

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. Key Activities

The Panel is currently meeting on a monthly basis (see attached work timetable) and the work completed since your last update in December includes:

- i. In December a session dedicated to looking at the Annual Education Performance Data was held and included the Cabinet Member for Education and the Chief Education Officer.
- ii. In January the panel met with the Challenge Advisor, Headteacher and Chair of Governors for Clwyd Primary School.
- iii. In February the Panel looked at how Pupil Deprivation Grant has been spent in schools across Swansea and the most recent school categorisation.
- iv. Over this period the Panel has also kept up date with individual school Estyn Inspections publications and any advisory/practice documents including for example: relevant Estyn Inspection outcomes for Swansea, Estyn and other guidance information.

4. Achievements / Impact

The convener's letters to the Cabinet Member raise the points highlighted in section 3 above of which cabinet member responses have been received. Some the issues raised and responded to include, for example:

- The Wales Government Grant and regional allocations in particular how it will affect our Ethnic Minority and Achievement Services (EMLAS) in Swansea. The Panel recognised the good outcomes that the service produces and had concerns about the funding gap that will be apparent arising from the changing grant allocations.
- We were also concerned about the possible 'super' education budget allocation, with part of the education budget potentially being allocated to the region and decisions being made and monies shared with authorities who have different needs and priorities.
- The panel have been (and will be) following up on a number of issues that have been highlighted by schools when they have met with them including:
 - The issue of children being put on a school roll but never actually attending that school because they are on an educated other than at school pathway. Some schools are concerned that these children are on their roll but they have control over their outcomes or attendance and that in turn skews their performance figures.
 - Recruitment of and dealing with competency issues in relation to teaching staff.
 - The Special Educational Needs budget formula and its allocation to schools.

5. Future Work Programme

In April the Panel will look at the Education Funding Formula and particularly SEN Funding. It will also assess their years work and start to plan for the next municipal year. Contact has been made by email with Councillors, Headteachers and School Governors around future topics for education scrutiny which the Panel will consider at this meeting.

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 competence issues – Recruitment of senior staff within schools
Education Inclusion Scrutiny Panel will be reconvened	Meeting to be arranged to look at EOTAS independent review feedback and arising draft action plan <i>This meeting is scheduled for 23 October at 4pm</i>
Meeting 5 21 Aug 14 – 3.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective Home Education (<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) Morrison Secondary School (Headteacher, Chair of Governors and pre meeting with Challenge Leader)
**Meeting 8 Extra 10 Nov 14 – 4.40pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue discussion with Morrison Comprehensive School
Meeting 9 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) • Impact on educational performance of Drugs and Alcohol issues • Restorative Practice and its impact (data, case studies and schools views?)
Meeting 10 11 Dec 14 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Annual Education Performance Data Reporting (Cabinet Member invited) – Look at schools use of the Pupil Deprivation Grant (data)
Meeting 12 22 Jan 15 - 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	School 2 (chosen from support and challenge matrix) Clwyd Primary School (Headteacher, Chair of Governors and pre meeting with Challenge Leader/Helen Morgan Rees)
Meeting 11 28 Jan 2014 (2pm)	Visit to multi agency KIN Project meeting at Hafod Primary School (3 panel members)
Meeting 13 19 Feb 15 – 3.30pm Meeting Room 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenge Advisor/Helen Morgan-Rees re: Casllwchwr Primary 2. Latest school categorisation and information on what schools are causing concern across the whole ERW region for comparison (Helen Morgan-Rees) 3. Look at data on schools use of the Pupil Deprivation Grant ***moved from Dec***
Meeting 14 16 Apr 15 - 3.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the Funding Formula (including SEN) • Evaluate the year • Plan year ahead

As at: 09/03/2015