



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning

Cabinet – 20 October 2022

### Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Local Government Education Services in Swansea

<b>Purpose:</b>	For Council to receive the outcomes from the 2022 Estyn inspection of Local Government Education Services in Swansea.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Estyn Common Inspection Framework
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance and Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Council notes the findings from the 2022 Estyn Inspection.
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<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Stephanie Williams
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 All local authorities' local government education services in Wales are inspected by Estyn, carried out under Section 38 of the Education Act 1997. Other aspects of local authority provision are subject to inspection under a range of legislation, including the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and the Children Act 2004. Swansea last received an inspection on its education services in 2013.
- 1.2 Estyn inspected Swansea's local government education services in June 2022 and published its findings on 1 September 2022.
- 1.3 A preliminary visit took place prior to the core inspection and consisted of interviews with a range of stakeholders, including representatives for primary, secondary and special school headteachers; representatives of chairs of governors across primary, secondary and special schools; the

regional education partnership, Partneriaeth; Gower College Swansea; trade union representatives; diocese; Swansea Bay University Health Board; Swansea Parent Carer Forum; and officers from other Directorates of the Local Authority.

- 1.4 The core inspection consisted of data analysis from learner outcomes, school inspections and stakeholder questionnaires; scrutiny of evidence provided by the local authority including a self-evaluation report; and interviews with a range of Members and officers.
- 1.5 The inspection covered the three inspection framework areas of Outcomes; Education Services; and Leadership and Management. For Education Services, four local inspection questions were identified for Swansea, which were: Supporting the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act 2018; Supporting schools to improve; Supporting the Public Services Board; and Support for learners at risk of disengaging and provision for pupils in EOTAS. Audit Wales inspected the Local Authority's use of resources under the inspection area of Leadership and Management.

## **2. Outcome of the 2022 inspection**

- 2.1 Estyn no longer provide overall judgements to their findings within each inspection area of the inspection framework. However, Estyn provide a single judgement on whether a local authority's education services should be placed into a category of 'causing significant concern'. Estyn judged that education services in Swansea does not fall into this category.
- 2.2 The report noted many strengths and notable features of Swansea's Local Government Education Services. The report states that the local authority will be invited to submit two case studies on its work in relation to its strong support for school improvement and the quality of support in mainstream schools for pupils at risk of disengagement.
- 2.3 Estyn made two recommendations that the local authority should address through its future plans. The first is to 'review post-16 provision to ensure that it meets the needs of all learners. Strategies for post-16 provision and vocational provision are in development, which include mapping of current provision and an assessment of need. Stakeholders, including children and young people, sixth forms, further education institutions and work-based learning providers will be involved in the development of the strategies to ensure local learning pathways are fully utilised within the context of local curriculum drivers and consideration of opportunities for employment within the Swansea Bay City Deal region.
- 2.4 The second recommendation is to 'strengthen Welsh-medium provision across all ages and areas of the local authority'. The Cabinet approved Swansea's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan in July 2022 and this has subsequently been approved by Welsh Government. The plan outlines a ten-year vision for increasing and improving the planning of the provision

of Welsh-medium education in Swansea. An action plan will be produced to deliver this vision, alongside stakeholders from Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg Abertawe (Swansea Welsh Education Partnership).

- 2.5 The recommendations made will also feature in key plans to be delivered by the Education Directorate.

### **3. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 3.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 3.2 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required for the following reasons:
- New policies or plans are not included as part of this report
  - Any policies or plans to be taken forward by the Education Directorate, including those that respond to the recommendations within the Estyn inspection report, would be subject to their own IIA.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** [Estyn Inspection Report of Local Government Education Services, City and County of Swansea, 2022](#)

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – IIA Screening Form