

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **21st February 2024**

Report Subject: **Corporate Director of Education Services 6-month Progress Performance Report Apr 23-Sept 23**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Sue Edmunds, Cabinet Member People and Education**

Report Submitted by: **Luisa Munro-Morris, Interim Corporate Director of Education**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
28/11/23	30.11.23	06.12.23			30.01.24	21.02.24		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Corporate Director of Education's Annual Performance Report covering the 6 month period April 23- September 23 and is attached as *(Appendix 1)*.

2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 It is a statutory responsibility of the Corporate Director of Education to assess the effectiveness of the delivery of Education and produce updates for Members that forms part of the Annual Council Reporting Framework. The provision of Education is regulated under the Estyn Local Government Education Services (LGES) framework and this report will complement the Directorate's self-evaluation arrangements.

3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 The report has been considered by Education's DLT and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).
 - 3.2 The People Scrutiny Committee considered and supported Option 2 on 30th January 2024.
 - 3.3 **Option 1**
Members are asked to consider the information detailed within the Corporate Director of Education's Report and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness.
 - 3.4 **Option 2**
To consider and accept the report as presented.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
It is a statutory responsibility of the Corporate Director of Education to assess the effectiveness of the delivery of Education and this annual report has been produced, in line with the Scrutiny and Cabinet Forward Work Programmes.
5. **Implications Against Each Option**
 - 5.1 **Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**
The attached report identifies the financial and budgetary implications from April 2023 to September 2023.
 - 5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**
The Education service maintains a Directorate Risk Register, which is aligned to both service level and corporate risks. The attached report highlights the main risks currently under consideration and the mitigation. The risk register is reviewed as part of the business planning process and included within the performance reporting of the Education service.
 - 5.3 **Legal**
Monitoring performance of the Education Directorate
 - 5.4 **Human Resources**
There are implications arising from the priorities identified in the report and these are captured within the Business Plans which set out the Education Directorate improvement priorities.
 - 5.5 **Health and Safety**
N/A
6. **Supporting Evidence**
 - 6.1 The detailed performance information is included within (Appendix 1). The Education Directorate is working together with key stakeholders on a joint purpose to deliver 'Better Schools, Better Citizens and Better Communities – all through a children and young person centred approach'.

In a previous People Scrutiny Committee meeting, Members requested that the performance report and associated data was shared in a more user-friendly manner. Consequently, the Education Directorate has worked with the Corporate Performance team to produce a revised report format with a greater emphasis on infographics to highlight performance across the board.
 - 6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**
Reporting performance provides the public with the opportunity to view progress of the Education Directorate and ensure accountability.
 - 6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**
Pupil voice is a key area for the Education Directorate and examples of this are included within (Appendix 1).

6.4 **Thinking for the long term (forward planning)**

The report enables the Education Directorate to plan for the future as spend, risk and performance is continuously reported on and provides a baseline of where the department is currently and where it needs to be in the future.

6.5 **Preventative Focus**

The work undertaken by the Education Directorate promotes a preventative approach to practice through early identification and intervention. The respective teams have an active rather than re-active approach to service planning which can also help with planning resources and ensuring value for money services are delivered.

6.6 **Collaboration/partnership working**

The LA collaborates with neighbouring local authorities through the South East Wales Consortium for the provision of school improvement services through the Education Achievement Service (EAS). This supports the school improvement work of the council. This work has positively impacted on the reduction of schools causing concern and the positive KS4 results.

The Local Authority also secures a range of pupil support services through regional collaboration.

6.7 **Integration (across service areas)**

The Local Authority commissions its school improvement function on a regional basis through the EAS.

6.8 **Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions**

All school improvements/re-modelling of school buildings are planned in a way that reduces carbon emissions.

6.9 **Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)**

There are no implications arising from this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The performance of the Education Directorate is monitored via the business planning process and reported through the democratic process via various reporting mechanisms including the Finance and Performance Report, the Assessment of Performance and various performance monitoring reports.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Report of the Corporate Director of Education Services