



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools**

Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

Thursday, 17 January 2019 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor M Sykes (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
L S Gibbard
L R Jones

Councillor(s)

M Durke
D W Helliwell
M A Langstone

Councillor(s)

S J Gallagher
L James
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas

Other Attendees

Cllr Jennifer Raynor

Officer(s)

Michelle Roberts
Helen Morgan Rees

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day, B Hopkins, S M Jones and H Morris

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None

2 Notes and Conveners Letter/s

Notes, Conveners letters and responses received by the Panel.

3 Public Questions

None

4 Annual Education Performance Data (including verified data)

Cllr Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills and Helen Morgan Rees, Head of Achievement and Partnership Service attended the Panel to present the report and answer questions. Key points noted include:

Notes of the Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools (17.01.2019)
Cont'd

- Performance measures in Wales are changing which have and will continue to impact the data provided. For the first time pupil's at foundation phase are being measured on revised areas of learning. In primary schools, there is a greater emphasis on progress made by pupils, rather than the end of key stage performance. In the secondary sector new qualifications have been introduced.
- A dip in performance at foundation phase of 10% following a positive trend between 2014 and 2017. The Panel heard, however, that this is due to a change in the foundation phase descriptors and that this is also reflected at a national level. Councillors agree that a continued focus on this area is required.
- Progress at key stage 2 has shown a positive trend over the last five years and that Swansea is on par with the national average.
- At key stage 3 there has been year on year improvement for the past 5 years but Swansea does fall below the national average for the core subject indicator although it shows a faster rate of improvement.
- Performance at key stage 4 for the last five years has been outstanding with Swansea schools showing continuous improvement in all main indicators.
- Gap in performance between free school meal (FSM) and non-free school meal pupils is still evident. The Panel heard that FSM pupil's performance has improved slightly but that the gap at key stage 4 is still at 32.8%. Councillors agreed that this should continue to be a focus for improvement and a key priority for Swansea.
- Gender gap in performance outcomes and that this is smaller than 2017 but with a widening trend remaining. The panel heard that some schools are doing better at targeting the underperformance of boys and that there are good mechanisms in place to share good practice around this issue. Cabinet Member said a campaign targeting literacy in boys, including reading with a male family member was positive. Panel agreed that running this again along with some more intergenerational work on this issue would be beneficial.
- Pupil achievement at 6th form in Swansea is showing improvement and agreed that work still needs to be done in this area to strengthen performance.
- Panel pleased to hear that performance of our English as additional language pupils is strong.
- Panel understands that the data for Looked After Children can be difficult to access as it can be based on a small cohort of pupils. The Panel therefore plans to look at this aspect in a bit more detail at a future meeting.

5 Workplan 2017/2018.

The panel agreed that the deferred item on Looked After Children educational outcomes will be discussed in conjunction with the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Panel. A joint meeting to be arranged.

6 For Information Item

The panel received the Estyn individual school Inspection outcomes summary.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm