

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 24 February 2021

Subject **Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2021 - 2022**

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Designation
Ed Pryce	Education Achievement Service (EAS) Assistant Director: Policy and Strategy
Sarah Davies	Principal Challenge Advisor (EAS)
Sarah Morgan	Chief Education Officer
Andrew Powles	Deputy Chief Education Officer

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Receive the report for information and take the opportunity to comment on the contents of the Business Plan as part of the consultation process; and
- 1.2 Consider the main strengths and areas for development within Newport, and to consider how LA services can be aligned with the priorities contained within the document, therefore ensuring all pupils meet their full potential.
- 1.3 Determine if it wishes to make any comment to the Cabinet on the Business Plan, or any of the specific actions for Newport.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The EAS delivers, through an agreed Business Plan, a wide range of school improvement services to all schools (all key stages, including all through schools and special schools), pupil referral units and funded non-maintained nursery settings on behalf of each LA. This plan supports the role LAs have in delivering their statutory function, addressing their individual improvement priorities and promoting improved pupil outcomes.
- 2.2 The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan. This document contains the main priorities that the EAS believe will be relevant to focus upon in the next iteration of the regional Business Plan for 2021-2022. It is challenging to try to predict the way in which society will be operating from summer 2021 with regards to managing the spread of coronavirus. The priorities contained within this document assume that the EAS will build upon the learning and momentum from the past few months.
- 2.3 However, this plan will also need to consider how schools and settings will operate in a COVID-19 recovery phase and the support that will be required. Consideration will also be given to the priorities that were set and agreed prior to the pandemic in the previous Business Plan 2020-2021 depending on their relevance in the current climate.

Previous Consideration of EAS Business Plan

- 2.2 Previously, the Education Advisory Service Business Plan for 2020-21 was reported to this Committee on 5 February 2020 following which the Committee's Comments were forwarded to the Cabinet where the EAS Business Plan also considered.
- 2.3 **Partnership Committee Terms of Reference**
At the AGM meeting of Council held on 16 May 2017 a new Scrutiny Committee Structure was agreed including the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships, the remit of which includes:

Holding partnerships to account for their performance.

To include - EAS, Newport Live, Norse, SRS and Joint Commissioning arrangements:

- Performance of the partners against agreed objectives;
- Effectiveness of governance structures;
- Undertake formal consultation on key documents as required.

The Committee should therefore focus its questioning on how the consortium is working together to create and implement its Business Plan 2021-22

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached for the Committees consideration:

Appendix A - Submission of Evidence to Scrutiny - Managing Director EAS;

Appendix 1 - EAS Business Plan 2021 - 22;

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Receive the report for information and take the opportunity to comment on the contents of the Business Plan as part of the consultation process; and
- Consider the main strengths and areas for development within Newport, and to consider how LA services can be aligned with the priorities contained within the document, therefore ensuring all pupils meet their full potential.
- Consider how well the Consortium is working in partnership on a regional level.

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

4.1 ***In considering / evaluating the EAS Business Plan, the Committee may wish to consider focusing questions on:***

- How the Consortium sets priorities and whether they are robust and achievable?
- What barriers and challenges to improving performance does the Consortium encounter and how will these be addressed?
- How will progress against the Business Plan be monitored and scrutinised?
- What are the resource implications of delivering on the plan and how does collaborative working as a consortium maximise the resources available?
- What is the process for the approval of the final Business Plan by each LA Partner?
- How does the Consortium work together as partners to mitigate risks to delivery of the Business Plan?

4.2 **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

The Committee's consideration of the Draft EAS Business Plan should consider how the Partnership is maximising its contribution to the five ways of working. The following are examples of the types of questions to consider:

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	What long term trends will impact upon the delivery of the EAS Business Plan?
	How will changes in long term needs impact upon the EAS Business Plan in the future?
Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.	What issues are facing the Consortium's service users at the moment?
	How is the Consortium addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
Integration Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
	How does the Consortium's performance upon the delivery of the Business Plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?
Collaboration	Who will the Consortium work with to deliver the Business Plan ?

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).	How is the Consortium using knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Business Plan?
Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	How has the Consortium sought the views of those who are impacted by the delivery of the Business Plan?
	How has the Consortium taken into account diverse communities in decision making?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

5.1 [‘Qualified for life’](#) - the National Education Improvement Strategy (2014)

<p>‘Aim: that every child and young person should benefit from excellent teaching and learning.</p> <p>To deliver this aim the document sets out four strategic objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An excellent professional workforce with strong pedagogy based on an understanding of what works. 2. A curriculum which is engaging and attractive to children and young people and which develops within them an independent ability to apply knowledge and skills. 3. The qualifications young people achieve are nationally and internationally respected and act as a credible passport to their future learning and employment. 4. Leaders of education at every level working together in a self-improving system, providing mutual support and challenge to raise standards in all schools.
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6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

6.1 The Council’s Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022; **Building on Success - Building a Better Newport** sets out the following:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

The **Aspirational People Commitments** within the Corporate Plan that relate to this report are as follows:

Ref No.	Commitment:
6	The Newport Children's Charter sets out our commitment to children and families, including headlines commitments to children in care and care leavers
7	Three new state of the art schools will be built, tangibly improving student choice and the educational offer in the city.
8	The annual Newport Work Discovery week is established bringing together residents, employers and the public sector to connect and raise aspirations. The council commits to 15 apprenticeships per year as part of this city-wide drive.
9	Increasing educational and social care capacity, so that fewer than ten children will be educated out of the city, and the number of out of county social care placements will reduce by 25%
10	Newport will improve the number of pupils achieving at least five GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths in line with the Welsh average.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017-22](#)
- [Report and Minutes of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships on 12 March 18](#)
- [EAS Website](#)
- [Estyn's 2017 Inspection Report](#)
- Welsh Government action plan for Education in Wales: [Education in Wales: Our National Mission 2017 - 21](#)
- [Report to Annual Council 16 May 2017 upon New Scrutiny Committee Structures](#)
- ['Qualified for life'](#) - the national Education Improvement Strategy (2014)

Report Completed: January 2021