



## Start Well Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2026 - 27

<b>Corporate Plan Objectives</b>
Objective 3 - Giving Everyone a Good Start in Life
Schools, Schools Improvement, Post 16 Education and Training, Skills, Additional Learning Needs (ALN), Youth Services, Flying Start/Families First, Play and Welsh (external policy).

<b>Cabinet Members</b>	<b>Directors</b>
Education, Arts and the Welsh Language	Director of Learning and Skills
Social Care and Health	Director of Social Services

<b>Committee Membership</b>	<b>Democratic Services Contact</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair:</b> Stephen Haines <b>Vice-Chair:</b> William Hennessy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Committee Membership Webpage</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Scrutiny Information Webpage(s)</a></p>	<p>Mr Gareth Davies Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer <a href="mailto:gjdavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk">gjdavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk</a> 01446 709249</p>

<b>Co-opted Membership</b>	
M. Werrett	Church in Wales
Dr. M. Price	Roman Catholic Church
L. Barrowclough	Parent Governor – Primary Sector
K. Riddick	Parent Governor – Secondary Sector
<b>Non-Voting Observers</b>	

G. Scott (Welsh Medium Education)  
 R. Davies (Vale Youth Council)  
 P. Bond (Vale Youth Council)  
 Vacant (Secondary)  
 Vacant (Primary)  
 Vacant (Special)  
 Vacant (Headteachers)  
 Vacant (Free Churches)

### Forms of Scrutiny

Investigative (Task and Finish)	Committees can take deeper dives into topics using a range of methods based upon the Committee’s forward work programme and identified priorities.
Proposal	Policies are in development and are seeking Scrutiny feedback and recommendations to help shape the Council’s future direction.
Briefings	Information only or update items which are for noting and where scrutiny can add limited value but the Member call-in procedure is used required.

### Task and Finish Working Groups [Investigative]

- Cross-party work, with a clearly defined scope, and the Cabinet Member sighted.
- Brought together on a voluntary basis by 4 to 8, politically balanced (where practical) Members, with the Chair decided by the “home” Scrutiny committee.
- Leverage the expertise of officers, partners, wider stakeholders alongside evidence and insight from the people of the Vale of Glamorgan who will be invited and encouraged to participate as expert witnesses and share their lived experiences.
- Hold the Cabinet and officers accountable on specific topics while proactively shaping the Council’s policy direction.
- Reports and recommendations fed back to the Cabinet Member, Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for consideration.

Topic	Officer Lead	Timeframe
<b>Impact upon schools from having to make difficult budget decisions.</b>	Matthew Curtis Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Final report to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee by November 2026.

### Start Well Committee Meetings [Proposal]

- Six scheduled meetings per Municipal Year.
- Opportunity for Committees to make individual recommendations on policies that are still in their development stage, and where decisions have yet to be taken.
- Committee recommendations fed back to Cabinet to consider as a policy develops, with Cabinet providing a response to recommendations, including any rationale for accepting, partially accepting or rejecting.
- Arena for responding to Cabinet Member Decision Call-ins and/or Committee Requests for Consideration.

Topic	Officer Lead	Meeting Date
Forward Work Programme 2026-27	Gareth Davies Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Spring Term 2026/27 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up.	Carys Pritchard Lead Officer for School Improvement	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
School Improvement Work	Carys Pritchard Lead Officer for School Improvement	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Update on St Athan Primary School (Initial report 3rd March 2025)	Matthew Curtis Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Llantwit Major School – Challenges update position.	Carys Pritchard Lead Officer for School Improvement	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Update on School Budget Recovery Plans	Matthew Curtis Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
Welsh Language Standards Annual Monitoring Report 2025-2026	Tom Bowring Director of Corporate Resources	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Summer Term 2026/27 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up.	Carys Pritchard Lead Officer for School Improvement	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2026



<b>Annual Shareholder Report Big Fresh Catering Company.</b> - previous report 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025.	Matthew Curtis Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2026
Forward Work Programme 2026-27	Gareth Davies Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2026
Report of the Task and Finish Review – Impact upon schools from having to make difficult budget decisions.	Gareth Davies Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2026
Welsh Language Standards Annual Monitoring Report 2025-2026	Tom Bowring Director of Corporate Resources	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2026
School Admission Arrangements 2028-2029	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2026 or 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2027
Annual Report for SACRE/SAC 2025-2026 (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council)	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2027
Learning and Skills Directorate Plans 2027-28	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2027
Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Autumn Term 2026/27 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up.	Carys Pritchard Lead Officer for School Improvement	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2027
Update on the Proposal to Create New Delivery Models for Enhanced and Sustainable Specialist Provision (EAWL) (REF)	Matthew Curtis Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	To Be Determined

#### For Information Reporting/Member Briefings

- Information only reports provided to Elected Members, with a notification indicating when new material is available.

- Ad hoc reports and presentations from the Council and Partner organisations which would likely not benefit from Scrutiny time but be useful information to support Members in improving their awareness of local, regional and national policy direction.
- Member briefing sessions would be arranged, often before relevant Scrutiny Committee meetings, to invite officers or wider partners to provide whole Member briefing sessions and presentations as appropriate.
- Information reports will also be provided to the public via the Council's Scrutiny Webpage.

Topic	Officer Lead	Method and Timeframe
Youth Engagement and Progression Update	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Youth Service Update	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) and Pupil Engagement Service	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Governor Training Report	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Elective Home Education (EHE) Update	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Curriculum for Wales Update	Carys Pritchard Lead Officer for School Improvement	Member briefing