

EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1) - MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2026

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, 9 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 11:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

JPD Blundell

HJ David

JH Tildesley MBE

Present Virtually

RJ Collins
A Wathan

R J Smith
AJ Williams

I M Spiller
E D Winstanley

T Thomas

Registered Representative

A Clarke - Church in Wales Representative

Apologies for Absence

D M Hughes and J Llewellyn-Hopkins

Invitees:

Councillor Martyn Jones

Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services

Lindsay Harvey
Gayle Shenton
Darren Jones
Neil Arbery
Sarah Humphreys
Becca Avci

Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Head of Learning
Group Manager – School Improvement
Lead Officer Strategic Development (Primary)
Lead Officer Strategic Development (Secondary)
Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Co-Ordinator

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Headteachers:

Chris Jones	Headteacher, Litchard Primary School
Edward Jones	Headteacher, Pencoed Comprehensive School
Michelle Joyner	Headteacher, The Bridge Alternative Provision

Officers:

Jessica McLellan	Scrutiny Officer
Stephen Griffiths	Interim Scrutiny Officer

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Heather Griffiths – Personal – Item 4 - Relative works at Mynydd Cynffig Primary School.
Councillor Amanada Williams – Personal – Item 4 - Community Governor and Chair of Governors Coety Primary School and LEA Governor and parent of a pupil at Brynteg School.

90. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 24 November 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	9 February 2026

91. Teaching and Learning

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report, presentations by the Headteachers of the Bridge and Litchard Primary School and the Headteacher and staff from Pencoed Comprehensive School, and detailed discussion with a Cabinet Member, Senior Officers and Invitees, the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information:
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	<p>Recommendation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to strengthening the link between the School Improvement Group and the Committee by sharing the RAG status of schools confidentially to Members with more information about the evaluation mechanism, in order to provide assurance about its effectiveness. <p>Requests for Additional Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Committee discussed the focus of the report being on examples of schools with Estyn Spotlights and schools required to address Estyn Recommendations to avoid going into special measures and requested an analysis of all Estyn recommendations including schools across the County not falling into the two categories focussed on in this report, to identify any themes or trends. 3. The Committee requested details regarding the self-evaluation process, including support for schools to identify their strategic priorities especially in the run-up to an Estyn inspection, and any review process between agreeing the strategic priorities and implementation.
Date Decision Made	9 February 2026

92. Information Report – Corporate Performance Quarter 2 2025-26

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>The Committee considered the content of the Corporate Performance Quarter 2 2025-26 report, the Corporate Performance Dashboard Quarter 2 2025-26 and the Regulatory Tracker updated for Quarter 2 2025-26 within the remit of the Committee, had regard to the dashboard and the tracker when considering the Committee’s Forward Work Programme report and made the following recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The Committee expressed concern regarding the red and amber RAG status and the timescales of most Commitments in WBO 3.4 <i>Modernise School Buildings</i> and discussed their impact on Commitment WBO4.4.2 <i>to develop a five-year plan to meet increasing demand on support services, specialist provision and schools</i>, highlighting the length of waiting lists in this area and the number of learners who remain on waiting lists, and recommended that these matters be added to the Committee’s Forward Work Programme (FWP).
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	5. The Committee expressed concern regarding the continued red status and poor performance against Performance Indicator DEFS170 regarding the percentage of new local authority individual development plans (IDPs) delivered using the online IDP system and recommended that this be added to the Committee's FWP.
Date Decision Made	9 February 2026

93. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That the Committee approved the FWP in Appendix A subject to the above additions, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B, noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information, and considered and agreed the following in respect of two referrals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referral from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23 October 2025. <p>The Committee recommended that the issue regarding the number of schools projecting a deficit budget and the extent of the deficits should be considered as part of the budget process, including the work of the Scrutiny Budget Working Group, for 2026-27.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referral from Social Service, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6 November 2025. <p>With regard to the concerns expressed about the level of contact Home Educated learners may have with the Local Authority, the Committee recommended that, in the first instance, an all-Member briefing be scheduled.</p>
Date Decision Made	9 February 2026

94. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	9 February 2026

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

The meeting closed at 13:05.