

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching purpose of the panel is to: provide ongoing challenge to schools performance to ensure that *pupils in Swansea are receiving high quality education; and the authority is meeting its objectives in relation to improving school standards and pupil attainment.*

2. Introduction

The Schools Performance Panel does this because it is a key *corporate improvement objective* to 'improve services for children and young people and in particular to maximise well being; raise standards of attainment and achievement; ensure services are safe and services provide excellent education opportunities'.

3. Progress so far this municipal year

- i. At the meeting in April an outline of the work programme for the coming year was formulated (*see attached*).
- ii. In June the Panel received an update on progress with the EOTAs Pathways external review from the Chief Education Officer and was informed that the completion of the review was imminent and should be available by September
- iii. In July the Panel reviewed the advice and assistance given to schools and governing bodies around tackling the performance of teachers and dealing with competence issues and recruitment of senior staff in schools. This was highlighted as an issue when meeting with schools last year.
- iv. In August the issue of Elective Home Education was discussed. Members requested this session as they had concerns around safeguarding and how we measure performance for these children.
- v. In September a session was had with the Chief Education Officer and the new Head of School Improvement around support for schools from challenge leaders and ensuring consistency of advice and guidance to schools.
- vi. Over this period the Panel has also kept up date with individual school Estyn Inspections publications and any advisory/practice documents including for example: the recently published Welsh Government document: *Rewriting the future, raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools*. This document highlights the need for high expectations of all learners regardless of their socio-economic background and gives a number of recommendations to address this.

4. Future Work Programme

The Panel is currently meeting on a monthly basis (see attached work timetable).

- i. The Panel will meet with three schools in the October, January and March and will speak to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of each school. Prior to each of these sessions they will meet the appropriate Challenge Leader. Schools were chosen based on the outcomes identified in Regional Support, Challenge and Intervention Framework (RSCIF).
- ii. The Panel plan in November to look at issues around behaviour and restorative practice and the impact these have on children's performance.
- iii. In December a session dedicated to looking at the Annual Education Performance Data is planned and will include the Cabinet Member and the Chief Education Officer. They will also look at how schools are using their pupil deprivation grants to improve performance of children who receive free school meals.

5. Action required by the Scrutiny Programme Committee

None

TIMETABLE/PLAN OF WORK 2014/2015
Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel

Meeting date and venue	Item to be discussed
Meeting 1 29 April 14 – 3.30pm	Discuss and agree Panel work programme for the coming year
Meeting 2 5 June 14 – 3.30pm	Update on progress with Education Inclusion / EOTAS Review (Arwyn Thomas)
Meeting 3 3 July 14 - 3.30pm Chamber Meeting Room	Advice / assistance given to Schools and School Governing Bodies in relation to (<i>Arwyn and Human Resources</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tackling poor performance of teachers and dealing with competence issues – Recruitment of senior staff within schools
Education Inclusion Scrutiny Panel will be reconvened to look at this	Meeting to be arranged to look at EOTAS independent review feedback and arising draft action plan <i>Arwyn will inform Members when this is available</i>
Meeting 5 21 Aug 14 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Schooling (<i>Arwyn Thomas</i>)
Meeting 6 18 Sep 14 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	How are we ensuring consistency in teacher and classroom assessments and in support given by Challenge Leaders? (<i>Arwyn and Head of School Improvement Service</i>)
Meeting 7 16 Oct 14 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	School 1 (chosen from support and challenge matrix by Panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morriston Secondary School (Headteacher, Chair of Governors and pre meeting with Challenge Leader)
Meeting 8 13 Nov 14 - 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at how we tackle behaviour issues in schools (policies etc) • How schools deal with drug and alcohol issues • Restorative Practice and its impact (data, case studies and schools views?)
Meeting 9 11 Dec 14 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Annual Education Performance Data Reporting (Cabinet Member invited) – Use of the Pupil Deprivation Grant (data) - moved from August
Meeting 10 22 Jan 15 - 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	School 2 (chosen from support and challenge matrix by Panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clwyd Primary School (Headteacher, Chair of Governors and pre meeting with Challenge Leader)
Meeting 11 19 Feb 15 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	Look at position and the drive for improvements in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Numeracy and literacy across the curriculum – Drill down into standards at different key stages (<i>Arwyn and Challenge Leaders</i>)
Meeting 12 19 Mar 15 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	School 3 (chosen from support and challenge matrix by Panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Josephs Primary School (Headteacher, Chair of Governors and pre meeting with Challenge Leader)
Meeting 12 16 Apr 15 - 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate your year • Plan year ahead

As at: 23/09/2014