



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education

At: Remotely via MS Teams
On: Thursday, 19 January 2023
Time: 4.00 pm
Convenor: Councillor Lyndon Jones MBE

Membership:

Councillors: A Davis, A M Day, B Hopkins, Y V Jardine, S M Jones, S Joy, S E Keeton, J D McGettrick, H M Morris, F D O'Brien, A J O'Connor
Co-opted Members: Beth Allender and Elizabeth Lee

Agenda

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6 Public Questions Questions can be submitted in writing to scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk up until noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Written questions take precedence. Public may attend and ask questions in person if time allows. Questions must relate to items on the open part of the agenda and will be dealt with in a 10-minute period.	
7 Schools Scrutiny Session - Progress with Introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales Pontarddulais Comprehensive School and its Cluster of Primary Schools	7 - 8

The session will run as follows

1. Support provided to the Cluster by the Local Authority (David Thomas, Principal School Improvement Advisor)
2. Support provided to the Cluster by Partneriaeth (Cressy

- Morgan, Partneriaeth Link Officer)
3. Schools - Introduction and context
 4. Question and Answer Session with schools based upon a set of headline questions sent in advance of the meeting.

Summarising views – The Panel to discuss the views they would like to be put into the Conveners letter to the Cabinet Member.

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Next Meeting: Monday, 13 February 2023 at 3.00 pm



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Thursday, 12 January 2023

Contact: Scrutiny Officer

Agenda Item 4



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

Agenda Item 5



To:
Councillor Robert Smith
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Michelle Roberts
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office 01792 637256
Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrchol:
e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date 22 December 2022
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning following the meeting of the Panel on 15 December 2022 where the Panel looked Education performance against priorities, progress with the Estyn Inspection recommendations and Swansea Music.

Dear Cllr Smith,

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – 15 December 2022

We would like to thank Sarah Hughes (Head of Improvement and Monitoring Unit) and Karin Jenkins (Head of Swansea Music) for attending our meeting. We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion and to share the views of the Panel.

Annual Education Performance against identified priorities (RAG) and progress with Estyn Inspection recommendations

The Panel looked at the detailed report providing performance against identified priorities and the progress made with Estyn Inspection recommendations. In relation to Education Performance, we were pleased to hear about the good progress made in the 2021-22 academic year, and then about the further progress made since that time. We pleased to hear about the developments made in areas like the pupil manifesto, universal school meal provision, governors portal and budget/resources.

We discussed progress made against the two recommendations made by the Estyn Inspection of Local Government Education Services in September 2022. We heard that development of the Post 16 strategy had started prior to the Estyn Inspection in September and continues to be developed in conjunction with stakeholders, with the key priorities like strategic planning, pupil voice and skills needed for the future locally included within it.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TRUSLOW A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

We were keen to hear about the vocational learning offer, feeling that this is potentially one of the key growth areas. We asked about how the quieter and/or the more hidden voices of post-16 pupils are being or will be captured. We heard that it is about ensuring that there are lots of different ways for them to share their views. So, it may not be through a verbal forum, it may be something that they might want to submit in a text or writing. They are looking to make sure there are different options for everyone including, for example, smaller focus groups. We understand that this is currently an active piece of work and are pleased to hear that the importance of making sure that everyone's voice is heard is vital. We were informed that more information will be provided to the Panel as this develops.

We were also interested to explore, if, from the consultation, something that is different from what is currently offered is requested. Will there be the facility to adapt to allow it to be studied. We were told that the Post 16 Forum will develop the direction and areas of study in conjunction with the consultation.

We heard that the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan had been approved by Cabinet and recently approved by the Welsh Government. It includes a 10-year vision for increasing and improving planning for Welsh-medium educational provision in Swansea. The delivery plan is now in the final stages of development and is expected to be shared with Welsh Partnership, Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg Abertawe, for consultation and finalised by mid-December and then again shared with Welsh Government.

Music Provision for/in Swansea Schools

The Panel thanked the Head of Swansea Music for the detailed report provided, which looked at the Swansea Music Service Level Agreement and the National Music Service Wales, including the potential benefits and challenges of both.

We heard about how the service is structured, funded and delivered. We were interested to hear about the different initiatives that the service is providing including, for example: BuzzAlong, PlayAlong, Making Music with Others, Music for Lifelong Learning, Health and Wellbeing. The Panel were also keen to hear about the music support for Additional Learning Needs pupils in Swansea through using the instrument grant.

We had some further questions we would like to put to you that were received by me from a member of the public. Could you please provide a written response to them as part of your reply to this letter.

1. How will the core responsibilities to support and raise standards will be realised for schools who cannot afford to purchase the support.
2. By delegated school budgets in the report, are you suggesting that a percentage of funding (per capita, per school for example) could be directly devolved to a school to buy in the musical teaching they deem most appropriate for their students?
3. How and when is Charanga going to be supplied to schools for use? When will teacher training commence and how much will be provided?

4. Concerns around the funding of progression steps after the First Experiences and PlayAlong programmes are highlighted. How will this progression be funded?
5. The number of schools/pupils eligible for the free initial project and how many schools are taking up the offer? How many pupils are actually engaged in the initiative.
6. What are the projected numbers of Year 3 projects that can be delivered in reality with the actual number of qualified staff. Are there plans to recruit more teachers in future to deliver against the national plan?
7. What are the plans for monitoring the success of the project and data illustrating the ongoing take up of instruments as a result of the initial free period of learning. When/how will concrete data and impact of the project be shared?
8. How will the limited number of brass peripatetic teachers involved with Swansea music actually deliver free pbuzz projects to every Year 3 pupil across the county?
9. What happens to the instruments at the end of the free term and if a small number of children wish to continue learning the instrument, can they keep them - free? Must the instrument loan and tuition then be paid for and by whom - school or parental contribution?
10. If schools wish to deliver a free first access instrumental project themselves (e.g. if they have appropriate music staff), how could they access the funding and instruments to do this or is all funding entirely ringfenced for the Swansea Music Service. Could schools supply a project more cost effectively?
11. How is/will feedback from schools and parents be sought to continue improving the offer and quality of provision?
12. Will all schools be enabled to participate in showcase events?
13. How can we measure that the plan is making a difference?

Your Response

We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised in this letter but could we please have your formal written response to the questions raised by 19 January 2023.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR LYNDON JONES

Convener, Education Scrutiny Performance Panel

Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Convener of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel 19 January 2023

Session with the Pontarddulais Comprehensive School and its Cluster Primary Schools

Purpose:	To look at how the cluster is working together to introduce the New Curriculum for Wales
Content:	An introduction to the meeting
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information discussed at the session and give views to the Cabinet Member via a letter from the Convener
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Lyndon Jones, Convener of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer E-mail: michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk

1. The Meeting

- 1.1 The Panel asked to speak to a school cluster in Swansea about their progress with the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales. Invited to attend the Panel today are the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from the Pontarddulais Comprehensive School Cluster, as follows:

School	Headteacher	Chair of Governors
Pontarddulais Comprehensive	Gareth Rees	Sue Bradshaw
Pengelli Primary	Helen Talaat	Chris Scott
Pontlliw Primary	Alison Norman	Richard Heath
Penllergaer Primary	Sarah Burns	Helen Roberts
Pontarddulais Primary	Gareth Davies	Jane Harris
Llangyfelach Primary	Lee Burnell	Michelle Kidwell

- 1.2 Also invited to attend are the Principal School Improvement Adviser David Thomas and the Partneriaeth Link Officer Cressy Morgan, who will update the panel on the support provided to the cluster.

- 1.3 The headline questions sent to the schools in advance of the meeting are:

a) How is it going so far?

b) What are you finding most challenging?

- c) How are you supporting your teachers and school staff to transition to the new curriculum?**
- d) How are you working together as a cluster to ensure a consistency of approach?**
- e) How are you taking learners along with you on this journey?
How is information about the new curriculum being shared with the learners? How are the learners responding to the new curriculum, particularly those who have had experience of both systems?**
- f) How do you feel about the support you have received from the local authority and Partneriaeth?**

Background papers:

Estyn Reports for each school can be found via the link below
[Inspection | Estyn \(gov.wales\)](#)

Agenda Item 8

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel Work Programme 2022/2023

Date	Items to be discussed	Who invited
Meeting 1 22 Sep 22 4.30pm	Meeting Cancelled	
Meeting 2 27 Oct 22 4.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel 2. Estyn Inspection Feedback/report and recommendations (Sarah Hughes) 3. Education overview and discussion session to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of structure of and key priorities for Education currently (Sarah Hughes) ○ Partneriaeth Regional Education Partnership briefing and current position update (Rhodri Jones) ○ Pupil Voice Manifesto, what is it and the current position (Rhodri Jones) 4. Discuss and agree Work Programme for 2022/2023 	Convener Cabinet Member and Director Relevant officers Panel members
Meeting 3 17 Nov 22 4pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional Learning Needs Reform Update (watching brief item) (Kate Phillips and Alison Lane) 2. Pupil Development Grant Spend on vulnerable pupils (Kelly Small) 3. School Improvement Service (Annual) (David Thomas) 4. New Curriculum for Wales Update (David Thomas) 5. Feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group 	Cabinet Member, Director and Relevant officers Convener
Meeting 4 15 Dec 22 4pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Education Performance against identified priorities (RAG) and Cabinet Member Q&A including Estyn Inspection progress with recommendations (Sarah Hughes) 2. Music Provision for/in Swansea Schools (Karin Jenkins) 	Cabinet Member, Director and Relevant officers
Meeting 5 19 Jan 23 4pm	Schools Scrutiny Session 1 – Pontarddulais Secondary School and its Cluster of Primary Schools. To look at how they are introducing the New Curriculum for Wales	Headteachers, Chairs of Governors and relevant officers
Meeting 6 Feb 2023 13 Feb 23 3pm	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Annual Budget as it relates to Education matters (Kelly Small)	Cabinet Member, Director and Relevant officers
Meeting 7 16 Mar 23 4pm	School Scrutiny Session 2 – Education Other Than At School services (EOTAS) update – combine with a visit to Maes Derw PRU (Amanda Taylor)	Relevant officers

Meeting 8 20 Apr 23 4.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hearing the Voices of Children and Young People (Rhodri Jones) 2. Additional Learning Needs Reform Update (watching brief item) (Kate Phillips and Alison Lane) 3. Swansea Skills Partnership Update (Rhodri Jones) 4. Estyn Inspection – progress with recommendations 5. Tackling Racism in Schools (Jennifer Harding-Richards) 6. Feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group 	Cabinet Member, Director and Relevant officers Convener
Meeting 9 11 May 23 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harassment in Schools Update (Lisa Collins/Rhodri Jones) 2. New Curriculum for Wales Update (watching brief item) 3. Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning Update (Louise Herbert-Evans) 4. Outdoor Play in Primary Schools (TBC) 5. Cookery lessons in Schools (TBC) 6. End of year review in Education Scrutiny 	Cabinet Member, Director and Relevant officers Panel

The Panel will also receive relevant individual school Estyn reports as they are published, along with any other reports or information relevant to Education Scrutiny.

The Panel will look at ways to include the pupil voice within the work of the panel.

Background

Cllr Robert Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning
Helen Morgan Rees, Director of Education

The Officers listed in above timetable and their roles:

Sarah Hughes (Head of Education Strategy)
Rhodri Jones (Head of Achievement and Partnership Service)
Kate Phillips (Head of Vulnerable Learners)
Alison Lane (Head of Additional Learning Needs Team)
Kelly Small (Head of Planning and Resources Team)
David Thomas (Principal School Improvement Officer)
Karin Jenkins (Head of Swansea Music)
Amanda Taylor (Head of PRU and BSU)
Jennifer Harding-Richards (Religion, Values and Ethics Adviser)
Louise Herbert-Evans (Team Manager Capital)
Lisa Collins (Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer – Vulnerable Learners)
Helen Howells (Team Manager Pupil Support – Vulnerable Learners)

Agenda Item 9

Individual School Estyn Reports 2022/2023

Christchurch (C.I.W) Voluntary Aided Primary School

Published, 29 December 2022: [Inspection report Christchurch \(C.I.W.\) Voluntary Aided Primary School 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

- R1 Address the site safety health issue identified during the inspection
- R2 Develop pupils' numeracy skills across the curriculum, especially in the older year groups

Mayals Primary School

Published today, 12 December 2022: [Inspection report Mayals Primary School 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

- R1 Improve the curriculum to ensure that there is progression of pupils' skills from Year 3 to Year 6
- R2 Focus monitoring, evaluation and improvement strategies more sharply on improving pupils' learning and progress
- R3 Plan learning experiences that challenge pupils appropriately in Year 3 to Year 6

Clwyd Community Primary School

Published 5 May 2022: [Inspection report Clwyd Community Primary School 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

- R1 Ensure that leaders evaluate the difference that improvement initiatives and day-to-day provision make to pupil progress
- R2 Ensure that learning experiences and the learning environment promote free play, creativity and independence for younger pupils
- R3 Address the site safety issue identified during the inspection

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn will invite the school to prepare case studies on its work in relation to inclusion and the purpose driven development of pupils' skills for dissemination on Estyn's website.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Published 5 May 2022: [Inspection report St Joseph's Cathedral Primary School 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

R1 Secure teachers' understanding of effective classroom assessment so that they can evaluate teaching and learning in their classes and identify how to help pupils move on in their learning

R2 Identify and share the strong practice that exists in the school

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn will invite the school to prepare two case studies for dissemination on Estyn's website. They will be about: • using digital learning to further pupils' knowledge and understanding and raise standards across the curriculum • creating a culture of inclusion that supports pupils' well-being, encourages positive attitudes to learning and secures progress and achievement for all.

Newton Primary School

Published 19 May 2022:

[Inspection report Newton Primary School 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

R1 Focus improvement processes precisely on the aspects of teaching and learning that are most in need of improvement

R2 Ensure that older pupils develop their writing skills progressively to an appropriately high level

R3 Improve the quality of feedback to pupils so they understand their next steps and use this feedback to move their learning forward

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Llangyfelach Primary School

Published 7 July 2022: [Inspection report Llangyfelach Primary 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

R1 Share the good practice in curriculum design across the school

R2 Reduce the variability in the quality of teaching across the school by drawing on existing examples of effective practice

R3 Improve standards of handwriting and presentation across the school

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Ysgol Pen-y-bryn

Published 15 August 2022: [Inspection report Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

R1 Address the health and safety issues identified during the inspection

R2 Improve the quality of the outdoor learning environment

R3 Continue to strengthen self-evaluation arrangements and improvement planning

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study in relation to its film provision, for dissemination on Estyn's website.

Waun Wen Primary School

Published 22 August 2022: [Inspection report Waun Wen Primary 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

R1 Address the issues concerning the physical environment of the school that affect pupils' well-being identified in the report

R2 Improve outdoor provision to ensure that it meets the needs of all pupils

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to removing barriers to learning, for dissemination on Estyn's website.

Dunvant Primary School

Published 22 August 2022: [Inspection report Dunvant Primary 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

R1 Improve pupils' Welsh oracy skills across the school

R2 Ensure that teachers provide opportunities for pupils to write extensively using their well-developed independent skills

R3 Ensure that learning experiences in the outdoors are consistent and resourced equitably across the school

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection. Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to creating and operating a secondment project for teachers in Swansea, to enrich their teaching and leadership skills through working for a year in another school, for dissemination on Estyn's website.

Cila Primary School

Published 30 August 2022: [Inspection report Cila Primary School 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#)

Recommendations:

R1 Address the issue related to the school site, identified at the time of inspection

R2 Focus monitoring, evaluation and improvement strategies more sharply on pupils' learning

R3 Improve pupils' Welsh speaking skills

R4 Ensure that teachers plan learning that supports and challenges pupils at the correct level more consistently

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.