

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2024-2025

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
18 November 2024	Pupil Attendance	<p>Members discussed the inconsistent approaches taken by schools within the county borough to authorised and unauthorised pupil leave during term time and 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>b. 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>	Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 4 March 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s34634/ResponsesSOSC118December2024RecommendationsandRequests.pdf?LL=-1

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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 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.	Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 4 March 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s34634/ResponsesSOSC118December2024RecommendationsandRequests.pdf?LLL=-1
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	Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People / Education Welfare Officer	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 4 March 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s34634/ResponsesSOSC118December2024RecommendationsandRequests.pdf?LLL=-1

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		studies that could 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 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.	Corporate Director Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 4 March 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s34634/ResponsesSOSC118December2024RecommendationsandRequests.pdf?LLL=-1
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	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 4 March 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s34634/ResponsesSOSC118December2024RecommendationsandRequests.pdf?LLL=-1

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16 January 2025	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-	The Committee made recommendations and requested additional information.	Scrutiny / Chair of COSC	<p>ACTIONED: ACTIONED - Recommendations formally reported to Cabinet on 4 February 2025 for consideration and response.</p> <p>Response from Cabinet on 18 February 2025.</p>	<p>https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s34634/ResponsesSOSC118December2024RecommendationsandRequests.pdf?LLL=1</p> <p>https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s34441/Appendix%20A%20Cabinet%20Response%20to%20Scrutiny%20Recommendations%202025-26.pdf</p>
16 January 2025	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29	Members requested more information on what other local authorities were doing to set a balanced budget which Officers advised once they had the wider Wales view they would be content to share with The Committee.	Corporate Director for Education, Early Year and Young People	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. Chased.	
16 January 2025	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29	Members discussed the implications of Legal Services for schools expressing Their concerns with more complex Casework involving behaviour, Attendance, health and safety legislation.	Corporate Director for Education, Early Year and Young People	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. Chased.	

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		Headteachers advised they have external arrangements with legal services who are knowledgeable and are able to turn things around in a timely manner to support schools. Headteachers stated that the conflict came where the Local Authorities' legal team may not agree with the external legal advice which could be a challenge for the schools. The Committee requested that this is investigated further as to whether the external legal support was sustainable, manageable, affordable and whether the support was sufficient for today's demands on schools.			
16 January 2025	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29	The Committee requested more Information with regards to the Welsh Governments revenue support grant and Other grants that might be forthcoming.	Corporate Director for Education, Early Year and Young People	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided. Chased.	