

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2024-2025

| Date of Meeting | Agenda Item | Action | Responsibility | Outcome | Response |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|---|--|
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | The Committee highlighted that as Corporate Parents, all Councillors have a responsibility to Care Experienced Children and young people and recommended that consideration of how they might be affected by the HTST proposals be explored as part of the Cabinet's decision. | Cabinet | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | <p>https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0</p> |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | Evidence at the meeting suggested that the proposals could have a potential impact on attendance and educational outcomes of pupils, particularly in areas of higher social deprivation. Members recommended that if possible, prior to the decision of Cabinet, information and analysis be sought from other Local Authorities to understand the level of this impact in order to inform Cabinet's decision. | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> | <p>https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0</p> |

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| | | | | Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024. | |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | The Committee highlighted the importance of communication with parents as well as children and young people regarding any potential changes or ways in which they may be affected and recommended that this be a priority following any decision, in order to ensure they are aware at the earliest opportunity. | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0 |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | The Committee highlighted various concerns regarding some of the routes to school currently regarded as safe, such as some areas having no pedestrian crossings, routes not being maintained and the lighting along them insufficient for dark winter evenings. The Committee therefore recommended: | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0 |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That all safe routes to schools be reviewed termly; • That a mechanism be provided for parents to provide feedback on any issues with the routes so that they can be rectified quickly. | | <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | <p>490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0</p> |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | <p>Members discussed the issue surrounding children and young people having to walk to school, potentially 3 miles under the new proposals, in various bad weather conditions, and then some pupils also potentially being wet all day resulting from continued crossing of the school site in bad weather to access their classes. The Committee expressed concern over the potential for this to affect pupil attendance on days where the weather was bad. Members also expressed concern over reports that pupils were at times having to wait significant lengths of time for BCBC contracted buses to pick them up from school which meant that pupils and teachers were often waiting outside in awful weather.</p> <p>a. The Committee recommended that the Local Authority work closely with schools and teachers to try and ensure provision is made for pupils to either dry their</p> | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | <p>https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0</p> |

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| | | <p>clothing or possibly change when arriving at school.</p> <p>b. Likewise, that provision is made to keep pupils safe and warm after school should they have to wait a while for either a public bus or a BCBC contracted bus to get home.</p> <p>c. Members further recommended that the Authority explore with contractors the times that they are arriving at schools to pick pupils up to minimise waiting times for both pupils and teachers.</p> | | | |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | Whilst appreciating that the LA's strategy is to grow Welsh Medium education and the number of placements, the Committee expressed concern over the capacity of Welsh Medium schools as well as Faith Schools to account for the potential increase in applications for these schools given that their nursery and post-16 transport provision will be protected under these proposals. | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1</p> | <p>https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LLL=0</p> |

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| | | | | meeting on 16 September 2024. | |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | Should this proposal be agreed, Members highlighted that there will inevitably be an increased reliance on public buses by post-16 pupils to enable them to get to school or college. The Committee therefore recommended that prior to any decision being made on post-16, the LA explore whether there are public buses going near or past each school that offers post-16 education and where there is not, the potential impact of this on pupils then opting out of post-16 education be fully understood. There was particular concern amongst the Committee of the significant impact these changes could potentially have for post-16 pupils living in the Llynfi, Ogmoredale and Garw Valleys, and the removal of transport for them leading to a potential removal of access to post-16 education. | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LLL=0 |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | Members recommended that the LA work with local bus companies as soon as possible to consider how they could assist with post-16 transport provision to schools and colleges across the Borough. Furthermore, that the LA also explore any opportunities with the current contracted bus companies to consider if there is anything that they would possibly be willing to provide in terms of a | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LLL=0 |

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| | | local bus service which would assist pupils accessing schools and colleges. Members also requested that the LA ensure all bus routes and timetables are communicated to post-16 pupils affected by this change. | | Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024. | |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | The Committee recommended that the LA explore with Bridgend and Pencoed Colleges whether they would be willing to support their learners in providing free bus passes to eligible pupils, similar to schemes that are provided in colleges in other Welsh LAs. | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0 |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | Members queried whether the proposed changes to Post-16 transport would be in line with the LA's commitments under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Whilst acknowledging that the report summarises the implications relating to the five ways of working under the Act, the Committee felt | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0 |

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| | | that the response does not capture the impact of children no longer being able to attend post-16 education. The Committee therefore recommend that this be fully considered and the impact under the Act be made clearer. | | Reponses requested 13 August 2024. Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024. | 490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0 |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | The Committee expressed concern over potential vulnerable pupils who might be disadvantaged by these proposals, such as those who would not be able to afford a bus pass to access post-16 education and were then at a higher risk of becoming NEET. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to this, and the potential of a means tested scheme for pupils considered as vulnerable. | | ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024. Reponses requested 13 August 2024. Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024. | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0 |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | The Committee recommended that clarification be sought on whether the mileage allowance of 45 pence per mile is sufficient to | | ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0 |

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| | | <p>cover any extra costs parents/carers might incur such as any insurance costs if this was seen as a business mileage allowance. Similarly further clarification be considered as to whether this allowance would have any potential tax or benefit implications for parents/carers.</p> | | <p>meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | <p>E=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0</p> |
| 18 July 2024 | Learner Travel Consultation Outcome | <p>During their consideration of the proposals, it was acknowledged by the Cabinet Member that if the proposals were agreed it would inevitably lead to some individual issues and problems and that this was unfortunately unavoidable when looking to reduce certain areas to the statutory minimum. In order to try and respond to these issues, he reported that he would be looking to set up and chair a monitoring group that would consider the impact of any changes to HTST and respond to these as necessary. He explained that this group would engage with Officers across the various directorates when required to try and see how problems could be overcome.</p> <p>a) The Committee welcomed the establishment of this Group and</p> | | <p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p> | <p>https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD955&ID=955&RPID=22066892&sch=doc&cat=13525&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13525&LLL=0&LL=0</p> |

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| | | <p>recommended that it specifically look to consider some of the aspects mentioned in the above comments and recommendations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular review, maintenance and issues relating to Safe Routes to School;• How schools are responding to pupils walking to school in bad weather conditions such as suitable facilities to dry or change clothes; <p>As well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact on NEETs figure, pupil attendance, absenteeism, vehicle traffic outside schools;• Ensuring that the LA is still meeting its requirements of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act, particularly in relation to post-16 pupils;• Consideration of disabled access and parking at schools and colleges to assist families and young people with getting to and from school safely, particularly as these proposals could potentially result in an increase in traffic outside schools;• How schools are using timetabling to potentially assist its post-16 pupils in | | | |

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| | | <p>reducing the impact from these proposals, for example reducing the need of a pupil to have to attend school for only one class on a specific day;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How schools were sharing best practices in the ways they were responding to these proposals and supporting their pupils with accessing education safely. <p>The Committee recommended that it was essential that school leaders were involved with any monitoring of impact from the proposed changes to HTST as well as any resulting actions.</p> | | | |
| 16 September 2024 | Education, Early Years & Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Update | <p>T1: Pupil and staff wellbeing</p> <p>1. Members expressed concern about Learning Support staff leaving schools for employment in other sectors to potentially earn more and in more flexible or hybrid roles. Discussions with Invited Headteachers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Losing staff at key times with four weeks' notice; - The length of time taken for the recruitment process; - A significant reduction in the quality and number of | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 5 December 2024. | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD969&ID=969&RPID=27656623&sch=doc&cat=13529&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13529&LLL=0&LLL=0 |

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| | | <p>applications for such vacancies creating a challenge for schools.</p> <p>Following discussions and given concerns about the challenging impact of the above on schools, the Committee recommended that the situation be monitored and kept under review to provide assurance.</p> | | | |
| 16 September 2024 | Education, Early Years & Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Update | <p>T2. Support for Pupil behaviour, attendance and exclusions</p> <p>2. Members asked what was being done to increase capacity in the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in the Bridge Alternative Provision and in Heronsbridge School, as there was concern at the number of children placed in other schools, which may not be the most suitable environment for them. Officers responded assuring the Committee that a lot of work had been carried out to review available provision. Heronsbridge had been over capacity for a while and there were plans to look at the possibility of an available building which could potentially be used for additional classrooms depending on grants available</p> | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 5 December 2024. | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD969&ID=969&RPID=27656623&sch=doc&cat=13529&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13529&LLL=0&LLL=0 |

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| | | <p>and taking into consideration any financial implications on the school. Over the coming term a longer-term plan for capacity would be developed aiming to meet developing needs and increased demand in the service.</p> <p>The Committee felt it was important to ensure that all was being examined to extend provision in the special schools and recommended that the longer term plan for capacity be reported to a future meeting of the Committee and added to the Forward Work Programme.</p> | | | |
| 16 September 2024 | Education, Early Years & Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Update | <p>T11: Effective Childcare and early years offer.</p> <p>3. Members referred to the proposal made as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024-25 regarding the removal of nursery provision in primary schools and asked what progress had been made on ensuring there was enough childcare provision. Officers advised a full childcare sufficiency assessment would be carried out to look at the potential demand for childcare a prior to</p> | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 5 December 2024. | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD969&ID=969&RPID=27656623&sch=doc&cat=13529&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13529&LLL=0&LLL=0 |

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| | | <p>consideration of nursery provision. That information would be gathered in the next 6-8 weeks and would give people the opportunity to have their say, and to obtain the best information possible, before a future decision is considered. Prior to submitting a consultation report, a plan for any shortfall in childcare places would be prepared.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that a further report be provided to SOSC 1 on the outcome of the review of the sufficiency of childcare places, prior to Cabinet consideration of Nursery provision.</p> | | | |
| 16 September 2024 | Education, Early Years & Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Update | <p>T1: Pupil and staff wellbeing</p> <p>4. Members raised the removal of the balance updates for school dinner accounts in Secondary Schools and there no longer being a breakdown of what the money put into the pupils' accounts was spent on, which was important to help</p> | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 5 December 2024. | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD969&ID=969&RPID=27656623&sch=doc&cat=13529&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13529&LLL=0&LLL=0 |

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| | | <p>parents to support their children to make informed nutritional choices.</p> <p>Officers advised that the introduction of the Universal Primary Free School meals had meant a fundamental change to systems and enabled reporting to Welsh Government (WG). Whilst the current system would remain, schools had the option of investing in systems such as pay parent that could be linked to their corporate financial systems, and schools were making progress in investing in 'revaluation units/machines' and a written update on progress across the nine secondary schools could be provided.</p> <p>Following Discussions, the Committee requested a written update on progress across the secondary schools, be provided to Members of the Committee.</p> | | | |
| 16 September 2024 | Education, Early Years & Young People | T8: Robust safeguarding procedures across all the directorate's service areas | Corporate Director Education, Early | ACTIONED: Response and information | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAM |

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| | Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Update | <p>5. Members referred to Schools across Wales and the UK undertaking lockdown risk assessments to demonstrate how they protect staff and pupils from security threats and asked what the plans were for proportionate and sensible procedures. Officers advised they had worked closely with schools over a number of years on emergency procedures and these were refreshed last summer whilst working closely with the Emergency Planning Team and Health and Safety Unit. Welsh Government had also produced guidance, in line with which the Authority's Policy had been adopted.</p> <p>The Committee agreed on the importance of the procedures being as robust as possible and welcomed any feedback from Estyn inspections on those procedures once they had taken place.</p> | Years and Young People / Corporate Director of Communities | circulated 5 December 2024. | E=SD969&ID=969&RPID=27656623&sch=doc&cat=13529&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13529&LLL=0&LL=0 |

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| 16 September 2024 | Education, Early Years & Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Update | <p>T5: Curriculum for Wales and assessment</p> <p>6. The Committee were pleased to see the new Curriculum for Wales being successfully rolled out across the Borough and asked given the focus being very much on hands on learning and access to play, how the Authority was ensuring that schools were adequately prepared to be able to deliver the new curriculum. Officers explained there was a significant amount of investment into new schools and upgrading schools across the local authority, in addition they worked closely with Welsh Government on the community focused schools grant and maintenance grant using those whenever possible to make the learning environment accessible and exciting for learners.</p> <p>Members queried how the grant funding was allocated between the schools. Officers responded that the overall figure of the Community focused school grant and</p> | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People / Scrutiny | ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 5 December 2024. | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD969&ID=969&RPID=27656623&sch=doc&cat=13529&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13529&LLL=0&LL=0 |

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| | | <p>maintenance grant was managed by the Communities Directorate and allocation figures could be provided to Members of the Committee.</p> <p>Following the discussions, the Committee requested a breakdown of the allocation of the Community Focussed School Grant and Maintenance Grant be provided to Members of the Committee.</p> | | | |
| 16 September 2024 | Education, Early Years & Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026 Update | The Committee welcomed the suggestion that the Directorate Strategic Plan be reported to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 annually to benefit from the Committee’s ongoing monitoring and requested that it be added to the Forward Work Programme for the future year. | | ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 5 December 2024. | https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD969&ID=969&RPID=27656623&sch=doc&cat=13529&path=13490%2c13492%2c13498%2c13529&LLL=0&LL=0 |
| 18 November 2024 | Pupil Attendance | Members dicussed the inconsistent approaches taken by schools within the county borough to authorised and unauthorised pupil leave during term time and | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. | |

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| | | <p>the All Wales Attendance Framework not permitting local authorities to impose a blanket policy across all schools, highlighting that the Framework was 12 years old.</p> <p>a. The Committee recommended that the Authority explore whether Welsh Government planned to update their Attendance Framework and the cost of fixed penalty notices.</p> <p>The Committee also recommended that an exercise be undertaken to ascertain the approach taken by schools in other local authorities, to understand whether there is a consistent approach within those authorities.</p> | | | |
| 18 November 2024 | Pupil Attendance | Members discussed the extent to which mental health was a contributory factor to poor attendance within schools and Officers explained how they worked with Health professional, utilising the Welsh Government NEST Framework, which aims to ensure a whole system approach | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. | |

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| | | for developing mental health, well-being and support. The Committee recommended that Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board be approached for their view regarding the range of issues or reasons for pupil absence including analysis of this information for groups of learners with particular characteristics / backgrounds / circumstances, e.g. care experienced children. | | | |
| 18 November 2024 | Pupil Attendance | Members discussed the complex reason for pupil absenteeism and that it was important to work with parents on individual needs, recognising that there was not a one-size-fits-all solution. The Committee expressed their support for the work of the Education Welfare Service and requested more information to further understand the work they carried out including how many Officers had been deployed to support and interact with families and any anonymised case studies that could be provided. | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People / Education Welfare Officer | Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. | |
| 18 November 2024 | Pupil Attendance | With reference to Table 1 on page 12 of the agenda pack relating to pupil attendance during the period 2018-2019 to 2023-2024, Members queried how much of the attendance percentage was for authorised or unauthorised absence | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. | |

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| | | and how much was linked to children who were suspended from school at that time. The Committee requested a further breakdown showing how schools record attendance and clarifying leave that was authorised and unauthorised. | | | |
| 18 November 2024 | Pupil Attendance | Members discussed grades and levels and heard about the use of progress points, enabling learners to see and work towards their own personal targets, reducing stress and frustration that some learners may feel, however the Committee expressed concern regarding Year 11 pupil attendance levels and requested a written update that the Corporate Director had offered to provide to Members of the Committee, following analysis of the attendance data for Year 11 pupils. | Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People | Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. | |