

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 9TH MAY, 2016

REFERENCE FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (LIFELONG LEARNING):
18TH APRIL, 2016

“ SERVICE PLANS 2016-20: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND INCLUSION
AND STRATEGY, COMMUNITY LEARNING AND RESOURCES (DLS) –

The report outlined that Service Plans were the primary planning document of the Council and a key building block in its Performance Management Framework. In response to proposals for improvement as referred to in the Council’s most recent Annual Improvement Report by the Wales Audit Office, the Council had reviewed its Performance Management Framework to enable better demonstration of the contribution made at all levels of the organisation to priority outcomes.

The Service Plans for 2016-20 specifically identified how each Head of Service would contribute towards achievement of Corporate Plan wellbeing outcomes by asking two questions:

- “Which wellbeing objectives does the service contribute to and what actions will we be taking this year to achieve these?”
- “How will we manage our resources to achieve these actions and support our service?”

Informed by the self-assessment, the Service Plans also comprised a brief overview of the issues facing the service against each of the corporate health perspectives (Risk, Customer Focus, Resources – workforce, finance, assets, ICT). The Plans included an action plan for how resources would be used to support the delivery of well-being outcome actions as well as managing risks, collaboration and engagement activities.

The Council was currently consulting widely on proposed Improvement Objectives for 2016/17 and these would be reflected within relevant Service Plans once approved by Council in April 2016. The proposed Improvement Objectives and associated actions for 2016/17 reflected the four wellbeing outcomes in the Corporate Plan, ensuring that the Council was focusing on the areas in need of most improvement.

The Director of Learning and Skills, in presenting the report, raised a number of key priorities for the service as itemised below:

- Preparation for 21st Century Schools Investment Programme
- Co-location of the Adult Community Learning work to Barry Library with Arts Development
- The Council’s Reshaping Agenda – considering various service areas and the way the Council currently provides services e.g. reshaping the Catering Service and Additional Learning Needs

- Development work relating to the Strategy and Resources Section
- Pupil attainment priorities
- Increased focus on progress of pupils entitled to Free School Meals
- Provision for pupils taught outside the school setting
- Post 16 development and the Collaboration Agenda
- Work to implement the ALN Bill where additional responsibilities will be assumed by the Council for Post 16 age group.

The Department was also considering reviewing and strengthening the performance management arrangements in relation to sickness absence for the service. As explained earlier in the meeting, the Director was also currently involved in a management review of the Directorate in order to ensure that the services are best placed for the future. In response to a query regarding the expiration of the lease at Provincial House, Members were informed that it was the Director's understanding that the contractual term would expire towards the end of the year.

Appendices A and B to the Service Plans contained the Service Improvement Action Plan 2016/17 which included identified planned service actions, the intended outcomes, key milestones, relevant performance measures to demonstrate progress, timescales for completion and the anticipated resources required of planned actions. It was noted that some of the targets had been set and with others to be set when all the relevant data and information was received at the closure of the end of the financial year. It was acknowledged that the new format appeared more compact and a simpler way of reporting. The Director confirmed that officers found the Plan to be more straightforward and that it covered the key areas required. The Department and Members would continue to monitor the development of the Plans over the forthcoming months. Aware that the new documents were a different style than previously reported, Members sought reassurance as to whether the plans in the future could continue to be kept at an acceptable level of complexity, with it being

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the School Improvement and Inclusion and Strategy and Community Learning Resources Service Plans for 2016-20 be endorsed.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet ensure that the Plans are kept at an acceptable level of complexity in the future as outlined within the report.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To confirm the Service Plans as the primary document against which performance for the two service areas within Learning and Skills will be measured.
- (2) In order that the approved Service Plans can appropriately reflect improvement priorities in a simpler format.”

Attached as Appendix - [Report to Scrutiny Committee \(Lifelong Learning\): 18th April, 2016](#)