

CABINET

11^{eg} Rhagfyr 2023

DERBYNIADAU YSGOLION

Adolygiad derbyniadau ysgolion cynradd (Codi 4)

Argymhellion / penderfyniadau allweddol sydd eu hangen:

Argymhellir bod y Cabinet yn ystyried cynnwys yr adroddiad.

Rhesymau:

Darparu gwybodaeth am ddadansoddiad bwlch o ddarpariaeth blynnyddoedd cynnar ar draws y sir i lywio penderfyniad ynghylch a ddylid ymgynghori ar newid i drefniadau derbyn llawn amser mewn ysgolion cynradd (Polisi Codi'r 4au).

Ymgynghorwyd â'r Cabinet Rhagarweiniol: YES

Ymgynghorwyd â'r Pwyllgor Craffu Perthnasol: NA

Angen penderfyniad y Cabinet OES

Angen Penderfyniad y Cyngor NA

Aelod Cabinet deilydd Portffolio: Cyng. Glynog Davies (Addysg a'r Gymraeg)

Gyfarwyddiaeth:

Addysg a phlant

Enw'r Pennaeth Gwasanaeth:

Simon Davies

Awdur yr Adroddiad:

Allan Carter

Dynodiadau:

Pennaeth Mynediad i Addysg

Rheolwr Trawsnewid a Newid
Ysgolion

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CABINET 11th December 2023

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS Primary School Admissions Review (Rising 4s)

Background

In 2018/19 the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee completed a Task & Finish Review of the current provision for early years education, childcare and play opportunities.

One of the conclusions identified in the report was that that the Authority's 'Rising 4s' policy is markedly different to other neighbouring local authorities' and that the 'Council undertake a formal review of its current admissions policy for full time education for 4-year-olds (the rising 4s policy).'

Cabinet has already considered a report into the rationale for this and requested an assessment of the implications of removal of the Rising 4s Policy in individual schools.

Purpose

This document takes the form of a gap analysis of education provision for 3- and 4-year-old children should the Policy be amended. It highlights where removal of the Policy will have limited or no impact and those schools (all 4-11 schools) where removal will leave gaps in provision in some schools and geographical areas. Potential solutions where gaps in provision have been identified has been proposed. However, any financial implications of changes resulting in increased expenditure would make them contingent on the removal of the Rising 4s Policy.

The attached document presents the gap analysis, and summarises schools into different types according to their current provision.

It is important to highlight the potential implications of any changes to current arrangements in terms of parental perception, equity of provision, redistribution of funding consultation requirements and accommodation issues.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Cabinet considers the contents of the report, and its recommendations as follows:

That Carmarthenshire as the Admissions Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools:

- During the annual admissions consultation exercise in January 2024, for potential implementation in September 2025, consults on the removal of the Rising 4s Policy.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES: Report

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:  Head of Access to Education

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

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Any changes to primary school admission arrangements will affect Carmarthenshire's School Admissions Policy and require the appropriate consultations as laid out in the Welsh Governments School Admissions Code.

Legal

Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and amended by Section 40 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced the requirement for the Welsh Ministers to issue a Code in respect of the discharge of admissions functions. In particular, the Code also sought to safeguard the interests of parents, children and young people by ensuring that school admissions are administered in the fairest and most equitable way possible.

The most recent School Admissions Code was issued in 2013 and is intended to clarify the process for everyone with an interest in school admissions and school admission appeals, help admission authorities to fulfil their duties correctly and improve working practices.

Finance

There is an opportunity to explore altering the full-time admission of pupils, creating more 3-11 schools to offer part time nursery provision in their locality, provide more business opportunities to the non-maintained sector to provide early years provision/wrap around care and make budget efficiencies. This would require further detailed financial modelling as recommended by the task and finish report.

Staffing Implications

A change to the primary school's admissions policy and a more detailed review into the impact on each school may have staffing implications which will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Policy and Procedures.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:  Head of Access to Education

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	NO
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:-	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

2. Local Member(s) – Not applicable at this stage.

3. Community / Town Council – Not applicable at this stage.

4. Relevant Partners – Not applicable at this stage.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Not applicable at this stage.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	N/A
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
PRIMARY SCHOOLS Admissions Review (Rising 4s)	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=405&Mid=7154&Ver=4
SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - Primary School Admissions Review (Rising 4s)	https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=131&Mid=5719&Ver=4
Carmarthenshire County Council School Admissions Policy 2021-22	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1225137/school-admissions-policy-2021-22.pdf
School Admissions Code (Wales) 2013	https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf