

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Jennifer Raynor
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Our Ref: JR/JW
Your Ref:
Date: 29 November 2017

Dear Councillor Jones

CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION – 9 OCTOBER 2017

Thank you for your letter dated 9 November 2017 following my attendance at the Scrutiny Programme Committee on the 9 October 2017. I respond as follows to the issues and questions raised in your letter.

- Further information about the evidence base used to develop the target within the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Outcome 1 - More 7-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; 18% of 7 year olds by 2024.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) states that “Subject to Welsh Government approval, our 21st Century Schools Programme Band B submission would support a challenging target of approaching 18% across the whole Welsh-medium sector by 2024.”

This target is based on an assumed continuing trend of growth in demand for Welsh-medium places and as such, is higher than current projections that are based on current known pupils and a three-year rolling average coming into the system. The projections used for this are:

Welsh Medium - National Targets

(NB: WESP annual targets consider pupils at Year 2)

Jan 17 base data

Current WM pupil numbers (FT) – Primary	2,741
Current WM pupil numbers (FT) – Secondary	1,642
Overall WM pupil numbers currently (FT)	<u>4,383</u>
Current total pupil numbers (FT) - Primary	18,743
Current total pupil numbers (FT) - Secondary	13,235
Overall total currently (FT)	<u>31,978</u>

Current % WM pupil numbers (FT) - Primary	14.6
Current % WM pupil numbers (FT) - Secondary	12.4
<i>Overall % WM pupil numbers currently (FT)</i>	<u>13.7</u>

Projected 2023 WM pupil numbers (FT) - Primary	3,288
Projected 2023 WM pupil numbers (FT) - Secondary	2,600
<i>Overall Projected 2023 WM pupil numbers (FT)</i>	<u>5,888</u>

Projected 2023 total pupil numbers (FT) - Primary	18,414
Projected 2023 total pupil numbers (FT) - Secondary	14,560
<i>Overall total projected 2023 (FT)</i>	<u>32,974</u>

Projected 2023 % WM pupil numbers (FT) - Primary	17.9
Projected 2023 % WM pupil numbers (FT) - Secondary	17.9
<i>Overall % WM pupil numbers projected 2023 (FT)</i>	<u>17.9</u>

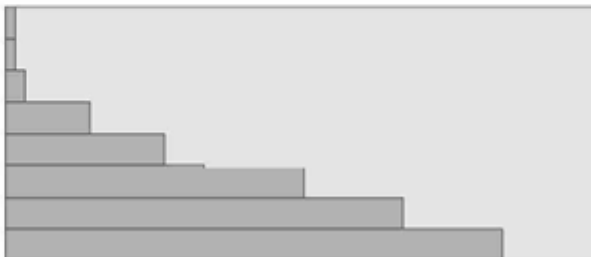
- Clarity about the level of Education Psychology service that is available to schools and scope for a particular school to be able to access more than their allocation.

The Educational Psychology Service uses a time allocation model of service delivery based on a formula which is calculated each year as well as when there are significant changes in staffing. Therefore, there is no fixed number of hours a school receives except that all schools receive a minimum entitlement of 9 hours per year, the equivalent of 1 visit per term.

The formula dedicates 85% of available educational psychology time to school based work and then divides this up on the basis of a formula which takes account of school numbers, free school meals and the number of pupils in the school with special educational needs as identified through the SEN Survey.

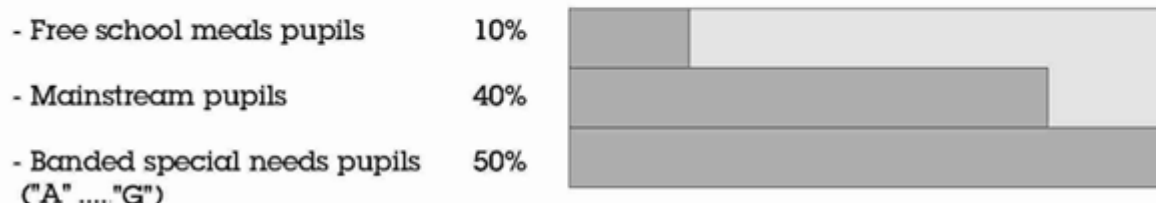
A) Schools have been allocated time according to the numbers of pupils in each school who fall in the following categories, with a weighting given for each category, as follows:

CATEGORY:	RELATIVE WEIGHTING PER PUPIL	
1) Mainstream pupils	.10	
2) Free school meals pupils	.10	
3) "A" band pupils	.20	
4) "B" band pupils	.85	
5) "C" band pupils	1.60	
6) "E" band statemented pupils	3.00	
7) "F" band statemented pupils	4.00	
8) "G" band statemented pupils	5.00	



B) The number of visits allocated to schools in advance are "rounded up" so that all schools receive at least one visit per term.

C) The amount of time allocated to schools resulting from each of the categories is as follows:



The other 15% is used for a range of activities including team meetings, essential training (CPD) activity to maintain practising psychology status as well as strategic work for the authority, supporting tribunal work etc. However, now that the Sen Survey is no longer running the service is looking at new models of time allocation to fit with its broad vision which has been developed as part of the ALN Commissioning Review. This is an opportunity to look at the work of the Education Psychology Service in a transformational way so that it provides services in a timely and flexible way to intervene early and preventatively to avoid the escalation of needs and reduce demand for statutory services. This may mean shifting the weighting given towards early and preventative work from statutory work related to pupils with statements.

- An information campaign to reduce the health risk caused by vehicle exhaust emissions around schools, including advice to transport contractors / taxi firms used to drop off / pick up pupils.

The local authority (LA) ensures that all taxis used on school transport have to be licensed and have valid MOT certificates which include vehicle emissions testing. All large school transport buses must be under 15 years old and minibuses under 12 years old.

The Terms and Conditions for our home to school transport services also state that where layover time exceeds 10 minutes at any collection point, that the engine should be switched off.

A reminder will be sent to all contractors to remind them of the risk caused by vehicle exhaust emissions around schools and the need to switch off engines when parked for drop off and collection of pupils.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Raynor', written in a cursive style.

COUNCILLOR JENNIFER RAYNOR
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & LIFE LONG LEARNING