

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 5 th November, 2020
Report Subject	Recovery Strategy Update
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has developed a corporate Recovery Strategy for the pandemic emergency situation which was endorsed at a special Cabinet meeting on 15 September.

Cabinet requested each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to support recovery in their respective portfolio areas, and specifically to have oversight of:-

1. The portfolio risk register(s) and the risk mitigation actions, both live and planned;
2. The objectives for recovery for the portfolio(s);
3. The immediate strategic priorities for recovery for the portfolio(s) extracted from the draft Council Plan for 2020/21; and
4. The set of revised performance indicator targets for the portfolio(s) for 2020/21.

The above were considered by the Committee at its meeting on 28 September, 2020.

This report provides the Committee with an update on the portfolio risk register and risk mitigation actions (shown at Appendix 1 and 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee review the latest updated risk register and risk mitigation actions within the Education & Youth portfolio.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EMERGENCY RECOVERY
1.01	<p>The Council is developing a corporate Recovery Strategy for the pandemic emergency situation. The Strategy covers:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chronology of the emergency response phase and transition to recovery 2. The handover arrangements or recovery 3. Organisational recovery of the corporate organisation 4. Community recovery of the communities we serve 5. Strategic priorities and performance for the remainder of 2020/21 6. The roles the Council will play in regional recovery 7. The democratic governance of recovery
1.02	<p>The development of the Recovery Strategy been led by the Chief Executive and Leader and overseen by a cross-party Member Recovery Board. The Board, which is an advisory sub-committee of Cabinet, has completed its work and has stood down. The Board has met seven times in quick succession and has received multiple reports and presentations. Cabinet is due to endorse the Recovery Strategy at a special meeting on 15 September.</p>
1.03	<p>Cabinet will be inviting each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to support recovery in their respective portfolio areas, and specifically to have oversight of:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The portfolio risk register(s) and the risk mitigation actions both live and planned; 2. The objectives for recovery for the portfolio(s); 3. The immediate strategic priorities for recovery for the portfolio(s) extracted from the draft Council Plan for 2020/21; and 4. The set of revised performance indicator targets for the portfolio(s) for 2020/21.
1.04	<p>The latest version of the risk register (Appendix 1) and table of risk mitigations (Appendix 2) for the Corporate Services portfolio are attached.</p>
1.05	<p>An update on the recovery objectives for the service portfolio for this Committee is shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To repurpose schools including funded settings back to the provision of statutory education: All schools have successfully reopened from September and are delivering education to their learners. This is now a blended learning approach – mostly face to face but with some online learning when cohorts have to be sent into isolation as the result of a positive case of Covid-19 within the school. • To meet statutory requirements for Youth Service, Youth Justice and Youth Homelessness Prevention Services: Statutory IYP Youth Service delivery (WG Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2019) , has adapted to a blended digital provision when and where

building provision is not possible. Staff have engaged in specific training to deliver the new model. The new website is key to supporting the holistic approach. The recovery plan extends to school provision and to broader partner agencies funded by IYP. We are supporting all delivery collaboratively by delivering a rights based approach. All equalities areas are considered and all provision is bilingual. A transition programme has been introduced online to support children to transition from primary to secondary school and to support young people to transition back in to education following lockdown.

Our IYP homelessness prevention programme (WG Ten Year Homelessness Plan for Wales 2009-2019) is effectively engaging with potential homeless young people at the earliest opportunities by placing a youth worker within FCC housing, and by fully engaging with the WG homelessness prevention programme on a national and regional level.

Our IYP hospital based youth work provision (Inspire) has moved to a blended digital model during Covid 19. The programme is reporting high uptake from our most at risk young people, e.g. suicide ideation cases.

Youth services staff have actively engaged in a whole service digital training and an innovative coaching and wellbeing support programme to support staff wellbeing. Staff have stated that the programme has effectively supported them to support our young people cohort and their own families to stay well and positive during the Covid 19 crisis.

IYP have formed a robust partnership with the URDD, the national Welsh language youth organisation to ensure all provision is bilingual and supports WG objectives for Cymraeg 2050. All Families First anti poverty provision (WG families First 2010 – 2020) and all play provision (WG 2020 Play Policy) have continued to support our most vulnerable children and young people in an adapted response during Covid-19.

The Youth Justice Service is responding to all referrals made from North Wales Police, HM Courts and Tribunal Service and partner agencies. The YJS has continued to provide Police Station (Appropriate Adult) cover in line with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) and continues to staff Youth, Remand and Saturday Courts as required. The YJS is continuing to operate Referral Order Panels virtually in line with the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. The YJS continues to operate its Prevention and Out of Court Panels.

- **To meet statutory National Standards for Youth Justice**

The Youth Justice Service has a Recovery Plan in place to support its operational and strategic responsibilities. This plan was approved by the YJS Executive Management Board in September. The YJS continues to accept Prevention, Out of Court and Court related referrals and in the most part has been engaging with young people via virtual means. As part of our Business Continuity Plan staff have been instructed to increase virtual contact above National Standard requirements.

The YJS Management Team continue to meet weekly to review all cases

where young people are assessed as high risk of offending, serious harm, safety and wellbeing concerns or where young people are failing to respond to virtual attempts to engage and a process is in place to assess the suitability of doorstep welfare visits. In addition an Escalation Register is in operation with Senior Managers to elevate concerns or request other community visits. The YJS Education Officer continues to review cases where young people are not accessing their full entitlement of education, training or employment and is working with agencies to address these issues. The YJS is currently unable to offer Unpaid Work / Reparation in the community due to Covid restrictions, however, virtual methods are being explored. Due to Covid restrictions (including those affecting unpaid work and reparation) we are currently unable to offer the full 25 hours of weekly intervention to Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Orders (direct alternative to custody), however, we will attempt to meet as many of the statutory elements as possible. However, currently no such Orders have been made by the Court during the pandemic.

- **To ensure young people reintegrate back into education, health and substance misuse services.**

Officers have collaborated with local health services to support the continued engagement with services such as speech & language therapy, occupational therapy and Children & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Operational profiles for health services have been shared with schools to support and inform engagement and weekly meetings are held between education, social care and health managers to review and address any presenting issues.

- **To deliver targeted interventions and support to children, families and schools.**

A range of intervention and support is provided through the Inclusion & Progression services, e.g. Education Welfare, English as an Additional Language/Gypsy Traveller, Sensory, Counselling etc to children, families and schools. Services have adapted to be able to offer support and intervention in a variety of ways including direct contact where this has been deemed necessary and safe to undertake, and via remote online platforms. These adaptations are enabling services to respond in the main to the challenges presented by the current Covid-19 restrictions.

- **To comply with the statutory duties under the Special Education Needs (SEN) Code of Practice for Wales**

The Council has a range of duties under the Code in relation to children with SEN. This includes undertaking a statutory assessment of an individual's needs and identifying/providing specialist intervention and provision to meet the needs. This process involves a range of education and health professionals as part of the assessment process and subsequent intervention. There remains a number of challenges around the completion of detailed assessments in the current climate but services are working flexibly and creatively to try and address these.

- **To re-open North East Wales Archives, Hawarden, to the public (formerly Flintshire Record Office)**

The Archive has been open to the public since mid-September. We

	<p>opened one day a week through September and two days in October. It was planned to increase to three days in November this is currently under review in light of the national firebreak. There are suitable COVID restrictions in place – we require advance booking and ordering of documents so that all material can be quarantined for 72 hours before and after use; we are closed over the lunch period to enable cleaning of work spaces and the equipment used. Visitors are responding positively to the changes put in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>To support staff to have a positive pathway to return to the work place</p> <p>All staff within the Portfolio have regular team meetings and 1-1 catch up with their Managers which supports their wellbeing as well as their work streams. Risk assessments are in place to ensure the safety of staff in the buildings to which they will eventually return to work when this is appropriate. Support services e.g. Care First and Occupation Health are used as necessary to support individuals alongside individual support plans agreed with Managers.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications from this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None specific as this report is based on documented response and recovery work.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	This report specifically covers emergency situation risk management.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Updated Education & Youth Recovery Risk Register Appendix 2 – Updated Education & Youth Risk Mitigation Actions

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
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