



Start Well Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2025 - 26

Corporate Plan Objectives
Objective 3 - Giving Everyone a Good Start in Life
Schools, Schools Improvement, Post 16 Education and Training, Skills, Additional Learning Needs (ALN), Youth Services, Flying Start/Families First, Play and Welsh (external policy).

Cabinet Members	Directors
Education, Arts and the Welsh Language	Director of Learning and Skills
Social Care and Health	Director of Social Services

Democratic Services Contact	Committee Membership
Mr Gareth Davies Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer gjdavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk 01446 709249	Committee Membership Scrutiny Information

Co-opted Membership	
M. Werrett	Church in Wales
Dr. M. Price	Roman Catholic Church
L. Barrowclough	Parent Governor – Primary Sector
G. Van der Burgt	Parent Governor – Secondary Sector

Forms of Scrutiny	
Investigative (Task and Finish)	Committees can take deeper dives into topics using a range of methods based upon the Committee's forward work programme and identified priorities.
Proposal	Policies are in development and are seeking Scrutiny feedback and recommendations to help shape the Council's future direction.
Briefings	Information only or update items which are for noting and where scrutiny can add limited value but the Member call-in procedure is used required.

Task and Finish Working Groups [Investigative]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-party work, with a clearly defined scope, and the Cabinet Member sighted. • Brought together on a voluntary basis by 4 to 8, politically balanced (where practical) Members, with the Chair decided by the "home" Scrutiny committee. • Leverage the expertise of officers, partners, wider stakeholders alongside evidence and insight from the people of the Vale of Glamorgan who will be invited and encouraged to participate as expert witnesses and share their lived experiences. • Hold the Cabinet and officers accountable on specific topics while proactively shaping the Council's policy direction. • Reports and recommendations fed back to the Cabinet Member, Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for consideration. 		
Topic	Officer Lead	Timeframe
Review of Additional Learning Needs Resource Bases	Katy Williams Head of Service for ALN and Well-being katwilliams@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	Topic and Review Group Composition approved 7 th July 2025.

Live Well Committee Meetings [Proposal]		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six scheduled meetings per Municipal Year. • Opportunity for Committees to make individual recommendations on policies that are still in their development stage, and where decisions have yet to be taken. • Committee recommendations fed back to Cabinet to consider as a policy develops, with Cabinet providing a response to recommendations, including any rationale for accepting, partially accepting or rejecting. • Arena for responding to Cabinet Member Decision Call-ins and/or Committee Requests for Consideration. 		
Topic	Officer Lead	Meeting Date
Forward Work Programme 2025-26	Gareth Davies Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer	19th May 2025

Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for ***** 2025/26 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up.	Carys Pritchard Principal Improvement Partner	7 th July 2025
Consultation to create new delivery models for enhanced and sustainable specialist provision.	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	8 th September 2025
School Admission Arrangements 2027-2028	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	10 th November 2025
Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for ***** 2025/26 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up.	Carys Pritchard Principal Improvement Partner	10 th November 2025
Primary and Secondary School Attendance Update	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	19 th January 2026
School Improvement Report	Carys Pritchard Principal Improvement Partner	19 th January 2026 (Not confirmed)
Annual Report for SACRE/SAC 2024-2025 (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council)	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	19 th January 2026
Vale of Glamorgan Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2023-32 - Update on Annual Review report 2024-25.	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	16 th March 2026
Directorate Plans 2025-26	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	16 th March 2026
Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for ***** 2025/26 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up.	Carys Pritchard Principal Improvement Partner	16 th March 2026
Outdoor Education	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	To Be Determined
Schools of Sanctuary	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	To Be Determined
CLA Education	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	To Be Determined
Update on St Athan Primary School (Initial report 3rd March 2025)	Trevor Baker Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	To Be Determined

Member Briefings

- Information only reports provided to Elected Members, with a notification indicating when new material is available.
- Ad hoc reports and presentations from the Council and Partner organisations which would likely not benefit from Scrutiny time but be useful information to support Members in improving their awareness of local, regional and national policy direction.
- Member briefing sessions would be arranged, often before relevant Scrutiny Committee meetings, to invite officers or wider partners to provide whole Member briefing sessions and presentations as appropriate.

Topic	Officer Lead	Method and Timeframe
Curriculum for Wales update – School Improvement / Central South Consortium	Carys Pritchard Principal Improvement Partner	Member briefing
Youth Engagement and Progression Update	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Youth Service Update	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) and Pupil Engagement Service	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Governor Training Report	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Elective Home Education (EHE) Update	Elizabeth Jones Director of Learning and Skills	For Information Report
Curriculum for Wales Update	Carys Pritchard Principal Improvement Partner	Member briefing
Children and Young People Services Annual Placements Review	Lance Carver Director of Social Services	For Information Report