

PWYLLGOR CRAFFU ADDYSG A PHLANT

6ED IONAWR 2021

Pwnc: Llesiant a Iechyd Meddwl staff a disgyblion – Diweddariad Ionawr 2021

Diben:

I gynnig diweddariad yn y maes dan sylw ar gais y Pwyllgor Addysg a Phlant

I ystyried a chynnig sylwadau ar y materion canlynol:

- Nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad a chynnig sylwadau ac awgrymiadau pellach

Rhesymau: Mae iechyd a lles disgyblion a staff ein hysgolion, a phobl ifanc ac oedolion sy'n glientiaid i'r Adran Addysg a Phlant yn faes o ddiddordeb yn Sir Gaerfyrddin. Mae'r pandemig Covid-19 wedi dwysáu'r diddordeb, gyda chynnydd mewn consyrn cyffredinol a mesurau cefnogol ac ataliol ychwanegol ar waith

Angen penderfyniad Bwrdd Gweithredol – Na

DEILYDD PORTFFOLIO BWRDD GWEITHREDOL: Cyngh. Glynog Davies

Cyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Phlant

Enwau Pennaeth Gwasanaeth

J. Aeron Rees

Awdur yr Adroddiad

Aeron Rees

Swyddogaethau:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6TH JANURAY 2021

Staff and pupil wellbeing and mental health – January 2021 Update

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The paper will:

- 1. Provide Background and reference the Pre-Covid Situation**
 - a. Outline established strategy and give a brief policy context
 - b. List provision already in existence for young people and staff

- 2. Describe changes when the pandemic intervened**
 - a. Give an appraisal of the situation from a range of services
 - b. Highlight the proactive response in respect of:
 - i. Pupils and students
 - ii. Other young people within the service's remit
 - iii. Staff

- 3. Suggest next steps**
 - a. With appraisal of progress so far
 - b. How we can capitalise upon opportunities

Whilst focussing on the wellbeing of pupils and school staff, there will also be reference to the wellbeing of other young people, who may not be in school , but still under the remit of the Department for Education and Children (e.g. young adults in the Youth Support Service).

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **J. Aeron Rees**

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities YES	Legal NO	Finance YES	ICT YES	Risk Management Issues YES	Staffing Implications YES	Physical Assets NO
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1. Policy and Crime & Disorder

The Department of Education and Children has a pre-existing Wellbeing and Equity Strategy. This has stood services in good stead in navigating through the pandemic. That said, the lockdown, firebreak and intervening periods have thrown up new challenges and created new opportunities which will merit a review of our strategy.

Welsh Government's '*Education in Wales: Our national mission*' brought a new focus to wellbeing, ensuring equity and excellence for all. Taking forward that work, and recommendations by the Senedd Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee, we are now close in Wales to securing an all-Wales framework for a whole-school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing. This development will be looked at with interest to further inform Carmarthenshire's policy direction.

The legalities around this issue is primarily enshrined in Welsh Government guidance, which has been updated and newly issued in direct response to the pandemic.

3.Finance

There has been increased demand for staff training since the March lockdown. Costs have been met departmentally to fund external providers. This appears an adequate situation currently but is not a determinant of future demand. We have also commissioned some specialist input from key educationalists to inform our approach to pupil wellbeing and may need to continue to broker the expertise from within our budget.

4. ICT

Digital Platforms have provided a very effective way of conducting online professional development during the pandemic. Continued refinement of our platforms and increased staff confidence and competence will be an asset going forward, so that remote learning becomes more sophisticated.

5. Risk Management Issues

New risks have been identified such as the traumas experienced by young people, especially the vulnerable. Support services and pastoral arrangements in schools have themselves been pressurised by additional demand and staffing challenges. There has been a growth in acute concern for some young people, such as an increase in suicide ideation.

6. Staffing Implications

There is no fundamental additional staffing demand, albeit there will continue to be a strong focus on upskilling and developing existing staff i.e. officers, school and special setting leaders and practitioners. Staff in the Department of Education and Children have worked closely with Health and Wellbeing staff in the Chief Executive's Department. It would be desirable if these links, galvanised during lockdown, can be perpetuated and further developed.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: J.A. Rees, Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)



1. **Scrutiny Committee – pending**
2. **Local Member(s) - n/a**
3. **Community / Town Council – n/a**
4. **Relevant Partners – Approaches have been shared with Local Authority Link Inspectors**
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Updates in regular ERF meetings**

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE	Yes - Paper forwarded 21.12.21
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
EVERY LEARNER MATTERS: Proposals to Promote Equity, Well-being, Inclusion and Excellence in Carmarthenshire's learning communities (2019 – 2030)		  Equity Strategy.final.4.19.d