

Education & Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee

Wednesday 4 November 2015

Scope: Readiness for work, further education or training

Intended Contribution of the Work

- Key issues and proposals that the Cabinet Member can use to inform policy
- Improved councillor awareness and understanding of issues
- Views of key stakeholders captured for policy development
- Identification of good practice

Question (from Cabinet Member)

How do we ensure that all of our children are ready for training, further education or work by the age of 16?

(there are 200+ children in this position)

Lines of Inquiry

1. The Committee wants to check that there is a widely shared definition of what it means for a child to be 'ready for training, further education or work'. Is there a definition? If not what should it be?
2. What data is collected about 'readiness for training, further education or work'? What does it tell us?
3. Children who are excluded from school or who are at risk of being excluded from school, are no doubt most likely to become NEET. What extra steps are being taking to prepare these children for life after school? What will be the impact of the current changes around education inclusion on this?
4. The Committee suspects that many children who are unready for life after school are those 'under the radar' who do not present challenging behaviours. Is this correct? If it is right how is/should the issue be addressed?
5. The Committee is concerned that there is too much emphasis on academic rather than vocational education in schools. Is this right? What should be done about it?
6. Some schools will be dealing with this issue better than others. What Swansea schools can be described as good practice? What do they do that other schools can learn from? How should the Council promote the take up of good practice in all schools?
7. Do other Councils have policies to address this issue? What do they do that is different to what we do? What good practice elsewhere could we learn from?

Proposed Evidence Gathering

Evidence to be gathered through Committee meetings although there maybe opportunities for seeking written evidence or undertaking visits as opportunities / resources allow.

Committee Meetings:

1. **Education Chief Officer, Head of Education Improvement, Cabinet Members for Education and Services for Children and Young People.** Purpose is to refine the scope and get an overview/current position of the policy area.
2. **Other councils:** Officers from others in ERW region perhaps to find out what they do on this issue
3. **Gower college / training / business representatives.** To learn from their experiences / perceptions of 'readiness for training, further education or work' and ideas for how things might be improved
4. **Good Practice Schools:** Discussion with schools doing good work in this area to see what can be learnt and their ideas for how the council can support good practice
5. **Wrap up and agreement of key points / proposals.** Review of the previous meetings and had over of issues to the Cabinet Member