



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Thursday, 15 December 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

A Davis
S E Keeton
A J O'Connor

Councillor(s)

S M Jones
J D McGettrick

Councillor(s)

S Joy
F D O'Brien

Co-opted Member(s)

Elizabeth Lee

Co-opted Member(s)

Co-opted Member(s)

Officer(s)

Sarah Hughes
Karin Jenkins
Michelle Roberts

Team Manager for Education Strategy
Head of Swansea Music Unit
Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day and B Hopkins
Co-opted Member(s): E Allender

21 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

22 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

23 Minutes

The minutes of the 17 November were accepted by the Panel.

24 Letters

The letter to the Cabinet Member was noted.

25 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

26 Annual Education Performance against identified priorities (RAG) and progress with Estyn Inspection recommendations (Cabinet Member Q&A)

The Panel thanked Sarah Hughes, Head of the Improvement and Monitoring Unit for presenting the report and recent progress with regard to both the Education performance against identified priorities and the Estyn Inspection recommendations. She covered:

- Background to the report
- Progress in the 2021-22 academic year for Education Directorate objectives
- Progress this academic year so far with key objectives like pupil manifesto, universal school meal provision, governors portal and budget/resources
- Progress against the two recommendations made by the Estyn Inspection of Local Government Education Services in 2022

The Panel raised the following points/questions in relation to the Estyn Inspection progress:

- The Panel emphasised the importance of the vocational learning offer and felt that this is key as one of the growth areas. They asked about how the 'quieter' voices of post 16 pupils are being captured. Also if, from the consultation something that is different from what is currently offered arises will there be the facility to adapt and allow that. The Panel asked if a list of some of the vocational courses available at post 16 could be circulated to the Panel.
- The Panel asked what we are doing in Swansea to improve the take up of and use of the Welsh language in education.

The discussion, thoughts from the session and any recommendations will form part of the letter that will be sent to the Cabinet Member.

27 Music Provision for/in Swansea Schools

The Panel thanked Karin Jenkins (Head of Swansea Music) for providing a report and attending the panel to give a briefing on Swansea Music. She outlined:

- Background to the service and core responsibilities
- The Swansea Music Service Level Agreement
- The National Music Service Wales; and
- Outlined the benefits of the new music service SLA model, the potential challenges posed by this model
- Outlined the benefits of the National Music Plan and the potential challenges posed

The Chair also received a number of questions from a member of the public and these will form part of the Conveners letter to the Cabinet Member so that a full response can be received following the meeting.

The discussion, thoughts from the session and any recommendations will form part of the letter that will be sent to the Cabinet Member.

28 Work Programme 2022-2023

The Panel noted the work programme.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm

Chair