

## 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. Key Activities

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

- i. In March a session dedicated to looking at the Education Funding Formula with the Chief Education Officer
- ii. In April the panel carried out an evaluation of the year and starting plan for the year ahead.
- iii. In May looked at the Education Improvement Grant, EMLAS and revisited the issue of elective home education.
- iv. In June the panel spoke to the Managing Director of ERW looking particularly at the Regional Business Plan.
- v. In August the panel received an update from the Chief Education Officer on Additional Learning Needs Reform.
- vi. Over this period the Panel has also kept up to 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.

### 3. Achievements / Impact

The convener's letters to the Cabinet Member have raised some of the points below of which cabinet member responses have been received. As an example:

- Elective Home Education: the panel continued to have concerns around safeguarding in relation children who are home educated, given that there is legislation is currently very loose in this area. The Cabinet Member for Services for Children and Young People replied to the Panel explaining that Welsh Government Legislation does not allow local authorities to challenge parents who choose to home education their children. However, it is hoped that a protocol can be drawn up to ensure that Child and Family Services, the Education Department and school staff can work more closely together, within the confines of legislation, to improve the support for children being home educated. When the Swansea model has been drafted, it is intended to share the protocol with other local authorities in the ERW region through the ERW Safeguarding Group.
- The Panel at its meeting in May highlighted the importance of upskilling Schools/teachers in teaching EMLAS pupils and were interested in finding out plans around this for the future. The Cabinet member for Education informed the Panel in her letter that an EMLAS capacity-building model is operating in schools in tandem with targeted direct support for learners from ethnic minority background at greatest risk of underachievement. Although they were informed that some schools have fully embraced the EMLAS capacity building approach a small number have rejected this strategy seeing direct support for learners as a higher priority.

### 4. Future Work Programme

In September the Panel will meet twice to look at performance and support for Looked After Children and for Gypsy Traveller Children and will also review the work of the School Improvement Service. In October the Panel will meet with the Challenge Advisor, Headteacher and the Chair of Governors of a Primary School.

**TIMETABLE/PLAN OF WORK 2015/2016**  
**Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel**

Meeting date and venue	Item to be discussed
<b>Meeting 1</b> 18 May 15 – 4.00pm Room 110, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree Panel work programme for the coming year</li> <li>• Update on current position with EMLAS</li> <li>• Briefing on the Education Improvement Grant</li> <li>• Revisit Elective Home Education letter and Cabinet Response</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 2</b> 18 June 15 – 4.00pm CR6, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERW Business Plan (Betsan O'Connor, Managing Director ERW, Lindsay Harvey, Helen Morgan-Rees)</li> <li>• Home to School Transport – consultation on policy changes</li> </ul>
<del><b>Meeting 3</b> 16 July 14 – 4.00pm</del>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Looked after Children Educational – Performance and support</del></li> <li><del>• Gypsy Traveller Children Education – Performance and support</del></li> </ul> <p><b>MEETING CANCELLED</b></p>
<b>Meeting 3</b> 13 Aug 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	SEN/ALN reform – What are we doing around this reform agenda.
<b>Meeting 4</b> 10 Sep 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looked after Children Educational - Performance and support</li> <li>• Gypsy Traveller Children Education - Performance and support</li> </ul>
**Extra meeting 5 21 Sep 15 – 4.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of curriculum change including implications for schools</li> <li>• Reviewing the work of the School Improvement Service</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 6</b> 8 Oct 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<p><b>School 1</b> Casllwchwr Primary School (Headteacher and Chair of Governors) <i>Pre meeting with Challenge Advisor</i></p>
<b>Meeting 7</b> 5 Nov 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Inspection Action Plan progress report - arising from Estyn Inspection 1 year on (Cabinet report 15 Oct 15 - forward look)**</li> <li>• Overview of the effect of budget cuts on education and schools including a look in detail at impact of the closure of breakfast clubs</li> <li>• Impact of cuts on pupils/schools re: cut in transport to Faith Schools</li> </ul> <p><i>Invite chair of Schools Budget Forum</i></p>
<b>Meeting 8</b> 3 Dec 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Education Performance Reporting including pupil attendance and exclusion data</li> <li>• School Categorisation</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 9</b> 21 Jan 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<p><b>School 2</b> Brynhyfryd Primary School (Headteacher and Chair of Governors) <i>Pre meeting with Challenge Advisor</i></p>
<b>Meeting 10</b> 18 Feb 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How schools are sharing good practice</li> <li>• Feedback from schools on good practice examples (<i>contact schools for this</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 11</b> 17 Mar 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<p><b>School 3</b> Seaview Primary School (Headteacher and Chair of Governors) <i>Pre meeting with Challenge Advisor</i></p>
<b>Meeting 12</b> 14 Apr 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate your year</li> <li>• Plan for year ahead</li> </ul>