



## City and County of Swansea

### Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education

**At:** Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

**On:** Monday, 12 February 2024

**Time:** 3.00 pm

**Convenor:** Councillor Lyndon Jones MBE

#### Membership:

Councillors: A Davis, A M Day, F M Gordon, B Hopkins, Y V Jardine, S M Jones, S Joy, J D McGettrick, F D O'Brien and A J O'Connor

Co-opted Members: Beth Allender and Elizabeth Lee

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#### Agenda

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- 1 **Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**  
[www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests)
- 3 **Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**
- 4 **Minutes** 1 - 3
- 5 **Letter/s** 4 - 6
- 6 **Public Questions**  
Questions can be submitted in writing to [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto: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 **Annual Budget Proposals - as they relate to Education matters**  
Invited to attend are Cllr Robert Smith (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills) and Education Officers  
**Link to relevant Budget Cabinet Papers for 15 February 2023 will be available [online here from 9 Feb 2023](#)**
- 8 **Summarising views for feedback to Cabinet**
- 9 **Work Programme** 7 - 8

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 4.00 pm



**Huw Evans**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
**Monday, 5 February 2024**

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**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, 18 January 2024 at 4.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

A Davis  
Y V Jardine  
F D O'Brien

**Councillor(s)**

A M Day  
S M Jones  
A J O'Connor

**Councillor(s)**

B Hopkins  
S Joy

**Co-opted Member(s)**

Beth Allender

**Other Attendees**

Cllr Robert Smith  
David Bradley

Cabinet Member for Education and Learning  
Partneriaeth Link Officer

**School**

Gowerton Comprehensive  
Gowerton Primary  
Llanrhidian Primary  
Penclawdd Primary  
Pen-y-Fro Primary  
Waunarlwydd Primary

**Headteacher**

Kath Lawlor  
Iain Ashton  
Donna Caswell  
Louisa Reynolds-Milnes  
Rachel Lewis  
Jamie Evans

**Chair of Governors**

Morrison Frew  
Susan Jones

**Officer(s)**

Helen Morgan-Rees  
Michelle Roberts  
David Thomas

Director of Education  
Scrutiny Officer  
Principal School Improvement Advisor

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): J D McGettrick.  
Co-opted Member(s): Elizabeth Lee

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**112 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

Personal Interest declared by Cllr S M Jones and Cllr B Hopkins.

**113 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**

None

**114 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on the 14 December 2023 were agreed by the Panel.

**115 Letter/s**

The letter to the Cabinet Member following the Panel meetings on the 23 November 2023 and 14 December 2023 was noted.

**116 Public Questions**

No public questions were received.

**117 Cluster Working - Curriculum for Wales**

The Panel welcomed the Dave Bradley who is the link officer for the cluster from Partneriaeth. He gave an overview of the support provided to the cluster and then outlined progress. He said that the North Gower Partnership is a strong partnership, which has a long history of working together even before the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales. They are and have been making very good progress with its introduction. Partneriaeth work in partnership with them as equals because Partneriaeth gain as much from the relationship and learning as the schools.

The Panel welcomed Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from across the North Gower Partnership. The Panel sent them a set of questions, relating to the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales, in advance of the meeting and the Partnership provided a presentation outlining the work of the partnership and addressing those questions. This included:

- 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 do you know how effectively you are implementing the Curriculum for Wales in the Gowerton cluster?
- f) How are you taking learners along with you on this journey?  
How is information about the curriculum being shared with the learners? How are the learners responding to the curriculum, particularly those who have had experience of both systems?
- g) How do you feel about the support you have received from the local authority and Partneriaeth?

The presentation by the Partnership gave an overview of progress, including:

- How the partnership looks the consistency of principle rather than practice.
- The makeup of the partnership including schools involved, numbers of pupils etc.
- The history of the partnership
- Looking at: key recommendations from Successful Futures, the 12 Pedagogical Principles.

- The cluster has three recent headteachers who are leaders of learning
- Introduction of 'can do attitude' 'kanga' kangaroo branding across the cluster, showing consistent approach.
- Working with the local authority and Partneriaeth
- Siarter Iaith progress
- The North Gower Partnership progression plan, progress and future plans
- Development of the North Gower Partnership website and its contents
- The consistent use of researched principles and policies across the partnership including Safeguarding Manual and Attendance policy.
- Supporting staff across the cluster using those principles and policies

The Panel at the meeting also asked:

- What are the deprivation levels across the cluster area
- How are the cluster funding the North Gower Partnership and other resources being used, do they use a common or shared budget.
- What do you think are the key factors to your success as a cluster in taking forward the Curriculum for Wales.
- What are the opportunities for learning used.
- The use of consistency in for example Kanga and policies etc - does this help pupils when transitioning from Primary to Secondary School in the cluster.
- What have been the attendance rates particularly for comprehensive

A summary of the Panels views on progress and the responses to those questions asked will form part of the letter to the Cabinet Member following the meeting.

#### **118 Work Plan for 2023/2024**

The Work Plan for 2023/2024 was noted.

The meeting ended at 5.50pm

**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* 07983 920286  
*Line:*  
*Llinell*  
*Uniongyrchol:*  
*e-Mail* [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk)  
*e-Bost:*  
*Date* 31 January 2024  
*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 18 January 2024, where the Panel looked at progress with the Curriculum for Wales, meeting with the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from the North Gower Partnership of schools.

Dear Cllr Smith,

## **Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – 18 January 2024**

We were pleased to meet the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from the North Gower Partnership (NGP) which included Gowerton Comprehensive School, Gowerton Primary, Llanrhidian Primary, Penclawdd Primary, Pen-y-fro Primary and Waunarlwydd Primary schools. The Panel would also like to thank you, the Director, the Partneriaeth Link Officer and the School Improvement Service for your/their input.

We were keen to discuss with the cluster how the Curriculum for Wales was being implemented on the ground and how the work being done within each primary school in the cluster was being brought together, as pupils made the transition to the comprehensive school.

We were encouraged to hear from both the School Improvement Adviser and the Partneriaeth Link officer that the NGP has a strong working relationship which predates the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales and that this has given them a good foundation to build upon. We heard that they have made, and continue to make, good progress in introducing the Curriculum for Wales across the cluster.

The NGP Headteachers gave us some contextual information about the cluster of schools including that approximately 96% of pupils attending the cluster schools go on to the comprehensive, which helps when providing consistency across school years

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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

and in the pupil's transition from primary to secondary school. We were interested to hear about the development of a strong consistent branding across the partnership of schools. This takes the form of a kangaroo, which is used on key documentation across the cluster. The idea of Kanga the 'can do attitude' Kangaroo' was designed to help pupils understand the new curriculum, is a good one. This helps guide them through their schooling using a number of key principles like for example the four purposes of Ambitious, Ethical, Healthy and Enterprising.

We were keen to hear from the schools about how they are developing a shared understanding of what they mean by progression and we recognise that this must be challenging, because each school will have their own approaches in many aspects.

We were pleased to hear about the support provided to teachers and school staff, the use of a number of researched key principles and the development of shared policies in relation to key areas like safeguarding and attendance. We agreed the development of a NGP website was a particularly useful reference point and resource for pupils, parents and teaching staff and should help in continuing the consistency of approach across the cluster.

We asked how the development and maintenance of the website and shared other resources are funded. We heard that currently they are funded via the comprehensive school budget and that the NGP apply for any relevant grant funding that may be available to help progress this.

We asked about the key factors the NGP felt underpinned their success as a cluster in taking forward the Curriculum for Wales. Some of what they said throughout the meeting included:

- The consistency in the use of key principles for example Kanga and the use of some shared policies.
- Strong well developed working relationships across the cluster.
- Curriculum summary and progression planning (agreeing the approach ahead for the cluster but also importantly recognising each schools individuality).
- Continually evaluating and refining principles and objectives.
- Working to ensure all practitioners across the NGP understand how to best deliver, plan, assess and report on progress.
- Resources are developed to help teachers to achieve progress. Practitioners were/are consulted to find out what they need to develop the curriculum in the classroom.
- The development of the NGP website and the resources it contains.

It was great to hear first-hand about how the cluster are working well together and how they are showing strong progress in the implementation and embedding of the Curriculum for Wales. We are grateful to the team at each school for taking the time to join us and give a big thank you to them for their clear enthusiasm in what they are doing.

We took away some learning points from this session, many of these also mirror those highlighted in our session with the Pontarddulais cluster last year. Although we do recognise that there is no one size fits all for success in taking the Curriculum for Wales forward, we, from our two sessions with schools, have found what we believe are some of the common key success factors including:

- Strong working relationships being developed across the cluster.
- Consistency in approach and developing/researching tools to help achieve that (for example: shared website, kanga idea).
- Progression planning and a shared understanding of what progression means.
- Shared principles.
- Shared policies in areas like for example attendance and safeguarding
- Continuum of learning between primary and secondary schools.
- Buy in, enthusiasm and excitement in what the new curriculum can do for its pupils.
- Positive and constructive challenge across the cluster, but always in partnership and in a supportive way.
- Regular meetings of the six headteachers where they talk about progress and ideas openly and frankly.
- Good development support and brokerage of professional learning.
- Ensuring teaching staff themselves, have the knowledge and the confidence to deliver what is a brand-new curriculum.
- Joint working and sharing of experience.
- Fully involving and including pupils on the journey.
- Fully involving and including school governors on this journey.
- Recognising that everybody in the school is a learner especially in introducing the new curriculum including teachers, pupils and school governors. Also, that this is a process of continuing development.
- Regularly reviewing what they are doing and including stakeholders in this process, particularly teaching staff, pupils and school governors.

### **Your Response**

We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised in this letter but on this occasion do not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely

### **COUNCILLOR LYNDON JONES**

Convener, Education Scrutiny Performance Panel

[Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk)



# Agenda Item 9

## Education Scrutiny Performance Panel DRAFT Work Programme 2023/2024

Date	Items to be discussed	Who invited
<b>Meeting 1</b> 15 Jun 23 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional Learning Needs Reform Annual Update (watching brief item) (Kate Phillips and Alison Lane)</li> <li>2. New Curriculum for Wales Annual Update (watching brief item) (David Thomas)</li> <li>3. Estyn Inspection – progress with recommendations (Sarah Hughes)</li> <li>4. Key issues affecting education 2023/24 (Helen Morgan Rees) then discuss draft Work Programme for 2023/24</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member and Director Relevant officers
<b>Meeting 2</b> 13 Jul 23 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Managing and Improving School Attendance including data</li> <li>2. Managing and Improving School Exclusions including data (Kate Phillips and Helen Howells)</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member and Director
<b>Meeting 3</b> 14 Sep 23 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Looked after Children, support and progress in school (Kate Phillips and Helen Howells)</li> <li>2. Following up on the 10 CDC recommendations (referred from Education Cabinet Development Committee) (Sarah Hughes)</li> <li>3. Feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member and Director  Panel Convener
<b>Meeting 4</b> 19 Oct 23 4.00pm	<b>Schools Session and Site Visit 1 – Gorseinon Primary School</b> School Development Plan (Pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor 18 Oct)	
<b>Meeting 5</b> 23 Nov 23 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing disadvantage in Schools, including pupil development grant, roll out of free school meals, cost of the school day and school uniform (Kelly Small)</li> <li>2. School Improvement Service Annual Update (David Thomas)</li> <li>3. Cookery in Schools (Rhodri Jones)</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member and Director
<b>Meeting 6</b> 14 Dec 23 4.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual Education Performance against identified priorities (RAG) including Estyn Inspection recommendations progress update (Sarah Hughes) and Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</li> <li>2. Feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member and Director  Panel Convener
<b>Meeting 7</b> 18 Jan 24 4.30pm	Introducing the New Curriculum for Wales – a meeting with a Secondary School and its Cluster Primaries – Gowerton Comprehensive School cluster. (Pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor on 17 Jan at 4.30pm)	Headteachers and Chairs of Governors
<b>Meeting 8</b> 12 Feb 24 3pm	Annual Council Budget as it relates to education matters	Cabinet Member and Director

<b>Meeting 9</b> 22 Feb 24 4.00pm	<b>Schools Session 2 – Clydach Primary School</b> School Development Plan. Confirmed ( <i>Pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor 20 Feb at 4.30pm</i> )	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
<b>Meeting 10</b> 13 Mar 24 4.00pm	<b>Schools Session and Visit 3 – Bishopston Comprehensive School</b> School Development Plan ( <i>pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor 5 Mar 4.30pm</i> )	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
<b>Meeting 11</b> 18 Apr 24 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Religion, Values and Ethics Education (Jennifer Harding-Richards)</li> <li>2. Hearing the Voices of Children and Young People (Rhodri Jones)</li> <li>3. Education Other Than At School services (EOTAS) Annual Update (Kate Phillips)</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member and Director
<b>Meeting 12</b> 9 May 24 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning Update (Louise Herbert-Evans)</li> <li>2. Swansea Skills Partnership Annual Update (David Bawden)</li> <li>3. End of year review in Education Scrutiny</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member and Director

To be added when we have more information from Welsh Government: Performance in Swansea Schools – Swansea Education Directorate/Cabinet Member and Partneriaeth (Annual) - Partneriaeth Legal Agreement says ‘Each Council’s scrutiny committee for children’s and education services will meet at least once a year to consider performance and progress in their schools such meetings to be attended by Council and PARTNERIAETH staff equipped to answer questions’.

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.

## 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 10

## Individual School Estyn Reports 2023/2024 (Between 1 Sep 2023 and 1 Feb 2024)

### Sketty Primary School

Published 4<sup>th</sup> September: [Inspection report Sketty Primary School 2023 \(gov.wales\)](#)

#### Recommendations:

R1 Refine self-evaluation processes to ensure that leaders consistently identify the impact of improvement strategies on pupils' learning and progress

R2 Improve pupils' Welsh speaking skills

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to its work on how the school develops pupils' creative skills through a worthwhile programme of professional learning and highly effective curriculum provision.

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### Inspection Report: Cefn Hengoed Community School

Published 11<sup>th</sup> December: [Inspection Report Template \(gov.wales\)](#)

#### Recommendations:

R1 Refine improvement processes and planning to include the few areas for further development identified in this inspection.

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to the provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills and the work to tackle the impact of poverty on pupils' attainment and well-being.

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### Inspection Report: YG Gwyr

Published 18<sup>th</sup> December: [Inspection report Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr 2023 \(gov.wales\)](#)

#### Recommendations:

R1 Improve the shortcomings identified about teaching in the report

R2 Ensure that leaders at all levels have clear and strategic responsibilities to drive improvements across the school

R3 Ensure that all leaders undertake a wide range of quality assurance activities and strengthen their ability to evaluate the impact of provision on pupils' progress

R4 Work with the local authority to address the health and safety issues identified during the inspection

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to the physical well-being, nutritional well-being and holistic well-being lessons that are delivered to the school's youngest pupils.

## **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tirdeunaw**

**Published 19 January 2024:** [Inspection report Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tirdeunaw 2023 \(gov.wales\)](#)

### **Recommendations:**

R1 Develop opportunities for the youngest pupils to foster and develop their independent learning skills and creative ability both inside and outside the classroom

R2 Expand opportunities for pupils to make independent choices about what to learn and how to present their work

R3 Strengthen the role of governors to enable them to operate more effectively as critical friends

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## **Danygraig Primary School**

**Published 26/01/24:** [Inspection report Danygraig Primary School 2023 \(gov.wales\)](#)

### **Recommendations:**

R1 Improve pupils' reading and digital skills.

R2 Provide pupils with opportunities to broaden their knowledge about books and authors and develop a love of reading.

R3 Ensure that all teachers plan learning experiences that enable all pupils to make the progress they are capable of.