



## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 and considered the following documents:

- The Future of Special Educational Needs / Additional Learning Needs in Powys Strategy

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for Education and Property and officers for attending scrutiny.

#### Scrutiny make the following observations:

- The strategy document would benefit from the addition of a glossary of terms (e.g. meaning of school action plus) and details of the location of schools (Page 6 – Strategy document), to assist clarity for the reader.
- The map should include Ystradgynlais (Page 5 – Strategy document).
- The Committee commended the vision.
- The Committee welcomed the progression of the electronic IDP (individual Development Plans) for pupils.
- The Committee would appreciate sight of comparative figures for ALN / SEN numbers in other comparable Welsh Councils to Powys as well as figures for England.
- The Committee would welcome sight of a timeline and milestones / targets to assist it in monitoring the progress of this project.
- The Committee agreed that satellite sites as proposed were the way forward. However there was concern that appropriate funding would need to be ensured for all sites where the provision was made.
- The Committee would welcome the opportunity to scrutinise the proposals for Post 16 SEN / ALN provision once that work had been completed.
- The Committee was concerned that although the plan was aspirational, a number of strands would need to come together to ensure that this was delivered in terms of improvement to buildings, upskilling staff and support for mainstream schools.
- The Committee was also concerned about ensuring that sufficient funding was identified to ensure that the strategy was deliverable.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1 That the strategy document includes a glossary of terms, details of locations of schools and that	The strategy document will be updated with glossary of terms and an appendix to detail school location prior to being published.		

the map be updated.			
<b>2 That the Committee be provided with comparative figures for SEN / ALN in comparable Welsh Authorities and in England.</b>	Comparative figures will be provided to the Committee where available. It should be noted, however, that due to Covid-19 there has been a delay in publishing recent national data. It is indicated that this could be provided by the end of November.		
<b>3 That the Committee be provided with a timeline with milestones and targets to assist it in monitoring the progress of the project.</b>	A plan is currently been drafted which sets out in more detail the task required to take place in order to meet the criteria set out in the strategy. This includes high level timelines. It was agreed that we would not finalise this until the strategy had been agreed by cabinet.		

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Group / Committee on 29-10-2020:

County Councillors:

P. Roberts, E. Roderick, B. Davies, J. Berriman, S. Davies, G. Thomas, D. Jones L. Roberts, and G. Robson, M. Evitts, A. Davies and S. Davies (Co-Opted Members)