgan, be noted.

(2) T H A T a further progress update report be received by Committee, in July 2024.

#### Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) In order to move the annual feedback to a more pertinent time in the annual cycle, as this is a timelier update following the official destination release in April each year.

#### 683 EDUCATION OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS) AND PUPIL ENGAGEMENT SERVICE (DLS) –

The report was presented by the Engagement Manager, who advised that The Pupil Engagement Team had been established in 2021-22 to support schools with young people who were unable to maintain full time educational provision in a mainstream school setting. The functions relating to the Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) framework now resided within the remit of the Youth Service.

In 2022 Derw Newydd (formerly the Pupil Referral Unit) became part of Ysgol Y Deri; which meant that the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority (LA) no longer had a Pupil



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Referral Unit (PRU), therefore those numbers were no longer included within the EOTAS return and the Council's numbers were more comparable to other LAs across Wales.

Current EOTAS numbers had risen across the LA due to the Additional Learning Needs Act 2022 (ALN Act), new numbers of students being placed out of county and an increase of preventative provision or those awaiting specialist placement where alternative out of county provisions were unavailable or currently not identified.

The 2023/24 budget for the Pupil Engagement Team continued to support Ysgol Y Deri in relation to the Derw Newydd (DN) provision; this created its own set of financial challenges with more learners presenting across the LA with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Needs.

In 2023/24 the Council would see increased challenges in relation to learners who were at risk of exclusion, medical isolation or those needing bespoke 'temporary' provision until specialist or out of county placements could be found. Budget constraints for the service and schools' budgets posed a greater risk for those who were most vulnerable.

Following the presentation of the report the Vice-Chair queried whether there had been a decline in numbers or an upward trend in the issues involved, and also requested information regarding mental health in relation to the topics covered in the report. The Engagement Manager subsequently advised that numbers were increasing, but that 60 young people had been lost from the service, which explained the downward trend. However, there was an overall increase in numbers. He further advised that there had been mention of out of area placements and complex cases, and that 55 young people were now involved in these areas.

Councillor Payne subsequently asked for information regarding mental health-specific projects and statistics. In response, The Engagement Manager advised that such information would be forwarded to the Chair and Committee shortly.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently:

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progression made by the Pupil Engagement service and the ongoing developments, opportunities, and risks for Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) learners within the Local Authority, be noted.
- (2) T H A T a further progress update report regarding updated information (based on the EOTAS return for Welsh Government) and the impact of learning for those in EOTAS settings, be received by Committee in July 2024.

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

No

(2) In order to further update Committee on the work with EOTAS learners and the Pupil Engagement Service in the period to July 2024.

#### 684 DRAFT TRANSGENDER INCLUSION TOOLKIT AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR SCHOOLS AND OTHER SETTINGS (DLS) –

The item was presented by the Safeguarding Officer and David Davies, Wellbeing Transformation Adviser, who advised that the report and “Toolkit” had already been reported to Corporate Parenting Panel on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, as reporting dates had changed since the production of the report.

The purpose of the report was to advise Scrutiny Committee of the findings of the consultation on the revised Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings (“the Toolkit”) (attached at Appendix A to the report).

The Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings as currently published was approved by Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

In recognising social, political and legal contexts and that these changed over time, more recently the Council had been progressing its review of its Toolkit having liaised with colleagues from both Welsh Government and other Local Authorities in England and elsewhere in Wales.

Following approval from Cabinet on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Council undertook a consultation on its revised Toolkit. The consultation took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

On commencement of the consultation the Council withdrew the existing Toolkit but continued to work to safeguard all groups of pupils and students and provided support on a case-by-case basis with schools requesting additional support from the Council where necessary.

Since the conclusion of the consultation period, all responses had been subject to careful and considered evaluation and amendments made to the Toolkit. The responses had also been utilised to update the Equalities Impact Assessment.

The consultation responses and proposed amendments to the Toolkit were being reported back to the relevant Scrutiny Committees prior to the matter being referred back to Cabinet for further consideration and determination.

Following the presentation of the report Councillor Marshallsea advised that they were pleased to support the Toolkit, and remarked that it was straightforward and easy to read. They further advised that the Toolkit supported vulnerable young people, and that they were pleased that the teaching profession was being asked to use its professional judgement in this manner.

Dr. M. Price subsequently advised that he found the latest version of the Toolkit to

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be a great improvement on its previous incarnation, and a sensible means of approaching a sensitive and emotive subject. Dr. Price further advised that he understood that Welsh Government also intended to provide guidelines on this topic, which could produce a second set of additional guidelines. He further advised that there may be difficulties involving parents in discussion of the matters covered within the Toolkit, particularly around the preferences or wishes of the child or young person concerned. Dr. Price subsequently advised that overnight trips within school environments could add costs regarding the safety of facilities with regards to issues included in the Toolkit. He advised that overall he found this version of the Toolkit to be a great improvement on its predecessor.

In response, the ALN and Wellbeing Transformation Adviser advised that it was pleasing to see that significant progress had been made regarding the Toolkit, and that time had been taken in order to respond responsibly to the issues raised. They added that if and when Welsh Government published an all-Wales document, the Council would supersede to that document, rather than adopt a two-pronged approach based on two guidance documents.

The ALN and Wellbeing Transformation Adviser further advised, with regards to involving parents in matters covered within the Toolkit, that this was a challenging dilemma, and a significant decision for a young person to make, hence why officers were not comfortable with the idea of not involving parents in these discussions.

With regards to additional costs involved with school trip accommodation, the ALN and Wellbeing Transformation Adviser advised that such costs would need to be looked at, and not passed on to those with protected characteristics. They further advised that the issue of involving parents was more complex if there were safeguarding issues being raised, and if the child or young person discussing being transgender or gender-questioning would not expect to tell parents, and particularly if the child or young person did not wish for this to happen.

R. Goodjohn subsequently advised that he found the Toolkit to be a very good resource, that learners who identified as trans would benefit from. He further advised, however, that he was concerned regarding parental involvement; that privacy was very important; that those socially transitioning may not want their parents to be informed, and that this could be detrimental to their mental health.

The Safeguarding Officer subsequently clarified that the report and guidance stated that if there was a strong reason for concern, or if informing parents could be detrimental to the mental health of the child or young person, then the involvement of safeguarding professionals would be advised.

A. Emmerson subsequently advised that she would like to take the opportunity to come out in support of the Toolkit, as it increased understanding during a vital stage of young peoples' lives.

The Vice-Chair subsequently advised that they agreed with the handling of Gillick Competence within the report, and that they would like to move the recommendations within the report on-block.

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The ALN and Wellbeing Transformation Adviser advised that training providers were currently being identified to provide training to sit alongside the Toolkit, due to the complexity of the issues involved.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language subsequently advised that they welcomed and endorsed all positive comments regarding the Toolkit, and thanked the officers involved in the lengthy process of producing it.

The Chair subsequently asked what efforts had been made to reach ethnic minorities and religious groups with the consultation process. The ALN and Wellbeing Transformation Adviser subsequently advised that they had met with representatives of the Catholic Church in Wales, for example, but that they had not found it appropriate to make additional efforts to reach ethnic minorities and religious groups, over and above other participants. They added that the consultation process had been ongoing for two months, providing plenty of opportunities for people to involve themselves and have a voice.

The Chair subsequently referred to the consultation responses contained within the report's appendices, and advised that the majority of parents disagreed with the Toolkit. The Chair highlighted the report's statement that some views of parents had been based on misinformation and misunderstanding. The Chair further queried whether this view was condescending towards parents. In response the ALN and Wellbeing Transformation Adviser advised that their view was that this was not an accurate reflection of the opinions of officers, and that a significant amount of parents' responses had been built into the new Toolkit. They added that a small minority of parents had raised ill- or misinformed views, and in some cases these bordered on being illegal. They added that officers highly valued the voice of parents in the decision-making process.

The Chair subsequently referred to paragraphs 2.37 and 2.38 in the report which covered the competing rights involved in the subject matter of the report, and asked Officers to provide their view on Safeguarding as the overriding responsibility with regards to the Toolkit and the Council's role in general. In response, the Safeguarding Officer advised that officers' safeguarding duties were required to cover all pupils, including those with protected characteristics. They added that this was informed by risk assessments that had been put in place.

Councillor Ewan Goodjohn subsequently advised that the report showed that more parents felt that the Toolkit was useful than did not; that more parents agreed with the Toolkit than did not, and that more parents found the Toolkit to be properly thought-out than did not. They advised, therefore, that it was unfair to state that the Toolkit had been viewed negatively by parents. They added that the views of parents had been taken seriously into account and reflected within the Toolkit.

The Chair subsequently called for a vote on adding an additional fourth recommendation to those already set out within the report. A vote was cast via the Easy-Conference Hybrid Meeting Platform system and the Motion to add an additional fourth recommendation was carried, as per the recommendations below.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently:

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the content of the consultation responses, the revised Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings (“the Toolkit”); and the Equalities Impact Assessment, be noted with any recommendations being referred to Cabinet for consideration.
- (2) T H A T the report and appendices be referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and comment, with any recommendations being referred back to Cabinet.
- (3) T H A T Committee accepts that the report and appendices be considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel, and any comments be referred back to Cabinet.\*
- (4) T H A T having regard to the above, the latest version of the Toolkit be endorsed by Committee.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and appendices, and to discussions at the meeting.
- (2) In order to make the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet aware of the content of the item, and the views of this Committee.
- (3) In order for Cabinet to receive any comments.
- (4) Having regard to the content of the report and appendices, and to discussions at the meeting, and to reflect the Committee’s endorsement of the latest Draft Transgender Inclusion Toolkit and Guidance Document for Schools and Other Settings.

**NB:** \* It being noted that the report had already been considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, where the report and appendices had been noted.

685 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet’s meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, and appended Draft Annual Delivery Plan 2024-25 were presented by the Director for Learning and Skills.

Following the Director’s presentation, Councillor Emma Goodjohn advised that they had found the Draft Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) challenging to scrutinise as it was quite complicated to read and somewhat vague in terms of a lack of specific goals

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linked to each objective. In response, the Director advised that the specific actions, goals and targets would be set out in the Service Plans.

Councillor N. Marshallsea subsequently highlighted Objective 2, Point 5 (pg. 13), and asked whether an additional Officer could be employed to support existing Officers on Active Travel to schools. In response, the Director advised that although this was not within their remit, the suggestion could be fed back to relevant colleagues.

The Chair subsequently drew Committee's attention to Objective 2, Point 2 (pg. 13), and asked what such new service models may look like and what the expected timescales involved may be. In response, the Director advised that further detail would be contained within the service plans.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently:

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the reference, report and Draft Annual Delivery Plan be noted.

#### Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the reference, report and Draft Annual Delivery Plan, and to discussions at the meeting.

686 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES ANNUAL PLACEMENTS REVIEW (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T this item be deferred to the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

687 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2023/24 AND UPDATED COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2023/24 (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Chair, advised Members of progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and the updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24:

- 1st Quarter Recommendation Tracking April to June 2023 (Appendix A);
- 3rd Quarter Recommendation Tracking October to December 2023 (Appendix B);
- Updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24 (Appendix C)

Following the Chair's presentation of the report, Councillor E.J. Goodjohn advised that they would recommend a further report to Committee, to consider how young people were supported across all services.

With no further comments or queries, Committee subsequently:

No

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendices A and B be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24 attached at Appendix C be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For public information.