



City And County Of Swansea

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Councillor Christine Richards
Cabinet Member for Services for
Children and Young People

Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education

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Scrutiny

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29 June 2015

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Attainment and Wellbeing Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to the Cabinet Member for services to children and young people and for Education following the meeting of the Panel on the 11 June 2015. It is to follow up on impact of a previous scrutiny inquiry into Attainment and Wellbeing in Schools in Swansea.

Dear Councillor Richards and Councillor Raynor,

Attainment and Wellbeing Scrutiny Inquiry Impact – 11 June 2015

The Panel would like to thank you and officers for attending our meeting on the 11 June and for providing us with the impact report on the scrutiny recommendations arising from the inquiry into attainment and wellbeing across schools in Swansea.

We were pleased to hear that the UNCRC and Rights Respecting schools aspects have been particularly successful and would like to congratulate schools and the council alike for this important progress which is helping to improve the school lives of many children across Swansea.

We do still have some concerns around the progress made in relation to the aspects of the report relating to school governors including, for example, Recommendation 6 which was about encouraging a wider range of people with different knowledge and skills sets to become governors. We did feel that the authority is not being proactive enough in this area. The impact of recommendations 4, 6, 7 and 8 have not produced the outcomes we would have hoped at this point so we will refer them onto the recently convened School Governance Scrutiny Inquiry for inclusion in their work.

Your Response

Could you please provide us with further information in relation to progress/impact in relation to Recommendation 3 which was not included within the impact report

Scrutiny / Craffu

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discussed on the 11 June (see below for summary of recommendations mentioned in this letter).

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Fiona Gordon

Convener, Attainment and Wellbeing Scrutiny Inquiry

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Recommendations mentioned in letter:

Recommendation 4

Investigate different media for the wider training of governors including the use and availability of online training tools and involvement in appropriate inset days and in wider all school training.

Completed – yes, partially

Progress - The outcome to ensure the UNCRC and Wellbeing are an integral part of the Governor Training Programme has been achieved within the recommended timeframes. It is not possible at the present time to consider offering on-line training for governors specifically on UNCRC. The focus for developing on-line training (across Wales) for governors will be the mandatory elements of governor training. It may be possible to review this at some time in the future and for Swansea to consider developing an on-line training option for UNCRC governor training when all mandatory elements have been embedded on-line. There will, however, be costs incurred to develop this package and given current financial constraints and forecast budgets over the next few years it is highly likely that funding will not be available to pursue this option.

- The panel felt this had not move ahead substantially and would like to follow up on this further. This will therefore be referred to the School Governance Scrutiny Inquiry Panel for further work.

Recommendation 6

Work to encourage a wider range of people to become governors with a wide variety of skills and knowledge and that are truly reflective of wider society.

Completed – yes, partially

Progress - The outcomes to ensure more school governors who reflect a wider community interest and are trained and have appropriate skills is in progress and ongoing and will be achieved within the timeframes of the recommendation.

- The panel felt that we need to do more in this area and that the authority is not being proactive enough in this area. The panel will therefore refer this recommendation onto the Governance Scrutiny Inquiry for further input.

Recommendation 7

It develops 'questions to ask' guidance in relation to wellbeing in schools for governors using the issues identified in section 3.12 and in consultation with Headteachers and governing bodies. This should be made available online for schools and governors to access.

Completed: No

Progress: The outcome for Governing Bodies to appoint a wellbeing link governor is in development and will be achieved in 2015/16.

- As this is in process of being developed the panel felt that the Governance Inquiry could input into this further and there refer it to them.

Recommendation 8

It facilitates the introduction of a system leaders approach within governing bodies. That is new chairs of governors being supported by experienced governors from other schools across the regions and new governors offered a buddy system from within the individual governing Body.

Completed: yes, partially

Progress: The outcome to continue with existing support arrangements for Governors and influencing the introduction of a system leaders approach has partially been achieved and continues to be developed in 2015/16.

- As this is in process of being developed the panel felt that the Governance Inquiry could input into this further and there refer it to them.