

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote Meeting, 9th November, 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor R.R. Thomas (Chair); Councillor H.M. Payne (Vice-Chair); Councillors A. Asbrey, W. Gilligan, R. Godfrey, E.J. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson, N. Marshallsea and E. Penn.

Co-Opted Members: L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), R. Morteo (Church in Wales), M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), G. Scott (Welsh Medium Education), G. van der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector), R. Goodjohn (Vale Youth Forum), J. Clemett and T. Williams (Vale Youth Council).

Also present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), C.P. Franks, S.M. Hanks, Dr. I.J. Johnson, N.C. Thomas and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor J.M. Norman.

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor E.J. Goodjohn declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 – Elective Home Education (EHE) Update. The interest was a prejudicial interest as they were an Elective Home Educator and entitled to access Elective Home Education grants to support their children's education.

Councillor R.R. Thomas declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 – Elective Home Education (EHE) Update as they were home educated.

AGENDA ITEM 4. SUMMARY OF ESTYN INSPECTION OUTCOMES FOR SUMMER TERM 2023 AND UPDATE ON SCHOOLS IN STATUTORY FOLLOW UP (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the inspection outcomes of the three schools inspected during the summer term be noted, and that Committee write to congratulate the schools where there was no Estyn follow-up activity.
- (2) T H A T the progress of the two schools in Special Measures be noted.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting, and to recognise the achievements of the schools where there was no Estyn follow-up activity.

AGENDA ITEM 5. ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION (EHE) UPDATE (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made in the area of Elective Home Education (EHE) during the last 12 months be noted.
- (2) T H A T a further progress update report in relation to the ongoing delivery, and further measures to raise awareness of the use and impact of EHE grants for the support of EHE learners be received in 12 months' time.
- (3) T H A T in receiving the report referred to in Recommendation (2) above, the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be updated on the further progress as to the likely impact of any implementation of the proposed amended statutory guidance on Home Education and the proposed draft regulations which incorporate the requirement for Local Authorities to maintain a Children Missing Education (CME) database.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the content of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To further update Scrutiny Committee as to the progress made in relation to the ongoing delivery and further awareness raising of the use and impact of the EHE grants for the support of EHE learners.
- (3) To ensure that Members of the Scrutiny Committee continue to have oversight and awareness of ongoing changes to the expectations and obligations placed on the Local Authority with regards to EHE learners and learners who may be categorised as CME, with a specific focus on those missing their entitlement to an education.