

EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1) - MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

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, 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 11:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

JPD Blundell

HJ David

E D Winstanley

Present Virtually

P Ford
A Wathan

J Llewellyn-Hopkins
AJ Williams

R J Smith

T Thomas

Registered Representative:

A Clarke - Church in Wales Representative

Apologies for Absence:

I Spiller

Robert Richards – Lead Nurse - CAMHS and Specialised Services

Youth Council Representative

Declarations of Interest:

H Griffiths – Personal - Chair of School Governors - CCYD and family member is the Headteacher of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School.

AJ Williams – Personal – Chair / Community Governor Coety Primary School.

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Invitees:

Councillor Jane Gebbie
Councillor M Jones

Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services

Lindsay Harvey

Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People

Gayle Shenton
Mark Lewis
Kathryn Morgan
David Wright
Jayde Barron
Gail Biggs
Megan Apsee
Clare Shears

Head of Learning
Group Manager – Integrated Working
Principal Educational Psychologist
Deputy Head of Children and Family Services
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
Group Manager – Inclusion
Education Engagement Team Manager
Health and Well-being Promoting Educational Settings Programme Co-ordinator for
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Headteachers:

Ryan Davies
Mike Stephens
Nicola Kelly Fisher
Adele Thomas

Headteacher, Brynteg Comprehensive School
Head, Porthcawl Comprehensive School
Head, St Mary's & St Patrick's RC Primary School
Head, Nottage Primary School

Officers:

Rachel Keepins
Jessica Mclellan

Democratic Services Manager
Scrutiny Officer

81. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dated 3 July 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	15 September 2025

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

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82. Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for Learners

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members, Senior Officers and Invitees the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: Recommendations 1. Given the evidence provided by Officers and Headteachers regarding the impact of any removal of grant funding for mental health support for pupils in schools, the latter referencing that any removal would potentially be 'catastrophic'; Members recommended that a letter be drafted to Welsh Government from the Chair to highlight their concerns and their support for the growth bid to ensure sustainable funding for mental health support services in schools. 2. Officers reported that in many cases pupils who moved schools often did so prior to any information regarding the pupil being shared between the schools, potentially affecting or delaying any necessary support these pupils might require to be put in place immediately. Officers reported that schools were bound by Welsh Government policy to accept a transfer immediately. The Committee therefore recommended that as part of the Chair's letter to Welsh Government a request be made to consider revising this policy, in order for schools to share information prior to a pupil moving to another school, so that any necessary support pupils might need can be planned for and put in place with no delay. 3. The Committee reiterated their recommendation made at their May 2025 meeting asking for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that matters around the funding of mental health support services such as counselling and early intervention services are prioritised in the next budget round and not considered as areas for any potential savings. This was of particular concern given the information reported by Headteachers that many schools were already using part of their delegated budgets towards this support, in addition to the grant funding. Members further recommended that the Education Deep Dive Group formulated as part of the Scrutiny Budget Working Group consider this area as part of their remit, exploring the current costs, what grants are potentially at risk and what future funding would be required to continue providing the necessary support to pupils.
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	Requests for Additional Information: a) It was agreed that any future research and data gathered in collaboration with Welsh Government on the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) programme, would be shared with members of the Committee. b) The Committee requested that a briefing session be held for the Committee Members to explore what support the Local Authority provide for pupils who are home schooled. c) The Committee requested clarification over how pupils are measured and classed as NEET (Not in Education, Employment of Training). d) The Committee requested information relating to the protocol for 'Managed Moves' as well as figures showing how these were being monitored to evaluate their success. e) Whilst acknowledging the development of the Family Commissioning Strategy, Members commented on the fact that this strategy very much focused on children of greatest need, who were the most vulnerable and requested clarification as to whether there was any such strategy that focused on the wider context and looked at, or picked up on, all children. Further Scrutiny/Forward Work Programme The Committee commented on the fact that the report referred to lots of activity and outputs relating to support for pupils with mental health issues, but there was little mention of outcomes and how these were being measured. Evidence received from head teachers also highlighted that the situation seemed to be getting worse with more pupils having mental health issues. Members queried how this was known and how it was being measured. Future consideration, therefore, by the Scrutiny Committee, should incorporate how the Authority and schools are measuring and monitoring the situation and how we are evaluating the effectiveness of any support provided.
Date Decision Made	15 September 2025

83. Information Report - Quarter 4 / Year End Performance 2024-25

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee noted the content of the report and its appendices and made the following requests for
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	additional information: Additional Information a) Members referred to DEFS 156 in the report 'Number of schools judged by Estyn to be in 'significant improvement' or 'special measures' and requested clarification as to how exactly the Local Authority monitored schools and their performance so that if a school is placed in special measures it does not come as a big surprise. b) Members requested progress updates on the following: - WBO3.4.2 'Open Welsh-medium childcare in the Ogmores Valley and Bettws, with 32 full-time-equivalent childcare places'. - BO4.4.4 Provide a new two-form entry English-medium school to replace the existing Afon Y Felin and Corneli Primary Schools (EEYYP).
Date Decision Made	15 September 2025

84. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee considered the report, approved the Forward Work Programme in Appendix A, and requested that the Directorate be chased requesting urgent responses to the Committee's previous recommendations that were outstanding in Appendix B.
Date Decision Made	15 September 2025

85. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	15 September 2025

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

The meeting closed at 12:40.