

SUBJECT: Education Achievement Service Business Plan 2019-2020 and Local Authority Annex 2019-2020

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 3rd April 2019

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1. This report seeks agreement from members for the EAS Business Plan 2019-2020 and the Local Authority Annex 2019-2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the EAS Business Plan 2019-2020 and the Local Authority (LA) Annex 2019-2020.

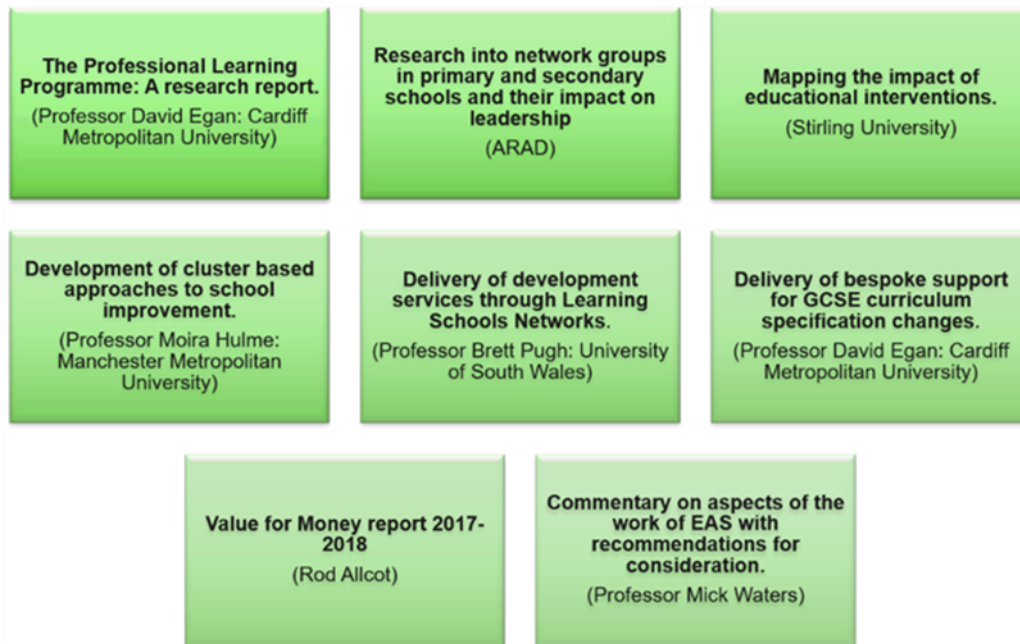
3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1. Members will ensure that the Business Plan and accompanying Monmouthshire LA Annex enables appropriate support and challenge for schools and that it addresses the areas for improvement that have been identified within Monmouthshire's education strategic plans.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1. The South East Wales Consortium is required to submit to the Welsh Government a three-year business plan that will be updated annually. This plan and the Monmouthshire LA Annex cover the period 2019-2020.
- 4.2. Priorities for the Business Plan have been derived from Local Authority Strategic Plans, the progress that has been made towards the previous Business Plan, areas that have been identified as requiring improvements through internal self-evaluation processes, external research and feedback from Estyn. The delivery model for the Business Plan is on a regional basis, the needs of each school and trends within each LA are met through bespoke work with each school. This Business Plan addresses Monmouthshire local authority strategic priorities that fall within the remit of the work of the EAS.
- 4.3. The delivery model for the Business Plan is on a regional basis, the needs of each school and trends within Monmouthshire are met through bespoke work with each school. The EAS offers a wide range of bespoke support that is based upon best practice.

4.4. The EAS Business Plan priorities continues to be shaped using the outcomes of external reviews and research:



4.5. This Business Plan addresses each local authority strategic priority that are indicated with *. These priorities fall within the remit of the work of the EAS. Additionally, the EAS will work in partnership with Monmouthshire LA to support additional local authority priorities, as appropriate.

4.6. The EAS will support the LA in their statutory responsibility of securing that their education and training functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential.

4.7. Monmouthshire LA's Strategic Priorities (as provided by the LA):

Strategic priorities for 2019/2020	Main link (s) to the improvement strands within the Business Plan
Improve outcomes of vulnerable groups, including FSM learners, particularly at key stage 4.*	Improvement Strand: 1, 2 and 3
Reduce variance in outcomes, teaching and leadership, particularly at key stage 4, using the Excellence in Teaching and Learning Framework as a tool for improvement.*	Improvement Strand: 1, 2 and 3
Strengthen leadership capacity in identified schools.*	Improvement Strand: 1 and 2
Secure appropriate progress for learners across the full range of cognitive abilities of pupils.*	Improvement Strand: 1, 2 and 3

Reduce the amount of fixed term exclusions.	Improvement Strand: 1, 2 and 3
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4.8. Each improvement strand within this plan now has a specific emphasis on the work of the EAS in promoting improved outcomes for vulnerable learners, in particular those in receipt of FSM. These strategies are based on a wide range of research evidence. It will be important that all other stakeholders, including Monmouthshire LA and schools, have their own specific strategies to support vulnerable learners.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1. The EAS has a robust governance model that is underpinned by the Collaboration and Members agreement (CAMA). The EAS is funded on an annual basis from three sources, illustrated below. A detailed spending plan will accompany the final Business Plan which is intrinsically linked to all actions contained within it. A detailed overview of the regional distribution of grants is shared with all stakeholders on a termly basis.

5.2. Over the past three financial years, the EAS has been able to contribute to the efficiency savings of Councils by reducing the core funding commitment by 8%. Taking all factors into consideration, the EAS Company Board agreed that it could offer a 2% efficiency saving on last year's core funding contribution for 2019/20 as was indicated in our indicative figure last year. Monmouthshire's contribution for 2019/20 is: £420,218.

5.3. These efficiencies have been thought through carefully in what will be a challenging financial climate for the EAS. This offer of efficiency has been derived in good faith and has been based upon indicative information to date.

5.4. It is important to note that for the EAS to continue to provide a regional service there needs to be a consistent regional percentage reduction, as in previous years. The alternative to this would be an unworkable two-tier approach to the delivery of the Business Plan priorities across the region and to schools within individual Local Authorities.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

6.1. High Quality education is a fundamental pre-requisite of ensuring future local and national prosperity through the provision of an informed and well-educated workforce and society. The Local Authority's statutory role to monitor and evaluate school performance and the quality of provision, coupled with its statutory powers of intervention in schools causing concern is fundamental to ensuring that all schools provide high quality education provision.

7. CONSULTEES:

7.1. The draft Business Plan was made available for consultation from 18th January 2019 to 8th February 2019. The list of consultees are noted below::

- Education Achievement Service staff
- South East Wales Directors / Chief Education Officers and Diocesan Directors
- Joint Executive Group
- Education Achievement Service Company Board
- Education Achievement Service Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Circulated to individual Local Authority Education Scrutiny Committees
- Regional Headteacher Strategy Group
- Regional Governor Strategy Group
- Pupil consultation

Advice and guidance have also been sought from Sir Alasdair MacDonald (Adviser to Cabinet Secretary for Education for vulnerable learners)

All other feedback from the consultation process has been considered in the formulation of the final Business Plan.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

8.1. EAS Business Plan 2019-2020



20190117 EAS
Business Plan 2019 I

8.2. Local Authority Annex 2019-2020



LA Annex 2019-20 -
Monmouthshire.pdf

9. AUTHOR:

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