

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – SPC Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching purpose of the Panel is to provide ongoing challenge to school's 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 and the work completed since June 2022 includes:

Meeting	Topic(s)
27 Oct 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel 2. Estyn Inspection Feedback/report and recommendations 3. Education overview and discussion session to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of structure of and key priorities for Education currently ○ Partneriaeth Regional Education Partnership briefing and current position update ○ Pupil Voice Manifesto, what is it and the current position 4. Discuss and agree Work Programme for 2022/2023
17 Nov 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional Learning Needs Reform Update (watching brief item) 2. Pupil Development Grant Spend on vulnerable pupils 3. School Improvement Service 4. New Curriculum for Wales Update 5. Convener feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group
15 Dec 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Education Performance against identified priorities (RAG) and Cabinet Member Q&A 2. Estyn Inspection – progress with recommendations 3. Music Provision for/in Swansea Schools

3. Achievements / Impacts

Three letters to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning have been sent since our first meeting this Council term in October 2022, these have given the Panels views and raised any concerns. Some of these include:

Estyn Inspection of Education Services in Swansea

In October, the Panel looked at the outcome, recommendations and proposed actions moving forward, following the Estyn Inspection. The Panel agreed that it had been an excellent outcome and found that the two recommendations made by Estyn are

already in the process of being addressed. The Panel agreed to receive regular updates on progress with these recommendations over the coming year.

Additional Learning Needs Reform

The Panel received the first of two updates scheduled for this year on additional learning needs reform. They discussed the progress of a number of issues including the training available for schools and practitioners, how this was being managed and how we are ensuring consistency of approach. The Panel heard that there is a significant training menu available that is open to all key stakeholders including schools, further education colleges, local health board and also includes independent schools. Moderation events are being held in and across schools to help to ensure a consistency of approach. The Panel were keen to emphasise the importance of consistency of the education available to pupils with ALN, in whatever school they may attend.

The Introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales

The Panel are keeping a watching brief on this item and this is the first of two updates this year. The Panel wanted to hear more about the quality and cost of the training programme supplied by Partneriaeth, asking whether it is proving to be beneficial and value for money. We heard that the cost is free to schools at source but schools when they release a teacher, they may have to pay supply teacher costs. The Partneriaeth training offer is currently good and broad. The Council makes a contribution to this partnership of £123,000 a year, which works out at approximately £30 equivalent per teacher per year, making pooling of resources for professional learning a cost-effective solution.

The Pupil Voice Manifesto

The Panel were pleased to hear about the Swansea Pupil Manifesto. They asked about the inclusion of those children and young people who may not be confident at expressing themselves or that may be disengaged from the education system. They heard that it is considered very important that we hear and focus upon getting involvement from the 'quiet voices'. Officers are looking at how best this can be done including speaking to other local authorities to see how they are approaching this. The Panel were told that schools are just one vehicle being used to reach children and young people but they are by no means the only way we are engaging with them. The Panel were pleased to hear that the intention is for the Pupil Voice Manifesto to feed into planning and consultation corporately, including for the new Corporate Plan and revision of the Abertawe 2023. The Panel agreed to look at ways in which they can include the voices of children and young people in their work moving forward.

Partneriaeth

The Panel heard about the new regional education partnership 'Partneriaeth' including a current position update. The Panel were pleased to hear that the new partnership is working closely with our schools and has specific objectives that will meet our requirements. The Panel agreed that this is a positive move forward.

The first meeting of the Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group took place on the 24 October 2022, where Cllr Lyndon Jones was appointed a Chair for a period of two years. Cllr Jones will update the Education Scrutiny Panel on progress after each of the Scrutiny Councillor Group meetings. The Councillor group discussed and agreed their work programme and will next meet in February 2023.

4. Education Scrutiny Performance Panel - Future Work Programme 2022/23

Meeting	Topic(s)
Meeting 4 19 Jan 23	School Scrutiny Session – Pontarddulais Comprehensive School and its cluster of primary schools. To look at how they are introducing the new curriculum for Wales
Meeting 5 13 Feb 23	Annual Budget as it relates to Educations matters
Meeting 6 16 Mar 23	School Scrutiny Session – Education Other Than at School Services Update, combined with a visit to the Maes Derw Pupil Referral Unit
Meeting 7 20 Apr 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hearing the Voices of Children and Young People 2. Additional Learning Needs Reform Update (watching brief item) 3. Swansea Skills Partnership Update 4. Estyn Inspection – progress with recommendations 5. Tackling Racism in Schools 6. Convener feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group
Meeting 8 11 May 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harassment in Schools - Update 2. New Curriculum for Wales Update (watching brief item) 3. Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning Update 4. Outdoor Play in Primary Schools 5. Cookery lessons in Schools 6. End of year review in Education Scrutiny

5. Action for the Scrutiny Programme Committee

None.