

**Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**24 November 2025**

**Recommendations / Additional Information Requested**

	<b>Recommendations / Information Requested:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:</b>
<b>Online Safety and Digital Learning</b>			
<b>Recommendations:</b>			
1	<p>The Committee discussed that given the insightful views shared by headteachers invited to the meeting regarding online safety and digital learning, there would be further value in promoting collaboration and sharing good practice and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to surveying headteachers of all schools in the County Borough about their experiences and approaches to supporting learners and their families in respect of online safety.</p>	<p>We agree that there is value in capturing and sharing experiences and approaches across our schools.</p> <p>We will build on the opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• share good practice and effective strategies for supporting learners and families in online safety across schools;</li> <li>• highlight challenges and areas where further support may be needed; and</li> <li>• continue to consult with headteachers on priorities and approaches for online safety.</li> </ul>	Accepted
2	<p>The Committee <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to the same online safety and social media training and workshops provided to school Governors also being made available to parents.</p>	<p>Through the work of the Lead Officer, Digital Learning, families currently receive online safety training opportunities in collaboration with their schools, which often includes governors in attendance.</p> <p>Workshops and training sessions for families and learners are promoted and made available to all schools, and the local authority delivers these sessions on behalf of schools often</p>	Accepted

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		<p>tailoring content to meet individual school needs, throughout the school year.</p> <p>When planning online safety learning sessions for families, the local authority provides schools with opportunities to invite governors to attend. Conversely, families are offered the chance through their schools to attend online safety sessions designed for governors, ensuring that both groups receive consistent and up-to-date online safety information.</p>	
3	<p>The Committee <b>recommended</b> that there was a need to refresh the strategic partnership between the Council and South Wales Police in respect of supporting schools to meet the potentially criminal challenges of new technology, and that consideration be given to ideas about these issues and the role of police being forwarded to Council's representative on the South Wales Police and Crime Panel.</p>	<p>The local authority agrees in principle for refreshing and expanding opportunities for police-led learning in schools which can enhance learner engagement and raise the profile for online and digital safety.</p> <p>Due to Welsh Government funding cuts in 2024 the Beat Cymru funding programme ended. This programme placed dedicated police officers in schools to deliver lessons on safety, wellbeing, behaviour, drugs, online safety and more.</p>	Partially accept

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		<p>Some police forces are using other resources to link with schools, but it does not replace the previous comprehensive programme.</p> <p>Operationally, the local authority coordinates with South Wales Police representatives and TARIAN (the Regional Organised Crime Unit for South Wales) to deliver updates, learning presentations to school leaders through established professional networks focused on artificial intelligence risks, online safety and Cyber Choices.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p>The Committee discussed the risk to children and online safety and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to further collaboration with Children's Social Care to support vulnerable children and young people and with foster carers to support Care Experienced Children with online safety, and also to better identify and support the most vulnerable young people of the community.</p>	<p>The local authority actively collaborates with colleagues across Bridgend County Borough Council and schools to identify vulnerable learners. While capacity limitations can hinder deeper partnership work, collaborative approaches enhance the support provided. Sharing practical, accessible online safety resources on key topics helps ensure that those working with vulnerable young people are better informed.</p>	Accepted
<b>Additional Information Requested:</b>			
<b>5</b>	<p>The Committee <b>requested</b> an all-Member briefing regarding the impact of artificial intelligence on education.</p>	<p>An all-Member briefing, along with delivery of additional learning</p>	Accepted

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		sessions for all Members is welcomed. These sessions can focus on informing and enhancing knowledge and understanding of the impact of artificial intelligence on education and wider society.	
6	The Committee <b>requested</b> further information on how the Council is supporting home educated learners in the safe use of technology and social media.	<p>Parents who elect to home educate children take on full responsibility for their child’s education, the local authority continues to play an important safeguarding and advisory role.</p> <p>Recognising, the increasing importance of digital safety, we provide a range of sign-posted information to ensure home-educated learners can navigate online spaces safely.</p> <p>The Education Engagement Team (EET) offers tailored advice during annual engagement visits and through ongoing email/phone contact.</p> <p>Families are provided with guidance on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safe internet use</li> <li>• managing screen time</li> </ul>	Accepted

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognising online risks (for example grooming, cyberbullying, misinformation)</li> <li>• age-appropriate platform use</li> <li>• setting parental controls</li> <li>• Hwb's publicly available 'Parents and Carers' area for free guidance.</li> </ul> <p>The team shares the latest advice from trusted national partners, including the NSPCC, Childline, Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP), and Internet Matters.</p>	
7	<p>The Committee <b>requested</b> a copy of the locally developed Guidance recognised by the Welsh Government regarding artificial intelligence and plagiarism.</p>	<p>The committee can view the BCBC Plagiarism Guidelines (including use of Artificial Intelligence) v0.1 via the embedded PDF here.</p> <p>This document guides secondary schools with a consistent approach to managing instances of plagiarism, ensuring the best outcomes for the learner and the school are a key consideration.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>AI Malpractice Flowchart v1.0.pdf</p> </div>	Accepted

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<b>8</b>	<p>Members <b>requested</b> the link to Estyn’s report, ‘New Era: How Artificial Intelligence (AI) is Supporting Teaching and Learning: The opportunities and challenges of AI in schools and PRUs in Wales and how leaders should respond’ (October 2025).</p>	<p>The following link will navigate to Estyn’s report into the use of artificial intelligence across schools in Wales  <i>New Era: How Artificial Intelligence (AI) is Supporting Teaching and Learning: The opportunities and challenges of AI in schools and PRUs in Wales and how leaders should respond’</i>  <a href="https://estyn.gov.wales/improvement-resources/new-era-how-artificial-intelligence-ai-is-supporting-teaching-and-learning/">https://estyn.gov.wales/improvement-resources/new-era-how-artificial-intelligence-ai-is-supporting-teaching-and-learning/</a>                      The webpage provides an executive summary of the report, with the full downloadable report listed at the bottom of the provided webpage link above.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>