

EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1) - MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1) HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 11:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

JPD Blundell

HJ David

JH Tildesley MBE

Present Virtually

RJ Collins  
I M Spiller

D M Hughes  
AJ Williams

J Llewellyn-Hopkins  
E D Winstanley

R J Smith

Registered Representative

A Clarke - Church in Wales Representative

Apologies for Absence

P Ford, T Thomas and A Wathan

L Harvey

Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People

Invitees:

Councillor Martyn Jones

Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services

Gayle Shenton  
Darren Jones  
Mathew Jones  
Neil Arbery  
Sarah Humphreys

Head of Learning  
Group Manager - School Improvement  
Lead Officer (Digital Learning)  
Lead Officer (Primary School Support)  
Lead Officer (Secondary School Support)

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**Headteachers:**

Richard Bailey  
Jeremy Evans  
Edward Jones  
Adam Raymond

Headteacher, Bryncethin Primary School  
Headteacher, Heronsbridge School  
Headteacher, Pencoed Comprehensive School  
Acting Headteacher, Pencoed Primary School

**Officers:**

Stephen Griffiths  
Nimi Chandasena

Interim Scrutiny Officer  
Democratic Services Officer - Support

**Declarations of Interest**

JPD Blundell – Personal – Item 4 – Community Governor at Cefn Glas Infants School.  
R Collins – Personal – Item 4 – Community Governor at St Mary's & St Patrick's RC Primary School.  
HJ David – Personal – Item 4 – Non-Executive Director at Public Health Wales.  
J Llewellyn-Hopkins – Personal - Item 4 – Governor at Cynffig Comprehensive School.  
JH Tildesley – Personal - Item 4 – Governor at Corneli Primary School and Afon-Y-Felin Primary School.  
A Williams – Personal - Item 4 – Community Governor at Coety Primary School.  
E Winstanley – Personal – Item 4 – Profession – Librarian with a professional interest in information literacy.

**86. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b>  That the minutes of the meeting of the Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dated 15 September 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	24 November 2025

87. Online Safety and Digital Learning

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with a Cabinet Member, Senior Officers and Invitees the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Committee discussed that given the insightful views shared by headteachers invited to the meeting regarding online safety and digital learning, there would be further value in promoting collaboration and sharing good practice and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to surveying headteachers of all schools in the County Borough about their experiences and approaches to supporting learners and their families in respect of online safety.</li><li>2. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to the same online safety and social media training and workshops provided to school Governors also being made available to parents.</li><li>3. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that there was a need to refresh the strategic partnership between the Council and South Wales Police in respect of supporting schools to meet the potentially criminal challenges of new technology, and that consideration be given to ideas about these issues and the role of police being forwarded to Council's representative on the South Wales Police and Crime Panel.</li><li>4. The Committee discussed the risk to children and online safety and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to further collaboration with children's social care to support vulnerable children and young people and with foster carers to support Care Experienced Children with online safety, and also to better identify and support the most vulnerable young people of the community.</li></ol> <p><b>Requests for Additional Information:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. The Committee <b>requested</b> an all-Member briefing regarding the impact of artificial intelligence on education.</li><li>6. The Committee <b>requested</b> further information on how the Council is supporting home educated learners in the safe use of technology and social media.</li><li>7. The Committee <b>requested</b> a copy of the locally developed Guidance recognised by the Welsh</li></ol>
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	<p>Government regarding artificial intelligence and plagiarism.</p> <p>8. Members <b>requested</b> the link to Estyn's report, 'New Era: How Artificial Intelligence (AI) is Supporting Teaching and Learning: The opportunities and challenges of AI in schools and PRUs in Wales and how leaders should respond' (October 2025).</p>
Date Decision Made	24 November 2025

**88. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The Committee approved the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and noted that the FWP approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.</li><li>b. The Committee considered the referral from the Governance and Audit Committee (GAC) in respect of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for schools and <b>recommended</b> that given the concern that there could be a safeguarding issue related to staff potentially commencing their roles without DBS clearance or appropriate risk assessments in place, this be referred to GAC to request that the matter be drawn to the attention of Safeguarding.</li><li>c. In addition, the Committee <b>recommended</b> that the concern be referred to Governor Support to request that they raise the issue with all Governing Bodies.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	24 November 2025

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**89. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	24 November 2025

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#).

The meeting closed at 13:10.