



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th OCTOBER 2018

PRE SCRUTINY - SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STRATEGY FOR 2018 – 2021 “MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT”

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR JOY ROSSER)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the School Attendance strategy 2018- 2021 following Pre-scrutiny by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 26th September, 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the comments and observations of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee attached as Appendix A of this report.
- 2.2 Subject to any further comment by Cabinet Members, endorse the recommendations outlined within the School Attendance Strategy For 2018 – 2021 “Miss School, Miss Out” as attached as Appendix B of the report (and for ease of reference as listed below):
1. To approve implementation of the draft School Attendance Strategy for 2018-2021.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for Members to be aware of the comments and observations of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee prior to their consideration of the strategy as attached as Appendix B.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee on the [18th July](#) the Committee agreed to pre-scrutinise the report of the Director, Education in respect of the School Attendance strategy prior to Cabinet’s consideration.

4.2 The Scrutiny Committee met on the 26th September to pre-scrutinise the strategy and the draft minute is attached as Appendix A.

5. PRE-SCRUTINY OF THE STRATEGY

5.1 At the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee Members discussed the strategy and provided comments in respect of:

- Funding provision in respect of the 3rd Year of the strategy
- Recognising the achievements of those students facing barriers to attendance
- Priority 5 - Truancy Watch and Truancy Free Zones - Concerns in respect of Truancy Free Zones
- Engagement with School Governors and pupils – to be taken forward.

5.2 The Draft strategy has been amended to incorporate the comments of the Committee and is attached as Appendix B.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The report contained within appendix B has been presented to scrutiny for pre scrutiny before consideration by Cabinet.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 Any financial implications are outlined within Appendix B of the report.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 Non applicable – the report is identifying the scrutiny arrangements that have taken place.

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10.1 Making Best Use of Our Budget – Pre scrutiny can improve cost effectiveness.

11 CONCLUSION

11.1 It is recognised that scrutiny is a vital component of good governance and improves Councils' decision making, service provision and cost effectiveness.

11.2 The undertaking of pre-scrutiny by the Children & Young People Committee in this area will strength accountability and assist Cabinet Members in taking any future decisions on these matters.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNCILLOR J ROSSER.

Item: **PRE SCRUTINY**

Background Papers

Children & Young People – [26th September, 2018](#).

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