



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

On: Wednesday, 15 July 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Convenor: Councillor Lyndon Jones MBE

Membership:

Councillors: C Anderson, A M Day, M Durke, S J Gallagher, L S Gibbard, D W Helliwell, B Hopkins, L James, S M Jones, M A Langstone and L J Tyler-Lloyd

Co-opted Members: D Anderson-Thomas and A Roberts

Agenda

Page No.

1 Apologies for Absence.

2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.
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3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

4 Letters and Minutes

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- Letter to Cabinet Member (12 March 2020 site visit)
- Minutes 12 March 2020
- Minutes 18 February 2020
- Letter to Cabinet Member (13 February 2020 meeting)
- Minutes 13 February 2020
- Response from Cabinet Member (16 January 2020 meeting)

5 Public Question Time

Questions must be submitted in writing, no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10 minute period.

6 Presentation - Service Specific Update on Covid-19 Pandemic

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Invited to attend:

Councillor Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member for Education

Improvement, Learning and Skills
Nick Williams, Chief Education Officer
Helen Morgan-Rees, Head of Achievement and Partnership

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Wednesday, 8 July 2020

Contact: Liz Jordan 01792 637314

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education**

Pentrehafod School, Pentre Mawr Rd, Swansea SA1 2NN

Thursday, 12 March 2020 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M Durke
B Hopkins
M A Langstone

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
L James
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Councillor(s)

D W Helliwell
S M Jones

Other Attendees

Jennifer Ford	Pentrehafod School
Iwan Evans	Pentrehafod School
Jo Bamsey	Pentrehafod School
Margaret Hughes	Chair of Governors
Cllr Graham Thomas	Vice Chair of Governors

Officer(s)

Michelle Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Rob Davies	Senior Challenge Advisor

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): C Anderson, A M Day and S J Gallagher
Co-opted Member(s): D Anderson-Thomas and A Roberts

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

2 Pentrehafod Comprehensive School

The Panel made a site visit to Pentrehafod Secondary School to discuss their practice in relation to prevention of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

The Panel met with the Headteacher and senior members of staff at the school, the Chair of Governors Margaret Hughes, the Vice Chair of Governors Graham Thomas and the Senior Challenge Advisor Rob Davies. The following points were noted:

- The School context was outlined including: currently 1,035 pupils on roll. 29% of pupils receive free school meals. 34% are on the special educational needs register. Around 40% of pupils enter the school in Year 7 with a reading age

below their chronological age. Around 35% of pupils are potentially at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- The majority of students at Post-16 attend Gower College. A small number of students attend Neath Port Talbot College. About 10% attend 6th Forms in various comprehensive schools. A very small proportion attend Apprenticeships placements (less than 1%). About 2% go onto full-time employment directly from school. In 2017/18 1.5% were categorised as NEET (3 students), so 98.5% attaining a post-16 placement.
- The Panel heard that successful transition to post-16 destinations can be attributed to a carefully planned and implemented Careers Programme, which is constantly reviewed and refined to meet the needs of students at the school.
- At the school the provision of careers education focuses on the development of personal effectiveness and work-ready skills through the delivery of bespoke lessons at KS3 and KS4. Additionally, students receive support from Careers Wales, the school's career advisor, local business, an extensive KS3-5 Transition Programme and provision for vulnerable students via the Cynnydd Project.
- The school maximises its grant provision through Pupil Development Grant (330K), PTS Challenge Cymru (250K over 3 years) and SEG funding (25k shared with primary schools).
- Some of the work completed at the school that contributes to the reduction in NEETS includes:
 - PAWB – identify students with low attendance, building close links with parents and families, first day calling and wellbeing interventions.
 - Family engagement officer working with Team Around the Family pupils
 - Skills centre (students identified using external test scores AWRT)
 - Co-ordinated approach to eFSM; 10 point action plan in line with Estyn Guidance.
 - Use of behaviour strategies like restorative practice and the use of UNCRC.
 - After school homework and activities club
 - Managing transition phases including summer camp to support challenging students making transition from KS2 to KS3
 - PACE provision providing individual curriculum for each pupil and making teaching facilities modern and welcoming for PACE pupils.
- This work has had a huge impact on outcomes including from 2012 to 2015: attendance improving from 88.6% to 93%. Exclusions reducing from 626 to 84. Attainment up at L2+ from 22.9% to 52.7% and Attainment of eFSM L2+ up from 11.9% to 29.4%. The Panel heard however the introduction of the new PACE provision brought with it a new and unwanted statistic, an increase in NEETS to the highest in the LA at 13.7% in 2015. With Cynnydd Funding the school brought in learning coach provision which has worked in improving this figure down to 4 students who were NEET in 2018/19.
- The school works strategically with others to reduce/prevent NEETs including with ALNCO, Careers Wales, Cynnydd, Evolve, external agencies, local colleges/sixth forms, local business and strong transition links through all key stages.
- The Panel heard that students that are vulnerable are identified by using for example the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) score and the attendance and attainment data. Students identified as vulnerable are registered with

Cynnydd, this ensures they can access mentoring and enrichment programmes. Currently in the school there are 175 pupils who can access this provision.

- A NEETs Panels at the school identifies those most at risk, primarily Year 11 students. Currently there are 49, 18 girls and 41 boys, 19 of these are eFSM pupils. Councillors heard that these numbers tend to reduce throughout the year and the NEETs panel has a find push, as Year 11 draws to a close, with those still causing concern.
- The school works to reduce core NEETs by working with parents through parents evenings, events, emails, text and twitter, parent slots at careers fair. Also by good links with colleges, training providers and pastoral links, PAWB and external agencies.
- School works closely with others including Youth Offending Team, Inspire, Evolve, Police Liaison Officer etc.
- The curriculum offer for those pupils at risk of NEET was outlines including for example, GC Junior Academy and the PACE provision; where some pupils attend full time and others part-time in conjunction with mainstream.
- The pupil progress tracking system was exemplified including a 'pupil on a page' breakdown of current position of each pupil reviewed regularly.
- The school uses an extensive 'pathway' for pupils relating to skills, citizenship and wellbeing that starts upon entry at the school in Year 7 right through to leaving a in Year 11. It includes a wide variety of key things pupils need to understand like healthy eating, substance misuse, problem solving skills, staying safe, banking and personal finance, careers fayre and talks etc.
- The school work with a wide variety of organisation and partners to deliver this pathway including for example Virgin Atlantic, role models, mentoring, Young Business Dragons, Gower College and 6th Form promotional assemblies and much more.
- They work with pupils in readiness for Post 16 transition in a number of ways including taster sessions with colleges and 6th forms, KS4 support, Careers Wales, Learning Leader and with the Enrichment Co-ordinator.
- They measure success of this NEET prevention work through,, for example monitoring destination of pupils, positive transition and outcomes and reduction in NEET figures for the school.
- Councillors were impressed with not only the quality and extent of the work happening throughout all Key Stages at the school to prevent pupils becoming NEET at 16 but also the preparation of pupils to become contributing life-long citizens. The Skills, Citizenship and Wellbeing Pathway preparing pupils for the world of work was seen as key to this and was praised by the Panel. They felt that the work at the school to reduce needs and to prepare them for life after school was excellent. The Panel would like to see this inspirational practice shared with other secondary schools across Swansea and the region.

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm



**To/
Councillor Jen Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education
Improvement, Learning and Skills**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

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*Date
Dyddiad:*

6 April 2020

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills following the meeting of the Panel on 12 March 2020. It is about improving schools approach to preventing those leaving school Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

Dear Councillor Raynor,

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – 12 March 2020

At our meeting on the 12 March 2020, we met with the Headteacher and Senior Staff, along with the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors at Pentrehafod Comprehensive School. We chose to speak to this school because we had heard about their positive practice in relation to pupils becoming NEET when they leave school. We have detailed our thoughts on our visit in this letter.

We heard about the context at the school including that currently there are 1,035 pupils on roll. 29% of these pupils receive free school meals. 34% are on the special educational needs register. Around 40% of pupils enter the school in Year 7 with a reading age below their chronological age and around 35% of pupils are risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

We understand the majority of students at Post-16 attend Gower College. A small number attend Neath Port Talbot College. About 10% attend sixth forms in other comprehensive schools. A very small proportion attend apprenticeships placements (less than 1%). About 2% go onto full-time employment directly from school. In 2017/18, only 1.5 percent of students were categorised as NEET (3 students), which means 98.5% attained a placement post 16.

The Panel heard that those at risk of NEET are identified by using, for example, the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) score and the attendance and

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attainment data. Those students identified as vulnerable are registered with Cynnydd, which then ensures they can access mentoring and enrichment.

We recognised and praised the work carried out through all key stages at the school and looked at how this helps address NEET and also prepare pupils not only for the world of work but for life.

Some of the practice we believe contributes to the success of this work includes:

- A carefully planned and implemented Careers Programme, which is constantly reviewed and refined to meet the needs of students at the school
- The provision of careers education that focuses on the development of personal effectiveness and work-ready skills through the delivery of bespoke lessons at KS3 and KS4. This is delivered alongside support from Careers Wales, the school's career advisor, local business, an extensive KS3-5 Transition Programme and provision for vulnerable students via the Cynnydd Project
- The school maximises its grant provision through Pupil Development Grant (330K), PTS Challenge Cymru (250K over 3 years) and SEG funding (25k shared with primary schools)
- Using a Family Engagement Officer who works closely with Team Around the Family pupils
- Having a Skills Centre at the school
- A co-ordinated approach to eFSM pupils including a 10 point action plan in line with Estyn Guidance
- The use of behaviour strategies like, for example, restorative practice
- After school homework and activities club
- Managing the transition phases including summer camp to support challenging students making transition from KS2 to KS3
- A PACE provision that provides an individual curriculum for each pupil with teaching facilities that are modern and welcoming for PACE pupils
- The school works strategically with others to reduce/prevent NEETs including with ALNCO, Careers Wales, Cynnydd, Evolve, external agencies, local colleges/sixth forms, local business
- Reduction of core NEETs by working with parents
- A pupil progress tracking system. A 'pupil on a page' breakdown of current position of each pupil reviewed regularly
- The school uses an extensive "pathway" for pupils relating to skills, citizenship and wellbeing. This starts upon entry at the school in Year 7 right through to leaving in Year 11. It includes working with a wide variety of organisations and partners to deliver this pathway including for example Virgin Atlantic, role models, mentoring, Young Business Dragons, Gower College and 6th Form promotional assemblies and much more.

We heard that this work has had a huge impact on outcomes. Examples given included: from 2012 to 2015 attendance at the school improved from 88.6% to 93%. Exclusions reduced from 626 to 84. Attainment up at L2+ from 22.9% to 52.7% and Attainment of eFSM L2+ up from 11.9% to 29.4%. However, the

introduction of the new PACE provision brought with it a new and unwanted statistic; an increase in NEETS to the highest in the LA at 13.7% in 2015. To address this the school used Cynnydd Funding and brought in a learning coach who has worked to improving this figure down to 4 students who were considered NEET in 2018/19.

Councillors were impressed with not only the quality and extent of the work happening throughout all Key Stages at the school to prevent pupils becoming NEET at 16 but also the preparation of pupils to become positive contributing life-long citizens. The Skills, Citizenship and Wellbeing Pathway preparing pupils for the world of work was seen as key to this and was praised by the Panel. We felt that the work at the school was proving to be excellent and would like to see this inspirational practice shared with other secondary schools across Swansea and the region.

We thought the work undertaken at the school was inspirational and thanked the school for their time and wished them all the best for the future.

We welcome your thoughts on any of the issues raised in our letter, on this occasion we do not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR LYNDON JONES

Convener, Education Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education**

Committee Room 5, Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 18 February 2020 at 10.30 am

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
D W Helliwell
J A Raynor

Councillor(s)

S J Gallagher
L James

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
S M Jones

Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas

Co-opted Member(s)

Co-opted Member(s)

Other Attendees

Jennifer Raynor

Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills

Officer(s)

Michelle Roberts
Brian Roles
Nick Williams

Scrutiny Officer
Head of Education Planning and Resources
Director of Education

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day, M Durke, B Hopkins, M A Langstone and L J Tyler-Lloyd
Co-opted Member(s): A Roberts

1 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Cllr Susan Jones declared personal interest in Item 4.

2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

3 Annual Budget Proposals - as they relate to Education matters

The Panel thanked the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills, Nick Williams, Chief Education Officer and Brian Roles, Head of Planning and Resources for attending the panel to discuss the Annual Budget as it relates to Education matters.

4 Summarising Views and Making Recommendations

Following the discussion with the Cabinet Member and Officers the points below were agreed by the Panel, for submission to Cabinet on the 20 February. They will go via the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel Conveners letter.

1. We are pleased that Education continues to be one of the top priorities for Swansea Council, because we feel it as vitally important if we are to make the most of the City Deal as we build for future generations.
2. We were pleased to hear that the budget will see an increase in monies going to education and schools and will cover Teachers pay grant, Teachers pension costs and the pay increase for non-teaching staff. We were also pleased to hear about the grant of £4 million from Welsh Government for Capital Maintenance Repairs to our schools.
3. We agreed with the Cabinet Member that the aspiration of a three-year budget settlement for education is important and believe that we must continue to push for this at every opportunity. The benefit to schools (and education more widely) of being able to plan over three years cannot be underestimated.
4. We were pleased to hear about the work carried out with and between primary schools, secondary schools and the budget forum following the budget settlement. We felt that schools should be congratulated for their culture of working together not only in this but also in supporting each other to succeed.
5. We would like to thank Schools, Governors and the Education Improvement Service for their excellent work over the past year. Particularly how they have been able to grasp the challenges and move forward delivering good quality education here in Swansea.
6. We are pleased about the new cycle / walkways that are being developed across Swansea. However, there was concern that it was being proposed to remove free school transport for some pupils because:
 - a) Lighting and safety of walking routes in winter because of our role in safeguarding pupils.
 - b) Possible increase in traffic around those schools concerned, as parents may start to drive children to school when school buses are no longer available.
 - c) We were concerned that the estimated potential savings from stopping the provision of school buses, in these three areas, has already be taken out of budget.

Issues for response from Cabinet Member:

How sure are you that the savings projected in relation to the three new safe walking routes to school will be realised and if they are not, what impact will this have on the overall education budget?

The meeting ended at 11.10 am



**To/
Councillor Jen Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education
Improvement, Learning and Skills**

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:
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Linell Uniongyrochol:
e-Mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date: 20 February 2020
Dyddiad:

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills following the meeting of the Panel on 13 February 2020. It is about the 21st Century Schools Programme and School Transport.

Dear Councillor Raynor,

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – 13 February 2020

At our meeting on the 13 February 2020, we looked at progress with the 21st Century Schools Programme and had a briefing on School Transport. We would like to thank you, Brian Roles, Head of Education Planning and Resources and Cath Swain, Integrated Transport Manager for attending and discussing the issues with us. We looked closely at the detailed reports that you provided and will now reflect on the issues in this letter.

21st Century Schools Programme

We heard that it is a positive update on the programme, that things have been moving forward well in what is a long-term approach to improving school provision and is consistent with the aims of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act. That Band A is nearing completion and this has had a major impact. That we are now moving to Band B, which is three times the size of Band A. Good progress is being made with £61 million pounds already been drawn down from Welsh Government. The work is phased and prioritised in the programme, as with Band A, and includes at present:

- Gorseinon Primary new build
- Pupil Referral Unit new build
- YSS Tan-y-lan Welsh Medium Primary new build
- YSS Tirdeunaw Welsh Medium Primary new build

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- Extension and remodelling of YG Gwyr Welsh Medium Secondary School to increase capacity by 195 pupils
- Pre-construction phase works for remodelling, refurbishment and extension of Bishopston Comprehensive School
- In addition, work will continue to develop detailed business plans for the remaining capital schemes, as capacity and officer resources allow.

We were told that Swansea is delivering the programme now with less officer capacity and resources across the Council than previously including less education and legal support. There is also a lack of resilience and capacity outside of the Council to deliver on schemes. The number of contractors on the current framework has reduced and the financial risks for those remaining have increased. We also heard this reduced capacity and resilience is exacerbated by the demands of other capital funding initiatives that the Council is also seeking to deliver in relation to reducing infant class sizes, childcare grant, Flying Start and 21st Century Community Hubs.

We recognise there is fragility in the construction sector and understand the difficulty the council can experience in recruiting and retaining skilled people when higher wages are offered elsewhere. We were pleased to hear that the Council is trying to improve the deficit in the number of construction contractors able to bid for work by providing training and support for the medium size companies. These contractors will then be able to enter and bid in this market alongside those larger organisations who have teams of people trained and employed to make bids. This will not only help to get more companies into the market but also help in employing more people locally.

We asked about the current backlog figure for structural maintenance across schools in Swansea and we were informed there is currently a buildings condition survey being carried out on all schools in the area. We understand that the overall maintenance figure will be based upon the results of this condition survey. We would like to see the buildings condition survey report and breakdown of structural maintenance figures once they are available.

We are pleased and excited by the number of schemes that are coming through and would like to thank all those involved for their hard work in moving these projects forward so efficiently.

Briefing on School Transport

We were pleased to hear that there is much better countywide provision for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) pupils and this has borne out showing savings in the transport budget, due to not needing to transport as many pupils long distances to school.

We understand free transport is provided for pupils who live two miles or more from their catchment area primary school or three miles or more from their catchment area secondary school. The distance is measured by the shortest available walking route and this along with ALN transport information is contained within the Council's Home to School Transport Policy which is based upon the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and associated statutory provision and operational guidance.

We heard that the number of pupils requiring free school transport in Swansea has remained stable. However, the overall cost of transport provision has increased significantly. Hearing the medium term financial plan and operational plans reflect the need to identify further significant actions to mitigate the cost pressures and seek to ensure longer-term stability.

We were interested to hear about the significant savings that have been delivered over recent years, through consistently robust management of the service and regular re-tendering of bus and taxi operator contracts and routes, to as far as possible optimise efficiency of delivery. We were encouraged to hear that the savings have been achieved without use of costly external consultancy support.

We asked a question about purchasing of, and the use of, council owned vehicles for school transport and particularly for ALN learners. We were informed that wherever possible the fullest use of the Council's in-house fleet is considered before contracting with other providers. We were pleased to hear some of the older fleet is being replaced with vehicles that will be more accessible and therefore more flexible in their use, but we noted that would not provide extra capacity.

We pleased to hear about the creation of new/improved walking routes between schools (and communities) but Panel members raised concerns about:

- a) Lighting and safety of walking routes in winter because of our role in safeguarding pupils.
- b) Possible increase in traffic around those schools concerned, as parents may start to drive children to school when school buses are no longer available.
- c) That the estimated potential savings £280,000 from stopping the provision of school buses, in these three areas, has already be taken out of budget.

We welcome your thoughts on any of the issues raised in our letter and on this occasion do not require a formal written response. However, can you please provide the schools building condition survey report and breakdown of structural maintenance figures, once they are available?

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR LYNDON JONES

Convener, Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education**

Committee Room 5, Guildhall, Swansea

Thursday, 13 February 2020 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
D W Helliwell
J A Raynor

Councillor(s)

A M Day
L James
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
S M Jones

Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas

Co-opted Member(s)

Co-opted Member(s)

Other Attendees

Jennifer Raynor

Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills

Officer(s)

Michelle Roberts
Brian Roles
Cath Swain

Scrutiny Officer
Head of Education Planning and Resources
Integrated Transport Manager

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M Durke, S J Gallagher, B Hopkins and M A Langstone

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Susan Jones and Dave Anderson Thomas gave personal interests for items 5 and 6.

2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

3 Letters and Minutes

The Minutes and Letters were received by the Panel.

4 21st Century Schools Programme Update

The Panel thanked Cllr Raynor, Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills for providing a report and attending the meeting to discuss

progress with the 21st Century School Programme. The following points were discussed:

- It is a positive update on the programme, things have been moving forward well in this long term approach to improving our school provision and is consistent with the aims of the wellbeing and future generations act.
- Band A nearing completion and this has had a major impact, showing positives in doing it in this planned way.
- Moving to Band B, which is 3 times the size of Band A. Good progress is being made given delivering it with less officer capacity and resources across the Council including legal support. This reduced capacity and resilience is exacerbated by the demands of other capital funding initiatives that the Council is also seeking to deliver in relation to reducing infant class sizes, childcare grant, Flying Start and 21st Century Community Hubs. There is also a lack of resilience and capacity outside the authority, as the number of contractors on the current framework has reduced, and the financial risks for those remaining have increased.
- Fragility in the construction sector and the ability of the council to recruit and retain skills when higher wages offered outside are issues that also affect how quickly we can move forward with projects not just those in education. The council is providing training and support for medium size company's so that they are able to enter and bid in this market alongside those larger organisations who have teams of people trained and employed to make bids. This will help to get more companies into the market and help to employ people locally.
- £61 million pounds has already been drawn down from Welsh Government for Band B. The work is phased and prioritised in the programme as with Band A and includes at present:
 - Gorseinon Primary new build
 - Pupil Referral Unit new build
 - YSS Tan-y-lan Welsh Medium Primary new build
 - YSS Tirdeunaw Welsh Medium Primary new build
 - Extension and remodelling of YG Gwyr Welsh Medium Secondary School to increase capacity by 195 pupils
 - Pre-construction phase works for remodelling, refurbishment and extension of Bishopston Comprehensive School
 - Also heard that work will continue to develop detailed business plans for the remaining capital schemes, as capacity and officer resources allow.
- The panel felt it is an exciting report that shows all these new builds that are coming through.
- The Panel asked what the backlog figure for structural maintenance across schools in Swansea is currently. The panel were informed that there is currently a condition survey being carried out on schools across Swansea and once that is complete a figure will be available. The Panel asked to see the condition survey report and breakdown of structural maintenance figures once they are available.
- What is the percentage intervention rate from welsh government for the new builds was asked? The panel were told that there are two sources of funding (1) the traditional capital and maintenance funding from Welsh Government which gives 65% mainstream, 75% PRU and Special Schools and (2) Mutual Investment Model, which gives 81% but has costs further down the line.

- The Panel wanted to thank all those involved for their hard work in moving these schemes forward so efficiently.

5 Briefing on School Transport

A member of the public raised an issue for the Panel to consider, namely *'You cannot tell or ask a parent to take their child to school in their mobility car. Why has this not been properly looked at as it is a massive concern for some parents. If you start using this as a target, it will be discriminatory and not lawful and create conflict between the Council and parents'*.

The Panel heard that this was mentioned only as part of this overview report as something that could be considered in the future. That no decision had been made on this, that it had not yet been fully worked through yet and if/when it is, legal advice will be sought, and consultation would take place, before any decision would be made.

The Panel thanked Councillor Raynor, Brian Roles and Cath Swain, Integrated Transport Unit Manager for providing the briefing report and attending the meeting. The following issues were discussed:

- There is much better countywide provision for ALN pupils and this has shown savings in the transport budget, as we do not need to transport as many pupils long distances to school.
- Free transport is provided for pupils who live two miles or more from their catchment area primary school or three miles or more from their catchment area secondary school. The distance is measured by the shortest available walking route in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy based upon the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and associated statutory provision and operational guidance. Free transport is provided from the beginning of the school year in which pupils reach the age of five but is not provided for younger/nursery aged children.
- For children with statements of additional learning needs, the general transport policy described above applies. Free transport is provided for ALN learners where they are placed by the Education Department at a mainstream school other than their local catchment school; at a specialist teaching facility other than at their local school; or in a special school. If a parent chooses to send their child to a different mainstream school, they are then responsible for any transport arrangements and costs.
- The local authority does have discretion to provide free home to school transport according to the nature of the additional learning needs of the pupil. If the Council believe a child's needs can be met at their local mainstream school, but parents choose an alternative mainstream school, the parent is then responsible for any transport arrangements and costs.
 - There were 4,366 pupils in receipt of free home to school transport in mainstream at a cost of £3.627m in 2018/19.
 - 678 ALN pupils receiving free home to school transport at a cost of £4.071m last year
 - There were 151 contracts for mainstream transport and 409 for ALN pupils last year.

- The number of pupils requiring free school meals in Swansea has remained stable. However, the overall cost of transport provision has increased significantly. The panel heard that the medium term financial plan and operational plans reflect the need to identify further significant actions to mitigate the cost pressures and seek to ensure longer-term stability.
- The measure requires the Council when providing Home to School transport to take into account: the age of the child, the nature of the route, any wish the parent may have about educating at school providing religious education, in Welsh, the needs of disabled learners and of looked after children.
- Home to school transport policy is overseen by the Education Department and the Integrated Transport Unit in Place Department are responsible for the operational delivery of the transport needs in accordance with policy.
- Significant savings have been delivered over recent years, through consistently robust management of the service and regular re-tendering of bus and taxi operator contracts and routes, to as far as possible optimise efficiency of delivery. These have been achieved without use of costly external consultancy support.
- The panel asked a question about purchasing and use of council owned vehicles for school transport and particular ALN learning. The panel heard that wherever possible the fullest possible use of the Council's in-house fleet is ensured before contracting with other providers. The panel heard that some of the older fleet is being replaced with vehicles that will be more accessible and therefore more flexible in their use.
- The Highways and Transportation Commissioning Review identified the creation of new/improved walking routes between schools (and communities) as a potential revenue saving in the medium term. This would result from reduced burden on LA to provide statutory transport where a safe walking route is available within the statutory radius. Three routes are proposed offering a potential saving off £280 per year, in Birchgrove, Kingsbridge and Clyne.
- The panel heard that there would always be risk of challenge where the demands and expectations of parents are not met and when changes in provision are proposed.
- There is also a continuing risk of further national policy changes, which could further raise expectations as well as in future potentially limiting the income that can be generated from the sale of surplus seats. The panel recognise that these risks could affect and undermine what we are trying to do.

6 Work Programme 2019/2020

A visit to Waunwen Primary School and to Penyrheol Secondary School be scheduled into the work programme for the new municipal year.

The meeting ended at 5.20 pm

Councillor Lyndon Jones
Convener – Schools Scrutiny Performance
Panel

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Direct Line: 01792 63 7429
E-Mail: cllr.jennifer.raynor@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: JR/KH
Your Ref:
Date: 5 March 2020

Dear Councillor Jones

EDUCATION SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 16 JANUARY 2020

Thank you for your letter dated 31 January 2020.

Please find below response to your question raised.

There has been a steady increase in fixed term exclusions over the last five years with some schools evidencing a specific increase in a particular academic year. While there is an increase in frequency, the exclusions are tending to be shorter in duration.

Some schools will evidence a particular increase in exclusions over an academic year or two due to the implementation of a new approach to managing behaviour, in some cases this has been due to a change in the senior leadership team. There has also been an increase in the number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools and as part of the graduated response to behaviour management there would be an expectation that a pupil who receives a permanent exclusion will also have had a number of fixed terms exclusions leading up to this. In recent years, an increase in young people being at risk of criminal exploitation from county lines has led to an increase in fixed term exclusion for drug related incidents. Schools try where possible to avoid permanent exclusions but need to give clear messages to their school community about drug possession and use so may use fixed term exclusions as a strategy.

In Swansea we have also worked closely with schools and headteachers to improve on the recording of fixed term exclusions and to move away from “unofficial” exclusions. This provides an important safeguard for children and young people along with ensuring they have rights in relation to pupil discipline committees and advocacy. The consequence of appropriate recording is that it appears to evidence an increase where in reality it may provide a more accurate picture of the position and ensure that exclusions are considered carefully prior to issue.

Most schools are fairly consistent in number of days lost per year over a five year period however, some primary schools have noticeable “peak” years. This is often due to the challenging behaviour of a very small number or perhaps individual pupil. Capacity in

specialist provision such as special schools or EOTAS provision is in high demand which the current capacity cannot meet. When a learner presents with particularly challenging behaviour which cannot be best met in mainstream provision, fixed term exclusion is an unfortunate but necessary strategy. A peak year in primary schools is often related to an escalation in behaviour of a learner who needs a more specialist provision but is unable to access it due to capacity issues across the EOTAS and special school provision in Swansea.

The figures are also affected by the PRU having frequent half day exclusions for smoking. This keeps the time of exclusion to a minimum while giving a clear message to learners that smoking is not acceptable. While it is cumulatively increasing days lost, it is an improvement from previous practices where shorter, half day exclusions were not always formally recorded which posed a potential safeguarding risk. This practice has stopped but the impact is an increase in fixed term exclusions.

The table below shows the average days lost for exclusions in the last 5 years.

School	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Average
Birchgrove Comprehensive School	3.20	2.88	3.32	3.14	1.93	3.14
Birchgrove Primary School	-	-	-	1.00	-	1.00
Bishop Gore School	6.97	5.82	7.40	2.24	2.04	3.72
Bishop Vaughan Catholic Comprehensive School	2.47	2.19	1.99	1.93	2.20	2.12
Bishopston Comprehensive School	4.50	3.17	3.75	2.44	3.29	3.38
Blaenymaes Primary School	-	-	-	1.63	0.85	1.26
Brynhyfryd Junior School	6.00	-	-	-	-	6.00
Brynhyfryd Primary	-	-	1.00	4.50	-	3.63
Brynmill Primary School	-	1.57	1.50	0.50	0.60	1.14
Burlais Primary School	-	1.50	0.50	1.00	2.05	1.90
Cadle Primary School	14.00	-	2.50	-	-	8.25
Cefn Hengoed Community School	3.44	3.10	4.60	3.00	1.36	2.90
City & County of Swansea PRU	1.72	2.04	1.76	1.47	0.94	1.37
Clwyd Primary School	1.50	2.00	1.67	1.63	-	1.78
Danygraig Primary School	-	-	-	1.00	-	1.00
Dylan Thomas Community School	4.54	3.46	4.30	4.28	4.16	4.25
Gendros Primary School	3.00	2.75	2.00	3.50	5.00	3.00
Gors Primary School	3.50	2.67	3.61	2.75	2.67	3.01
Gorseinon Primary School	-	1.00	3.67	-	2.88	2.90
Gowerton School	3.62	3.89	1.57	1.58	2.35	2.53
Hafod Primary School	4.00	-	-	-	1.50	2.75
Morrleston Comprehensive School	1.97	2.94	1.81	2.66	2.22	2.31
Morrleston Primary School	-	-	-	-	0.50	0.50
Parkland Primary School	-	-	-	3.00	-	3.00
Penclawdd Primary School	-	-	1.50	-	-	1.50
Penllergaer Primary School	-	1.63	-	1.00	-	1.36
Pentrehafod School	1.66	1.94	1.89	3.28	2.34	2.20
Pentre'r Graig Primary School	-	-	5.00	-	-	5.00
Penyrheol Comprehensive School	0.92	1.31	1.00	1.26	1.15	1.17

Penyrheol Primary School	1.33	-	-	-	-	0.44
Pontarddulais Comprehensive School	3.00	4.43	2.96	6.19	2.38	4.20
Pontarddulais Primary School	-	-	-	-	2.77	2.77
Pontybrenin Primary School	-	-	1.50	1.60	-	1.58
Portmead Primary School	-	2.69	3.96	2.03	1.14	2.47
Sea View Primary School	-	-	-	-	3.25	3.25
Talycopa Primary School	-	-	1.00	-	-	1.00
Terrace Road Primary School	-	-	-	3.00	-	3.00
Townhill Primary School	3.25	3.50	4.29	2.00	1.17	3.56
Trallwn Primary School	-	-	-	0.94	1.70	1.48
Waun Wen Primary School	3.00	-	-	-	-	3.00
Whitestone Primary School	0.50	-	-	-	-	0.50
Y G G Bryniago	-	-	-	-	10.00	10.00
Y G G Lonlas	-	-	5.50	-	-	5.50
Y G G Pontybrenin	-	-	-	-	0.50	0.50
Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Tawe	2.00	2.85	3.39	3.28	3.65	3.21
Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr	2.25	2.15	3.29	1.69	2.22	2.30
Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn	6.83	1.00	6.50	3.00	6.63	6.04
Grand Total	3.17	2.59	2.88	2.29	1.76	2.38

Please let me know if you require any more information.

Yours sincerely



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Aelod Y Cabinet Dros Wella Addysg, Dysgu A Sgiliau
Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – 15 July 2020

SERVICE SPECIFIC UPDATE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Purpose	To provide a briefing requested by the Panel about the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on Education.
Content	The update, in the form of a presentation, includes impacts, activities, challenges, and recovery.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the information provided and give their views
Lead Councillor(s)	Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills
Lead Officer(s)	Nick Williams, Chief Education Officer
Report Author	