



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools

At: Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

On: Thursday, 7 June 2018

Time: 4.00 pm

Convenor: Councillor Mo Sykes

Membership:

Councillors: C Anderson, A M Day, M Durke, S J Gallagher, L S Gibbard, F M Gordon, D W Helliwell, B Hopkins, L James, S M Jones, L R Jones, M A Langstone, H M Morris and L J Tyler-Lloyd

Co-opted Members: D Anderson-Thomas, A Roberts and J Meredith

Agenda

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www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests | |
| 3 | Notes and Conveners Letters
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Leaders of Learner (Science) ERW
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Next Meeting: Wednesday, 18 July 2018 at 2.00 pm - TBC

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Thursday, 31 May 2018

Contact: Michelle roberts, Scrutiny Officer



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Thursday, 17 May 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor M Sykes (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
D W Helliwell
S M Jones
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Councillor(s)

M Durke
B Hopkins
L R Jones

Councillor(s)

S J Gallagher
L James
M A Langstone

Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas

Co-opted Member(s)

A Roberts

Officer(s)

Helen Morgan Rees, Head of Achievement and Partnership Service

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day and H M Morris

Co-opted Member(s): J Meredith

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Cllr Susan Jones, personal interest item 5/6

2 Election of Panel Convener

It was agreed that Cllr Mo Sykes will continue as Convener and that Cllr Lyndon Jones will act as Vice Convener for the Panel.

3 Notes and Conveners Letters

Convener's letter, cabinet response and notes were received by the Panel.

4 Current Issues in Education - Overview presentation

The panel met with Helen Morgan Rees, Head of Achievement and Partnership Service to discuss the current issues affecting education.

The following points were discussed:

- The vision *Every child and young person will be able to develop their potential*
- The links with the corporate plan and key priorities

- The education departments priorities 2017/18
- Those issues that are on the forward look with particular reference to the following key issues:
 - New standards for teacher and leaders that will come into force in September 2018 and the implications for schools
 - Alternative Learning Needs Reform and implications of new legislation
 - Draft new curriculum
 - Development of a wellbeing and behaviour strategy
 - Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) developments
- The panel also discussed:
 - Home schooling and the registration of home schooled children
 - 21st Century School Programme
 - English as an additional Language service (EAL), the panel heard that reduction in grant from welsh government will have big impact on this service. Currently the education department are consulting on the implications and way forward. The Panel asked for more information on the timeline of this decision and would like to include it in their work programme for the coming year, possibly as a pre decision scrutiny item.
 - Teacher training/professional development for existing teachers
 - Headteacher induction programme and the senior leader and aspiring leaders development
 - Local Government Reform and implications for how we do things
 - Data Protections Act and schools
 - After school clubs and homework clubs. The panel would like to schedule to look at this in their work programme.
- The financial and savings targets for education over next 3 years.
- Abertawe 2025, what we want to see for our children and young people, the expectations, goals, aims, objectives, rights and priorities.
- What is needed for children and young people to get the best outcomes:
 - The right curriculum
 - The right support for learners
 - The right leaders
 - The right workforce
 - The right environment

5 Review of the year past and plan for coming 12 months in Education Scrutiny

The Panel considered the following questions about their scrutiny over the past year

1. What has gone well
2. What has not gone so well
3. Has the panels works programme focussed on the right things
4. What have we learned that will help us with future education scrutiny

From this members of the panel said:

- Good to speak to a selection of different schools
- Would like to go out to school a bit more this year
- Good to see red/amber schools but would also be useful to speak to Green schools and how they sustain that level

- Would like to see ERW, how we stretch most able pupils, after schools clubs and Welsh Language built in to work programme

The panel then discussed their work programme for the coming year, agreeing to include the following issues:

- Public questions a selection of panels
- Science in Schools in Swansea
- Sessions with schools including
 - Site visit to Green primary school doing well in the area of Foundation Phase
 - 2 Amber schools
 - Visit Morryston Primary School to see improvement embedded following session with them in Feb 17
- Progress with Education Other Than At School Improvements
- New Wellbeing and Behaviour Strategy
- Looked After Children educational outcomes
- Pupil deprivation grant spend to support vulnerable pupils
- ERW Business Plan and progress with priorities both regional and local
- Schools Improvement Service annual performance update
- Annual Education Performance Data (incl. verified data) and latest school categorisation
- Readiness for Schools Scrutiny Inquiry outstanding recommendations follow up
- Scrutiny of Annual Budget as it relates to education
- New standards for teachers and school leaders – implications and progress
- Draft New Curriculum (panel agreed to have a development session on this issue)
- ALN Reform implications and preparation
- Pre-decision Scrutiny of ALN Commission review outcomes
- Changes to EAL service (possible pre decision scrutiny)
- Availability of after school/homework clubs

The scrutiny officer will put together a work programme with these issues for the next meeting of the Panel on 7 June.

6 For Information Item

The Panel received information on the School Estyn Inspections published since their last meeting in March.



Report of the Convener of the Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel 7 June 2018

Data for Performance of Science in Schools

Purpose:	To look at performance of science in Schools across Swansea.
Content:	Background data for performance of schools in Science
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information provided and make the panels views known to the Cabinet Member via a Conveners Letter
Lead Councillor:	Cllr Mo Sykes, Convener Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

1. Background

- 1.1 The panel agreed to look at the performance of Science in Schools in Swansea at their meeting on the 15 March 2018.

2. Data on the Performance of Science in Schools

- 2.1 The Education Department have been asked to provide the following background information:
 - 1. A breakdown of performance of schools across Swansea in Science related subject (including boys/girls, efsm and non-efsm)
 - 2. Comparative data across ERW region; also the ERW region with other regions across Wales

3. Appendices

- 3.1 Data attached as requested.

Data on Science Performance Swansea Schools 2015-2017

Key Stage 4 Level 2 Science

Local Authority	2015	2016	2017
<i>Powys</i>	83.4	81.1	76.9
<i>Ceredigion</i>	87.2	90.4	86.9
<i>Pembrokeshire</i>	84.8	83.0	64.9
<i>Carmarthenshire</i>	86.1	85.2	78.9
Swansea	86.5	82.3	75.6
<i>Neath Port Talbot</i>	85.1	78.1	67.1

Swansea performance by gender and FSM at C grade and above

Measure	Key Stage 4		
	2015	2016	2017
<i>FSM</i>	80.7	68.2	58.0
<i>Non-FSM</i>	88.8	87.0	81.6
FSM gap	-8.1	-18.8	-23.6
<i>Boys</i>	86.1	80.5	74.6
<i>Girls</i>	86.9	84.2	76.5
Gender gap	-0.8	-3.7	-1.9

Current performance across Swansea schools means that three quarters of learners gained a grade C or above at GCSE Level 2 science. This performance places Swansea on a par with the national average and eleventh out of the 22 local authorities. Although the rank position is an improvement on the previous year, overall performance has declined during the last two years. However, the decline in performance is in line with the national decline in performance. At a regional level, Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire performance is higher than Swansea's. Previously, Swansea has compared more favourably within the region.

FSM performance for this indicator sees a widening gap in 2016-2017 with a difference of 23.6 % points in comparison to non-FSM learners. The gender difference in performance has remained stable during the last three years and is not significant.

Contextualised performance (considering similar schools with each other across Wales) shows that half of Swansea schools appear in the top 50% of similar schools. Value added information indicates varied performance across Swansea schools. In addition, there is stronger capacity and preparedness in a few schools to face the new science qualification, examined for the first time in Wales in 2018.

Key Stage 3 Level 5 Science

Powys	93.5	92.9	94.3	94.6	95.2	95.2
Ceredigion	92.7	91.6	91.0	96.1	96.0	96.6
Pembrokeshire	92.9	91.2	91.5	91.2	92.5	92.8
Carmarthenshire	91.9	92.8	91.7	91.9	92.7	94.1
Swansea	92.6	90.6	92.4	90.2	92.4	91.6
Neath Port Talbot	87.6	88.4	89.4	87.8	88.5	89.0

Swansea performance by gender and FSM at "expected" level

Measure	Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<i>FSM</i>	82.8	79.3	80.9	77.0	80.8	79.3
<i>Non-FSM</i>	94.8	93.5	95.0	93.6	95.1	94.3
<i>FSM gap</i>	-12.0	-14.2	-14.1	-16.6	-14.3	15.0
<i>Boys</i>	90.8	88.3	91.2	88.6	90.6	88.7
<i>Girls</i>	94.5	93.2	93.8	91.8	94.2	94.8
<i>Gender gap</i>	-3.7	-4.9	-2.6	-3.2	-3.6	-6.1

Swansea performance by gender and FSM at "expected" level + 1

Measure	Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<i>FSM</i>	20.9	22.8	23.7	34.8	37.3	35.3
<i>Non-FSM</i>	45.2	47.4	48.6	63.9	70.0	68.5
<i>FSM gap</i>	-24.3	-24.6	-24.9	-29.1	-32.7	33.2
<i>Boys</i>	38.8	40.5	41.1	54.7	57.2	55.5
<i>Girls</i>	42.4	44.4	47.6	61.3	70.5	70.4
<i>Gender gap</i>	-3.6	-3.9	-6.5	-6.6	-13.3	14.9

At 91.6% current performance is high but places Swansea eighteenth in local authority rankings, with stable performance during the last three years. Performance is currently below the national average. On a regional level, four other authorities appear to have higher performance.

FSM performance at this indicator shows a 15 % point difference in comparison to non-FSM learners and this is similar to previous years' performance. Girls tend to outperform boys. The gender gap in performance is not significant.

Key Stage 3 Level 6 Science

The difference in performance for FSM learners and non-FSM is increasing and is currently 33.2 % points. The gender gap is also widening and is currently 14.9 % points.

Key Stage 2 Level 4 Science

At 92.4% current performance is high and places Swansea thirteenth in local authority rankings. At a regional level, Swansea appears second after Powys.

FSM performance is significantly below that of non-FSM learners during the last three years and currently stands at a 14 % point difference. The gender gap is not significant at 2% points.

Key Stage 2 Level 5 Science

The difference in performance for FSM learners compared with non-FSM learners is significant at 24% points and has been such during the last three years.



Report of the Convener of the Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel 7 June 2018

Performance of Science in Schools in Swansea

Purpose:	To look at performance of science in Schools across Swansea.
Content:	Q&A session with professionals on performance of science in Schools
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information provided and make the panels views known to the Cabinet Member via a Conveners Letter
Lead Councillor:	Cllr Mo Sykes, Convener Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

1. Background

- 1.1 The panel agreed to look at the performance of Science in Schools in Swansea at their meeting on the 15 March 2018.

2. Performance of Science in Schools in Swansea

- 2.1 The following people have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Helen Morgan Rees, Head of Achievement and Partnership
- Jeff Bird, Headteacher at Bishopston Comprehensive School
- Janet Waldron, Headteacher at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School
- Leader/s of Learning for Science (ERW)

- 2.3 The following questions have been sent to all those invited to attend so that they can prepare for this Q&A session.

1. How we are encouraging and inspiring pupils to take up science subjects (include how we are particularly encouraging female take up)?
2. How truly accessible is science to pupils across the whole of Swansea?
 - a. Are there financial implications to parents of young people choosing science subjects?
 - b. How do we ensure that all pupils can have high aspirations in science?
 - c. Are there examples of the PDG grant being used by any schools in this aspect?
3. Do we link with and use private, public or university sector (to inspire, for observational work and as role models in science field)?

4. How we are learning, sharing and celebrating good practice in science subjects?
5. Do we have any issues in Swansea with the recruitment and retention of science teachers? If yes, how are we addressing this?
6. How do excellent schools engage and retain the interest of pupils in science? How do you inspire children in science?
7. How do we link with or advise young people about their next steps in science after school?
8. How do schools link with 6th forms and colleges to ensure progression in science subjects?
9. What is stopping children taking up and/or performing in science, what are the barriers and how can they be overcome?
10. Is the curriculum sufficiently geared towards science, is there enough time allocated? Is there enough time in the early part of secondary school to give grounding to take to next level?

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Panel are asked to discuss and consider the evidence gathered from this exercise and to give their views via a Conveners letter to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning.

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel Work Programme 2018/2019

Date	Items to be discussed
Meeting 1 17 May 18 4pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key issues for Education/Schools over coming year (Helen Morgan Rees) 2. Panel discuss and agree work programme for coming year.
Meeting 2 7 Jun 18 4pm	<p>Session around Science in Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of schools in Science and comparisons with others • Speak to 2 Headteacher of schools who excel in Science • Leaders of Learning for Science (ERW)
Meeting 3 18 Jul 18 2pm	School 1 - Visit - Green School – Foundation Phase (visit a school that is doing particularly well in this area) - Gowerton Primary School to be contacted.
Meeting 4 27 Sep 18 4pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing on new standards for teachers and school leaders – implications/progress 2. School Improvement Service Performance update (Annual) 3. ERW Progress against Business Plan priorities locally and regionally
Meeting 5 17 Oct 18 2pm	<p>School 2 – Ysgol Crug Glas Special School</p> <p>Amber: visit school and meet with Headteacher and Chair of Governors School include the Challenge Advisor</p>
Meeting 6 15 Nov 18 4pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Questions 2. Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) - Update on progress with changes to service and accommodation 3. New Wellbeing and Behaviour Strategy
Meeting 7 11 Dec18 4pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Questions 2. Briefing on Looked After Children Educational Outcomes 3. Briefing on the Pupil Deprivation Grant spend 4. Briefing on the availability and quality of after school/homework clubs 5. Annual Audit report (for information)

Meeting 8 18 Jan 19 4pm	1. Public Questions 2. Annual Education Performance (incl. verified data) and School Categorisation
Meeting 9 20 Feb 19 2pm	School 3 – Visit to Morriston Primary School Revisit Morriston Primary School progress and following up on the embedding of improvements (<i>as you agreed on 15 Feb</i>)
Meeting 10 21 Mar 19 4pm	School 4 – to be agreed Amber: Speak to Head and Chair of Governors of a School including preparation session with the challenge advisor
Meeting 11 2 May 19 4pm	1. Readiness for School, follow up on outstanding issues resulting from a scrutiny inquiry (<i>referred to the panel on 27 Mar 18</i>) 2. Review of the year and planning for the year ahead

In addition dates to be arranged for:

Date TBA	Pre-decision Scrutiny Alternative Learning Needs Reform Commissioning Review (<i>awaiting a cabinet date</i>) and/or ALN report legislation and implications/preparations
Date TBA	English as an Additional Language Service changes EAL (possible pre-decision scrutiny)
Date TBA	Development session to look at Draft New Curriculum
Early Feb 19	Scrutiny of Annual Budget as it relates to education matters

For Information

A. Estyn Inspections Summaries
(Published since your last update on 17 May 2018)

For Information

School

Published today, 10 May 2018

Craigfelen Primary School

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/default/files/documents/Craigfelen%20Primary%20School.pdf>

New Inspection Arrangements:

Standards	G
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	E
Teaching and learning experiences	G
Care, support and guidance	E
Leadership and management	E