

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

REPORT TO A MEETING OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

Date of Meeting:	28 March, 2017
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Education
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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 with the pledges in the Strategic Plan; where the performance measures have reached; and the latest in terms of the savings and cuts schemes in the Department.
- 1.2. I will remind you that all matters have already been the subject of discussions and have been scrutinised at meetings of the relevant management team, which also included a representation from the scrutiny committee.
- 1.3. On the whole, I am comfortable with the performance of the Strategic Plan projects, with good progress made on the majority of them. In addition, the performance is generally good across the key stages; however, specific attention is given to the fields of Primary Foundation Phase, and Key Stage 3.

2. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1 To accept and note the information in the report.
- 2.2 The Cabinet is asked to approve the re-profiling in relation to the free Breakfast Club for primary school children, as a slippage has been seen in the realisation time. There will be a need to slip £41,700 to realise it in 2018/19.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

- 3.1. In order to ensure effective performance management and that we respond pro-actively to the need to achieve efficiency savings as expected.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS

4.1. P1 Improve and Standardise Education Standards

- 4.1.1 The purpose of this project is to improve and reconcile education standards across Gwynedd in order to ensure that children and young people attain the highest standards so that they may gain qualifications and skills.
- 4.1.2 Following the scrutiny and analysis of the performance of summer 2016, the project has prioritised the matter of raising standards in the Foundation Phase as performance has been static for some years now.
- 4.1.3 In order to respond to this, the Department, through the County Quality Board, has been focussing on the following:
 - Establish a classroom assistant Up-skilling Programme in order to respond to under-performance in the field: Training to target literacy in the foundation phase
 - Target consistency in teacher assessments
 - Ensure better understanding amongst head teachers of the requirements associated with the foundation phase outcomes so that they are more confident to challenge targets and assessments. Three challenge advisors are working with the schools to target outcomes in terms of linguistic and mathematics development.
- 4.1.4 It is fair to say that the County Quality Board (CQS) is increasingly proving its value, and the fact that fewer schools are going into a category is proof of that. The work undertaken by CQS was certainly having an impact on reviews and categorisation profiles. Only two schools are in any follow-up categories at present and only two Schools are in the red category. The 2016-17 categorisations highlights improvements in the profile - see **Appendix 1**. The important message here is that we have seen progress in the Green and Yellow categories since 2014. Substantial progress was seen in the percentage from 71.2% in 2014-15 to 86.3% in 2016-17.

4.2. P2 Improving Leadership and Management

- 4.2.1 The purpose of this project is to improve the conditions for leaders in order to raise standards. We will implement proposals to improve leadership and management with the aim of moving toward the goal of having schools with non-contact head teachers, i.e. who do not teach children.

- 4.2.2 The work of consulting with schools and governors on the 'Education for Purpose for Gwynedd' is continuing. Since I reported last time, drop-in sessions were held across Gwynedd with governors, parents and the extended community. The department analyses the information that has been received through these sessions. The hope is to present the new vision before the summer. This timetable will go hand in hand with plans for Welsh Government's Band B programme.
- 4.2.3 The work of developing leadership is progressing at good pace, with work commenced on planning a programme to support the leaders of the future and identify suitable individuals. In addition, an additional development programme has been introduced for middle Leaders where there is an element of concern regarding its implementation.
- 4.2.4 The inspection profile for 2016-17 is very positive - see **Appendix 2**. By now, no school is in a statutory category and only two schools are in the Estyn Monitoring category (Bro Cynfal and Llanbedr). These two schools have made expected progress at the appropriate pace.

4.3. Programme for a network of viable schools for the future.

4.3.1 P4 Ysgol Bro Idris

The purpose of this project is to establish an All-through Welsh-medium Catchment Area School for 3-16 year olds in the Gader catchment area.

The construction work is progressing in line with the timetable set. The staffing structure for the new school has been agreed along with the majority of managerial posts, with the site heads appointed at the beginning of February. The Deputy will also start in post after Easter.

The school place allocation policy has been agreed and a process to allocate every pupil will take place during the coming weeks.

4.3.5 P5 Ysgol Glancegin

The purpose of this project is to secure an investment to provide a new building for Ysgol Glan Cegin, which is located in Maesgeirchen, Bangor.

The construction work is progressing with the new school to be ready by the beginning of the Autumn Term 2017. The Authority is monitoring applications for access in order to ensure that the capacity will be sufficient for the catchment area.

Discussions are continuing with key stake-holders regarding the possibility of establishing an Integrated Family Centre on the site. A meeting was held with the Health Board recently regarding the needs for the area. I have asked the department for a further report on the work of establishing the centre, and ensure clear project management arrangements.

I am also eager for the Department to hold discussions with the Early Years Team in the Council and the Property Department regarding the Flying Start provision in the new School.

4.3.4 P6 Y Berwyn Catchment Area

The timetable for commencing the process of establishing the Shadow Governing Body and appointing a headteacher for the Campus has slipped due to the recent discussion between the Council and officers from St. Asaph diocese.

I submitted a report to the Cabinet on 14 February detailing the situation and a decision was made to re-consult with the governors and governing bodies of the schools of Berwyn Catchment-area on the option to abandon the proposal to establish a Voluntary Controlled 3-19 Learning Campus (VC, Church in Wales) in the town of Bala. The proposal is to return to the Cabinet, to report on the outcome of the consultation and propose recommendations in terms of the way forward.

4.4 P7 Transforming the Provision of Additional Educational Needs and Inclusion

The formal consultation process has commenced with the workforce being affected and two Senior Managers have been appointed. The process of adapting the strategy and staffing structures is continuing; however there is a definitive target to appoint to the posts within the structure before the end of May 2017. The Service will be operational across Gwynedd and Anglesey by September 2017.

5. MEASURING PERFORMANCE

5.1. Education Performance Measures - Data of Summer 2016

5.1.1 I attach a copy of the department's measures in **Appendix 3**.

5.1.2 I reported on the measures / results for Summer 2016 in the report I submitted to you before Christmas. As the figures relating to results are reported annually, this data is not different to what I presented to you last time.

5.1.3 I have already noted the fields that require improvements in the primary and secondary sector, and the department will focus on specific matters that I have elaborated upon already in point 4.1 (**P1 Improve and Standardise Education Standards**).

5.1.4 I recently received correspondence from Cllr Peredur Jenkins asking me to consider the measure regarding monthly invoices paid as evidence showed that the figure slipped with schools invoices. I will ask business officers in the area offices to address this and I will report back to you in due course.

6. SAVINGS/FINANCIAL POSITION

6.1. It is anticipated that £55,408 of the savings for the Education Department for the year 2016/17 will be realised on time, with the remainder (£38,681) slipping to 2017/18 with the Department bridging the deficit.

6.2 I confirm that £ 2,095,000 of school effectiveness savings target of £ 4.3 m (2016/16-2016/17) has been fully implemented in 2016/17.

6.3 On the whole, I do not anticipate a problem in realising schemes for 2017/18 but I do anticipate that there will be a need to re-profile the scheme regarding breakfast club for primary school children as there has been a slippage in the implementation period. As I have noted already, £41,700 from this scheme will need to be slipped to be realised in 2018-19.

Statutory Officers Comments

Chief Executive:

"The report submitted is extremely positive with progress in the key fields of Standards of Education and Improving Leadership deserving of specific attention. The slow pace at which savings are realised in accordance with the profile is causing some concern and is something which needs to be monitored."

Monitoring Officer:

"No observation from a propriety perspective".

Head of Finance:

"I can confirm the accuracy of the Financial aspects in part 6 of the report. I agree that the request for reprofiling one savings plan is reasonable, so in the Council's budget I had planned prudently on the assumption that the Cabinet will endorse the recommendation."

Appendices:

- Appendix 1** Schools Categorisation List 2016
- Appendix 2** School Inspections Data
- Appendix 3** Education Department Measures