

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 September includes:

- a) In September the panel meet twice to look at the performance and support for Looked After Children and for Gypsy Traveller Children and will also to review the work of the School Improvement Service.
- b) In October the Panel also met twice to meet with the Challenge Advisor, Headteacher and the Chair of Governors of a Primary School and again to carry out pre-decision scrutiny on a report about the future of Education Other Than At School Services
- c) In November the Panel looked at the Post Inspection Action Plan arising from the Estyn Inspection 1 year on plus the Annual Audit of Schools report.
- d) 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, some requiring a response from the Cabinet member which have been received. Examples from letters include:

- The Panel met with a primary school in October that had been identified as causing concern, speaking to the new Headteacher, chair of governors and the allocated challenge advisor. They were please to find improvements made with the development of an effective management team and all the building blocks in place for improvement moving forward.
- The Panel at a meeting in September suggested that skills and good practice learnt in developing Gypsy Traveller education at Cefn Hengoed Community School is shared with others; particularly EOTAS services. This was seen as a helpful comment by cabinet member and it was passed on to all relevant parties who have been encouraged to develop this suggestion to achieve practical outcomes.
- The issue of tracking the progress of pupils was also discussed and the panel were concerned to hear that there had been little progress being made by schools with regard to using the pupil tracking aspect of the SIMS package. The panel felt that this needed to be addressed. So they made a recommendation to the Cabinet member 'the use of the pupil tracking aspect of the SIMS computer programme is reviewed to understand why it is not being used and remove any barriers to schools making use of this facility'.

4. Future Work Programme

In January the Panel will look at the Annual Education Performance Report which includes all the verified performance data for Swansea along with comparisons with other local authorities. The will also consider the school categorisation matrix resulting from the autumn term school visits.

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

Meeting date and venue	Item to be discussed
Meeting 1 18 May 15 – 4.00pm Room 110, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree Panel work programme for the coming year • Update on current position with EMLAS • Briefing on the Education Improvement Grant • Revisit Elective Home Education letter and Cabinet Response
Meeting 2 18 June 15 – 4.00pm CR6, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERW Business Plan (Betsan O'Connor, Managing Director ERW, Lindsay Harvey, Helen Morgan-Rees) • Home to School Transport – consultation on policy changes
Meeting 3 16 July 14 – 4.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked after Children Educational – Performance and support • Gypsy Traveller Children Education – Performance and support <p>MEETING CANCELLED</p>
Meeting 3 13 Aug 15 – 4.00pm	SEN/ALN reform – What are we doing around this reform agenda
Meeting 4 10 Sep 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked after Children Educational - Performance and support (Sue Phillips, LAC Co-ordinator) • Gypsy Traveller Children Education - Performance and support (Sue Hollister, Headteacher, Cefn Hengoed School)
**Extra meeting 5 21 Sep 15 – 4pm 3.4.1, Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of curriculum change including implications for schools • Reviewing the work of the School Improvement Service Helen Morgan Rees (Hub Head of School Improvement)
Meeting 6 8 Oct 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	School 1 Casllwchwr Primary School (Headteacher and Chair of Governors) <i>Pre meeting with Challenge Advisor</i>
**Extra meeting 7 14 Oct 15 – 4.00pm	Pre-decision Scrutiny on the Future of Education Other Than At School Services
Meeting 8 3 Nov 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Inspection Action Plan progress report - arising from Estyn Inspection 1 year on (Cabinet report 15 Oct 15 - forward look) Cabinet Member Cllr Raynor and CEO Lindsay Harvey
Meeting 9 3 Dec 15 – 4.00pm	Meeting cancelled
Meeting 10 21 Jan 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	Annual Education Performance Reporting including pupil attendance and exclusion data (verified data); and Latest School Categorisation <i>Lindsay Harvey, Chief Education Officer and Helen Morgan Rees, Hub Head of School Improvement.</i>
Meeting 11 18 Feb 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How schools are sharing good practice • Feedback from schools on good practice examples (<i>contact schools</i>) Blog, email and put in education newsletter
Meeting 12 17 Mar 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	School 2 – to be contacted Brynhyfryd Primary School (Headteacher and Chair of Governors) <i>Pre meeting with Challenge Advisor for school</i> Local ward members invited (Cllr P Black, Cllr G Thomas, Cllr C Holley)
Meeting 13 14 Apr 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate your year • Plan for year ahead

As at: 04/01/2016