



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To:
Jennifer Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education

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Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Education Inclusion Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to the Cabinet Member for education following the meeting of the Panel on the 16 February 2015. It is about the Education Other Than At School Service.

Dear Cllr Raynor

Education Inclusion Scrutiny Inquiry Panel on 16 February 2015

As you are aware the Panel met on the 16 February to look at the proposals arising from the Independent Education Consultant report into provision for pupils educated otherwise than at school (EOTAS) in Swansea. Vaughan Clark (Information and Transformation Manager), Frazer Newbury (Principal Officer Special Educational Needs) and Susie Johnson (Home Tuition Service) attended the meeting to discuss the proposed actions.

The outcome of the independent report mirrored many of the issues discussed and highlighted by the Panel and we were reassured that these issues were picked up by the review. We did feel however that the proposals made subsequently only address some of the issues highlighted in the independent report and we look forward to seeing the full action plan once it is complete. Also after a recent report on EOTAS services in Wales where the Children's Commissioner described some of these services in Wales as seeming to be 'Cinderella' services, i.e. '*that practice in PRUs remains inconsistent: it's 'the Cinderella education service'*'. We are keen to ensure that this is not the case in Swansea.

Some Panel members did express concern that although Home Tuition came out of the Review very well it is being drastically reduced from 13.78 FTEs to 4.1 with resources, apparently, being directed towards Pathways which raised alarm bells with the Panel. There was also concern that there will no longer be capacity for the Home Tuition service to deal with children with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD). This ties in with our inquiry question and we will be looking at *how these proposals and the action plan for EOTAS will benefit the children and young people who use this service.*

Now that the Independent Review is complete and some proposals have been made we plan to continue with our scrutiny inquiry into certain aspects of the

service including into the potential impact of the proposals outlined including looking at:

1. Equality and UNCRC impact assessments for the restructure proposals and action plan
2. Support for this cohort of children from:
 - School Improvement Service
 - Social Services Department
 - Careers and Keeping in Touch Project or similar
 - Health/CAMHS
3. Feedback from the newly established multi agency group
4. Speaking to School Improvement Service about support and challenge for schools in this matter
5. Speaking to a selection of schools who have put facilities in place to deal with behaviour issues within the school setting

We will provide Cabinet with a full report and recommendations at the end of our inquiry.

We do not require a formal written response to this letter.

Yours sincerely

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