

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 JANUARY 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

ATTENDANCE STRATEGY

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Committee with the draft Attendance Strategy for schools for information and comments.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013–2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 19 February 2014 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background.

- 3.1 There has been a significant amount of research carried out in relation to the link between pupil attendance and educational attainment. As Estyn states in its recent report on Attendance in Secondary Schools from September 2014, '*Absence from school has a clear impact on educational performance. Attainment decreases as absence increases.*' They use an example from Key Stage 3 in 2013, where '*86% of pupils that had missed up to 4% of sessions achieved the core subject indicator (CSI)4. Only a half of pupils that are absent for between 20-30% of sessions achieve the CSI. Those pupils that miss over half of all sessions have the lowest attainment levels – just under a fifth achieves the CSI.*' Further evidence within their report goes on to explain its effects on other Key Stages also.
- 3.2 In light of this and the fact that one of the main roles of the Scrutiny Committee is to monitor school performance and school improvement, at its meeting on 25 November 2014, the Committee agreed to include the Attendance Strategy on the agenda for their Special meeting in January to be considered along with the Annual School Performance Report for 2013-14.

4. Current Situation / proposal.

- 4.1 Attached at Appendix A is a report from the Children's Directorate presenting the proposed Attendance Strategy 2014-2017 along with statistical data detailing individual school attendance rates for 2013/14, current performance for 2014/15 and targets for 2014/15 at Appendix 2.

4.2 The role of the Committee is to discuss and establish the extent to which the proposed Strategy will help both address attendance and have a positive impact on school attainment.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

5.1 The work of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The equality implications are outlined in the officer's report attached as Appendix A.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 Any financial implications are outlined in the officer's report attached as Appendix A.

8. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Consider and discuss the information within the attached report;
- ii. Explore issues consistent with its challenge and support role;
- iii. Determine whether it wishes to make any comments or recommendations relating to the report.

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2014

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Background Documents:
None