

## Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

### SCHOOL READINESS SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

#### IMPACT REPORT: SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO SCHOOL READINESS

<b>Purpose</b>	To help the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to assess the impact of their report into school readiness
<b>Content</b>	This report deals with three questions related to the impact of the inquiry:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?</li><li>2. Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?</li><li>3. What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?</li></ol>
<b>The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the contents of the report</li><li>• Reach conclusions about the impact of the inquiry</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Mark Child
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Sian Bingham
<b>Report Author</b>	Sian Bingham/Sharon Jones

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The School Readiness Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook an in-depth inquiry between October 2016 and March 2017. This final report is attached at Appendix A. The Cabinet Member response and action plan are attached at Appendix B.

1.2 The reporting timeline of the inquiry is as follows:

Commenced	Oct 2016
Agreed by the Scrutiny Programme Committee	10 April 17
Presented to Cabinet	20 April 17
Cabinet Response agreed	15 June 17

1.3 The final stage of the scrutiny inquiry process is the follow up. It is at this point that the original panel reconvenes in order to assess the impact of the work.

1.4 The purpose of this report is to assist the panel as it seeks to answer the following three questions, each of which will be dealt with in detail below:

- What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?
- Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?
- What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?

## **2. What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?**

2.1 Since the inquiry concluded the following changes in relation to School Readiness have taken place:

- A multi-agency event was held to promote the importance of the 1<sup>st</sup> 1000 Days and to contribute to the development of a developing future plan.
- Integrated Health and Family Support services for young children have continued to develop and embed.
- Funding has been accessed to start the process of evaluating the Jig-so project.
- The Childcare Offer Pilot has been implemented and is now being expanded on a phase by phase basis.
- Progress has been made in relation to further developing systems to identify and support pre-school children with additional learning needs.
- Moderation systems have been initiated to improve the quality and consistency of the Foundation Phase Profile Assessment and data.
- Early Years has been chosen as 1 of the 5 priorities in Swansea Public Services Board's Well-Being Plan.

2.2 In summary therefore, changes have occurred at operational and strategic levels. Strategic changes will ensure a longer term commitment and strategy is in place whilst at an operational level services are becoming more widespread aligned and linked across different organisations.

## **3. Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?**

3.1 In responding to the inquiry an action plan was drawn up showing what steps would be taken to implement all of the scrutiny recommendations agreed by Cabinet (Appendix B).

3.2 The table at Appendix B shows progress against each recommendation and specifically:

- the Cabinet decision in respect of each recommendation
  - the action taken / proposed to implement the recommendations
  - the responsible officer(s)
  - timescales involved

## **4. What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?**

4.1 The Inquiry drew a wide range of evidence from across the Council, Schools, Health, Further Education, General Practitioners, Flying Start as

well as academic research and key legislation. As a result this has resulted in a valuable review of the progress made to date and the direction of travel in relation to Swansea's Early Years priorities.

- 4.2 It has also recognised the long term commitment required to continue to develop and invest in improving young children's outcomes so that they are ready for school. One of these areas is responding to the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.
- 4.3 As detailed in section 2 above it is clear that significant progress has already been made in less than a 12 month period following the Inquiry.
- 4.4 Of greatest importance is that that the Inquiry contributed to ensuring that Early Years was identified as one of the 5 priorities in the Public Services Board's Well-Being Plan. This is the greatest legacy of all as it has ensured that there is a multi-agency commitment to Best Start/Early Years/School Readiness now and into the future.

**Background Papers:**

None.

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