



Report of the Director of Education

Education and Skills Corporate Delivery Committee - 22 March 2023

Review of School Governance Spring 2023

Purpose:	To update members of the Education and Skills Corporate Delivery Committee on the formulation of an action plan to best support school governance in the future to realise the Council's priorities to ensure leadership supports learner progress.
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For Information	

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2015, a Scrutiny Inquiry Panel was convened in recognition that the role of school governors had changed significantly, with governors playing an increasingly important part in the management of schools and school improvement. The panel sought to consider if existing measures and support was fit for purpose to enable governors to not only meet their statutory responsibilities but also ensure that support and challenge was as effective as it could be.
- 1.2 The Education and Skills Corporate Delivery Committee received a report on the 15 February 2023 outlining the current position of school governance in Swansea and to determine how they could ensure that leadership supports learner progress in line with the Council's priority for education.
- 1.3 The Committee recognised that there had been an unprecedented amount of significant change across the education landscape in Wales since the publication of the Inquiry Panel report. They acknowledged

that a number of the recommendations had been fully implemented and were having a positive impact on effective school governance.

- 1.4 The Team Manager for Stakeholder and School Support outlined the current strengths and opportunities to enable Members to support the realisation of the aforementioned priority.
- 1.5 Members agreed that all of the original recommendations in the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel largely remain appropriate and fit for purpose.
- 1.6 Members agreed that the challenge and support role for governors must remain a focus for governing bodies but this needs a fresh alignment to the Council's priority to ensure that leadership delivers learner progress.
- 1.7 Members agreed the need to promote the new accountability responsibility on governors in the new school improvement model.
- 1.8 Members agreed that governing body resilience should be improved and mechanisms by which to share best practice should be identified.

2. Development Plan

- 2.1 A plan to deliver against all of the above priorities is in development and a copy of the draft action plan is detailed in Appendix A. All actions aim to be delivered by December 2023 or before.
- 2.2 The Team Manager for Stakeholder and School Support will ensure that resources continue to be developed and safeguarded as efficiently and effectively as possible to support governance and leadership and deliver against the development plan.

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.

3.1.3 This report is for information only. Any initiatives developed following this review will be subject to the IIA process as required.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A: School Governance Development Action Plan