



City and County of Swansea

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

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Thursday, 14 September 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

A Davis
S Joy

Councillor(s)

F D O'Brien
J D McGettrick

Councillor(s)

B Hopkins

Co-opted Member(s)

Beth Allender

Co-opted Member(s)

Elizabeth Lee

Co-opted Member(s)

Other Attendees

Mike Durke
Robert Smith

Officer(s)

Helen Howells
Sarah Hughes
Helen Morgan-Rees
Michelle Roberts

Team Manager for Pupil Support
Team Manager for Education Strategy
Director of Education
Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day, F M Gordon, S M Jones, S E Keeton and A J O'Connor

84 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None

85 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

86 Minutes

The minutes of the Panel meeting on the 13 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

87 Letter/s

The Panel received the letter and Cabinet Member response following the Panel meeting on the 13 July 2023.

88 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

89 Looked after Children, support and progress in school

The Panel thanked Councillor Robert Smith (Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills), Helen Morgan Rees (Director of Education and Helen Howells (Team Manager Pupil Support) for attending the Panel and presenting a written report giving details on looked after children support and progress in school. The discussion covered:

- Current position including data
- Personal Education Plans (PEP)
- Support and provision in schools including
 - literacy and numeracy interventions
 - nurture and welling facilities and equipment
 - transition activities
 - use of dedicated grant
 - looked after children designated teacher
- Additional learning needs provision
- Education performance
- Training and future developments

The following issues/questions were raised by the Panel. A summary of the Panels views on progress made and the responses to their questions, will form part of the letter to the Cabinet Member following the meeting.

- Children placed out of county and provision in Swansea
- Children receiving home tuition and hours of learning provided
- Maintaining contact with pupils and how progress is followed up upon
- Power of language and new language guide

90 Following up on the 10 Cabinet Development Committee Recommendations

The Panel thanked Councillor Robert Smith (Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills), Helen Morgan Rees (Director of Education and Sarah Hughes (Head of Education Strategy) for attending the Panel and presenting a written report giving details on the 10 Cabinet Development Committee recommendations, as referred to the Panel for follow up. The discussion covered:

- Current position including data
- Personal Education Plans (PEP)
- Support and provision in schools including

- literacy and numeracy interventions
- nurture and welling facilities and equipment
- transition activities
- use of dedicated grant
- looked after children designated teacher
- Additional learning needs provision
- Education performance
- Training and future developments

The following issues/questions were raised by the Panel. A summary of the Panels views on progress made and the responses to their questions, will form part of the letter to the Cabinet Member following the meeting.

- Involvement of local area co-ordinators
- Engaging with communities and social media
- Vocational Strategy
- Library membership by children and young people
- Inclusion Strategy
- Language guide

The Panel were pleased to see good progress with a number of the recommendations, with those remaining requiring longer-term solutions. The Panel look forward to hearing about progress in relation to those that have not yet been progressed, when they received a further update in 12 months' time.

91 Feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group

The Panel noted the letter arising from the most recent Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group on the 19 June 2023.

92 Work Plan for 2023/2024

The work plan was noted. The next meeting of the Panel will be an informal in person only meeting with and at Gorseinon Primary School.

93 For Information - Recent Individual School Inspection Outcomes List

The Panel noted the recent individual school inspections.

The meeting ended at 4.50 pm

Chair