



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools**

Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

Wednesday, 18 July 2018 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor M Sykes (Convener) Presided

Councillor(s)

M Durke
D W Helliwell

Councillor(s)

S J Gallagher
S M Jones

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard

Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas

Co-opted Member(s)

A Roberts

Other Attendees

Cllr Jen Raynor

Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills

Officer(s)

Nick Williams
Mark Sheridan
Pam Cole
Michelle Roberts

Chief Education Officer
Head of Vulnerable Learner Service
Head of EMAU
Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): C Anderson, A M Day, B Hopkins, L James, L R Jones, M A Langstone, H M Morris and L J Tyler-Lloyd

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Personal Interest: Cllrs Susan Jones, David Helliwell, Steven Gallagher and Louise Gibbard

2 Notes and Conveners Letters

The letters and notes were received by the Panel

3 Pre-decision Scrutiny of the Future Structure and Delivery of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit (EMAU)

The Panel thanked Cllr Raynor, Nick Williams, Mark Sheridan and Pam Cole for attending and answering their questions on the future structure and delivery of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAU).

The Panel support the proposed decision and agree that Option 2 should be the preferred way forward for the service. They believe that this model will, given the current financial circumstances, provide the best balance by retaining a small central team and then devolving the rest of the funds to schools. Given this they would like to stress the following points:

- That the impact of this on pupil attainment will need to be monitored closely by the local authority and by individual schools.
- That the local authority and schools will, in the future, need to develop much wider working relationships with, for example local communities, community groups and the university in order to provide support and fill some of the language gaps that are identified.
- That an audit of those organisations that currently provide support for, and/or receive a grant for the ethnic minority support needs to be completed. This can then be used to build and develop more resilience and support for those pupils who require it.
- The need to recognise that support goes beyond language needs
- The committee is concerned about the perceived lack of understanding demonstrated by reps of WG
- The potential negative impact on the experiences of our children and young people and their rights as outlined in the Children's Measure and UNCRC is of concern. With our greater understanding of the long term impact of adverse childhood experiences- impact (positive or negative) must be measured/monitored beyond the narrow parameters of what we currently measure as "attainment".
- We were pleased to hear that a similar approach carried out by Cardiff in implementing an Option B type service has shown to be successful.

The Panels views will be reported to the Cabinet meeting on the 19 July 2018 with a letter to the Cabinet Member to follow.

4 Work Programme 2018/2019.

The work programme was received by the Panel

The meeting ended at 2.50 pm