

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

19 DECEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) REFORM – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- a) Present Cabinet with the recommendations of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on the subject of ALN Reform;
- b) Ask Cabinet to forward a small number of recommendations from the Committee to Welsh Government for consideration as part of the implementation of the Bill and ALN Reform.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 This report relates to the following Corporate Priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy
- Helping people to become more self-reliant
- Smarter use of resources

3. Background.

3.1 At its meeting on 14 September 2017, the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 received a report on ALN and specifically the status and development of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill.

At this meeting Members received evidence from external third sector representatives as well as Officers.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Following their consideration of the item and the evidence received, the Committee agreed to make a series of comments and recommendations for submission to the Education and Family Support Directorate as well as two recommendations to be forwarded to Welsh Government for consideration in the development of ALN Reform.

4.2 Recommendations to Cabinet

The Committee recommend that:

- a. Any new funding provided by Welsh Government be ring-fenced by the Local Authority and Schools to ensure it is used to meet the needs of the Bill and the needs of young people with ALN;
- b. The Authority identify and allocate additional specific funding for Post-16 ALN provision as an invest to save measure;
- c. Cabinet recognise and incorporate the significant role of the Educational Psychologist in the establishment and delivery of future support and services for those with ALN;
- d. Cabinet consider apprenticeships as a method for young people with ALN to progress into employment;
- e. With reference to recommendations a) and b), suitable support and resources be allocated to support frontline staff such as ALNCOs and Teachers in order to ensure they are able to deal with the extra responsibilities under the Bill and manage with increased workloads;
- f. Allowance be made for the associated costs for frontline staff based on the expected need for Job Evaluation on any new appointments or additional duties;
- g. The Authority works towards ensuring that a minimum of 80% of the budget allocated to ALN pupils is delegated to individual schools and that mechanisms should be in place to ensure those schools are using the funding for its stated purpose of supporting ALN;
- h. The Local Authority considers how home to school transport arrangements will be affected as part of the new provisions contained in the Bill;
- i. The Authority learns from best practice from local authorities from Wales and beyond in an effort to improve the academic performance of those young people with ALN achieving level 2 threshold inclusive which currently stands at 26.3%;
- j. The Authority assesses the required resources, workforce planning and training arrangements to support implementation of the Bill;
- k. The Authority looks to strengthen its relationship with the FE sector in Bridgend to make the provisions of the Bill work effectively, especially in the challenging transition to further education and work-based learning.
- l. The Authority explore whether any work has been carried out in the third sector on analysis of the resulting costs associated with support for adults who have not had sufficient educational provision as a young person. Furthermore that if this has not already been undertaken by those in the third Sector that the Authority look to commission an independent analysis of these associated costs, both directly to the LA as well as indirectly to other public services. Such an analysis would help put the costs of supporting children with ALN into perspective;

4.3 Recommendations to Welsh Government

- a) That budgeted gross expenditure on ALN provision for 2018/19 be increased in preparation for the implementation of the new legislation to assist in the transition period;
- b) That job coaching schemes be considered for introduction in Wales, based on the success experienced in England for young people with ALN accessing work through such schemes;
- c) That more funding and provision be provided in Wales for schemes such as 'Access to Work' to assist individuals with Additional Learning Needs in gaining employment;

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality implications directly attached to this report, however equality impact assessments will be necessary for any future developments within the Authority in relation to the implementation of the ALN and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill.

7. Financial Implications.

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report however any future developments and changes within the Authority in response to the Bill and in response to the recommendations of the Committee will have associated financial implications.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 Cabinet is asked to:
 - a) Consider the recommendations at paragraph 4.2 from the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 in relation to the Authority's response to the ALN Bill and ALN Reform;
 - b) Forward the recommendations at paragraph 4.3 above from the Subject OVS Committee 1 to Welsh Government, for consideration as part of the implementation of the ALN and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill and ALN Reform.

Andrew Jolley
Corporate Director, Operational and Partnership Services

Contact Officer: Rachel Keepins
Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: (01656) 643613

E-mail: Scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend.
CF31 4WB

Background documents

Reports and Minutes – Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 - 14 September 2017