



## City and County of Swansea

### Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools

**At:** Council Chamber - Guildhall, Swansea

**On:** Monday, 11 February 2019

**Time:** 3.00 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	Page No.
1	Apologies for Absence.	
2	Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. <a href="http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests">www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests</a>	
3	Conveners Letters and Notes from previous meetings	1 - 9
4	Annual Budget Proposals - as they relate to Education matters Invited to attend are Cllr Jen Raynor (Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills) and Education Link to relevant <a href="#">Cabinet Papers</a> (papers will be available online from 7 Feb 19)	
5	Work Programme 2018-2019	10 - 11
6	For Information Item	12

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019 at 2.00 pm

Handwritten signature of Huw Evans.

**Huw Evans**  
Head of Democratic Services  
Monday, 4 February 2019

---

Contact: Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer



# Agenda Item 3



**To/  
Councillor Jen Raynor  
Cabinet Member for Education  
Improvement, Learning and Skills**

*Please ask for:  
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

*Direct Line:  
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

01792 637256

*e-Mail  
e-Bost:*

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

*Date  
Dyddiad:*

28 January 2019

**BY EMAIL**

Summary: This is a letter from the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills following the meeting of the Panel on 17 January 2019. It is about the Annual Education Performance Data including verified data for 2017-2018.

Dear Councillor Raynor,

## **Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel – 17 January 2019**

We would like to thank you and Helen Morgan Rees for attending the meeting and answering our questions about the Annual Education Performance Data for 2017-2018.

We heard performance measures in Wales are changing which have and will continue to impact the data provided. For the first time pupil's at foundation phase are being measured on revised areas of learning. In primary schools, there is a greater emphasis on progress made by pupils, rather than the end of key stage performance. In the secondary sector new qualification have been introduced.

We understand that there has been a dip in performance at foundation phase of 10% following a positive trend between 2014 and 2017. We heard, however, that this is due to a change in the foundation phase descriptors and that this is also reflected at a national level. We agreed that a continued focus on this area is required.

We heard that progress at key stage 2 has shown a positive trend over the last five years and that Swansea is on par with the national average.

At key stage 3 there has been year on year improvement for the past 5 years but Swansea does fall below the national average for the core subject indicator although it shown a faster rate of improvement.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**

**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAW**

**GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAW, SA1 4PE**

[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) / [www.abertawe.gov.uk](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk)

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 pleased to hear that performance at key stage 4 for the last five years has been outstanding with Swansea schools showing continuous improvement in all main indicators.

We understand that the gap in performance between free school meal (FSM) and non-free school meal pupils is still evident. We heard that FSM pupil's performance has improved slightly but that the gap at key stage 4 is still at 32.8%. We agree that this should continue to be a focus for improvement and a key priority for Swansea.

We heard that there is still a gender gap in performance outcomes and that this is smaller than 2017 but with a widening trend remaining. You told us that some schools are doing better at targeting the underperformance of boys and that there are good mechanisms in place to share good practice around this issue. You said a campaign targeting literacy in boys, including reading with a male family member was positive. We agreed that running this again along with some more intergenerational work on this issue would be beneficial.

We heard that pupil achievement at 6<sup>th</sup> form in Swansea is showing improvement and agree when you said that work still need to be done in this area to strengthen performance.

We were pleased to hear that performance of our English as additional language pupils is strong.

We understand the data for Looked After Children can be difficult to assess as it can be based on a small cohort of pupils. We therefore plan to look at this aspect in a bit more detail at a future meeting.

We would welcome your thoughts on any issue within this letter, on this occasion we do not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

**COUNCILLOR MO SYKES**

Convener, Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ [Cllr.mo.sykes@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.mo.sykes@swansea.gov.uk)



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

Thursday, 17 January 2019 at 4.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor M Sykes (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

C Anderson  
L S Gibbard  
L R Jones

**Councillor(s)**

M Durke  
D W Helliwell  
M A Langstone

**Councillor(s)**

S J Gallagher  
L James  
L J Tyler-Lloyd

**Co-opted Member(s)**

D Anderson-Thomas

**Other Attendees**

Cllr Jen Raynor

**Officer(s)**

Michelle Roberts  
Helen Morgan Rees

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): A M Day, B Hopkins, S M Jones and H Morris

---

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

None

**2 Notes and Conveners Letter/s**

Notes, Conveners letters and responses received by the Panel.

**3 Public Questions**

None

**4 Annual Education Performance Data (including verified data)**

Cllr Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills and Helen Morgan Rees, Head of Achievement and Partnership Service attended the Panel to present the report and answer questions. Key points noted include:

- Performance measures in Wales are changing which have and will continue to impact the data provided. For the first time pupil's at foundation phase are being measured on revised areas of learning. In primary schools, there is a greater emphasis on progress made by pupils, rather than the end of key stage performance. In the secondary sector new qualifications have been introduced.
- A dip in performance at foundation phase of 10% following a positive trend between 2014 and 2017. The Panel heard, however, that this is due to a change in the foundation phase descriptors and that this is also reflected at a national level. Councillors agree that a continued focus on this area is required.
- Progress at key stage 2 has shown a positive trend over the last five years and that Swansea is on par with the national average.
- At key stage 3 there has been year on year improvement for the past 5 years but Swansea does fall below the national average for the core subject indicator although it shows a faster rate of improvement.
- Performance at key stage 4 for the last five years has been outstanding with Swansea schools showing continuous improvement in all main indicators.
- Gap in performance between free school meal (FSM) and non-free school meal pupils is still evident. The Panel heard that FSM pupil's performance has improved slightly but that the gap at key stage 4 is still at 32.8%. Councillors agreed that this should continue to be a focus for improvement and a key priority for Swansea.
- Gender gap in performance outcomes and that this is smaller than 2017 but with a widening trend remaining. The panel heard that some schools are doing better at targeting the underperformance of boys and that there are good mechanisms in place to share good practice around this issue. Cabinet Member said a campaign targeting literacy in boys, including reading with a male family member was positive. Panel agreed that running this again along with some more intergenerational work on this issue would be beneficial.
- Pupil achievement at 6<sup>th</sup> form in Swansea is showing improvement and agreed that work still needs to be done in this area to strengthen performance.
- Panel pleased to hear that performance of our English as additional language pupils is strong.
- Panel understands that the data for Looked After Children can be difficult to access as it can be based on a small cohort of pupils. The Panel therefore plans to look at this aspect in a bit more detail at a future meeting.

**5 Workplan 2017/2018.**

The panel agreed that the deferred item on Looked After Children educational outcomes will be discussed in conjunction with the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Panel. A joint meeting to be arranged.

**6 For Information Item**

The panel received the Estyn individual school Inspection outcomes summary.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm

**To/  
Councillor Jen Raynor  
Cabinet Member for Education  
Improvement, Learning and Skills**

*Please ask for:  
Gofynnwch am:*

**Scrutiny**

*Direct Line:  
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

**01792 637256**

*e-Mail  
e-Bost:*

**scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk**

*Date  
Dyddiad:*

**19 December 2018**

**BY EMAIL**

Summary: This is a letter from the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills following the meeting of the Panel on 17 December 2018. It is about Pre-decision Scrutiny on the Small Schools Review and the School Organisation linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan.

Dear Councillor Raynor,

### **Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel – 17 December 2018**

We would like to thank you, Helen Morgan Rees, Kelly Small and Brian Roles for attending the meeting to discuss the two reports due for Cabinet decision on the 20 December 2018: Small Schools Review and the School Organisation linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan.

Please see below the Panels conclusions resulting from this discussion:

We agreed that both reports contained full and comprehensive information on both sets of proposals and that these also reflect the amount of work that has gone into this process.

### **School Organisation linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan**

We believe that

- a full consultation has been completed and the issues raised have been addressed fully.
- the closure of Felindre is part of a wider and longer term Welsh Education Plan which will be of benefit to pupils in Swansea in the longer term.
- all the alternative Welsh Language schools offer a good education.
- the majority of pupils come from outside of the catchment area of Felindre, so the effect of the closure on the community will be minimal, the community have a thriving village hall.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**

**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAW**

**GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAW, SA1 4PE**

[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) / [www.abertawe.gov.uk](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk)



We therefore reluctantly accept the proposals to Cabinet as contained in the report, agreeing that the proper process has been followed, the Equalities Impact Assessment has assessed the impact of the proposals, that there has been a high level of consultation and all alternatives to closure have been explored.

### **Small Schools Review, Craig Cefn Parc Primary School**

- We felt that a full consultation has taken place and all options have been reviewed and revisited based upon this.
- We shared the concern that the school has been in and out of the Amber category for much of the last five years and that substantial improvements have not been made in order to improve outcomes at the school. We therefore recognise that on current educational performance Clydach Primary School will provide better educational outcomes and opportunities for pupils.
- We also understand the complexities in the catchment of the school with both a Faith Primary School and a Welsh Primary School nearby. We accepted that pupil numbers at Craig Cefn Parc Primary School, based on predictions, are not likely to increase in the short or medium term.
- We appreciated the concerns raised about children using school transport but are satisfied that the same precautions will be in place as in other schools where pupils are unaccompanied.
- We also understand the importance of ensuring that Swansea makes the most efficient and effective use of resources for the interest of all pupils within the local authority area.

We reluctantly accept the proposals to Cabinet as contained in the report, agreeing that the proper process has been followed, the Equalities Impact Assessment has assessed the impact of the proposals, there has been a high level of consultation and that all alternatives have been considered.

The panel will put the points outlined in this letter to Cabinet verbally on the 20 December.

Yours sincerely,

### **COUNCILLOR MO SYKES/LOUISE GIBBARD**

Convener, Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ [Cllr.mo.sykes@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.mo.sykes@swansea.gov.uk)

✉ [Cllr.louise.Gibbard@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.louise.Gibbard@swansea.gov.uk)

Cllr Lynda James  
Convener, Schools Scrutiny  
Performance Panel

**BY EMAIL**

*Please ask for:* Councillor Jennifer Raynor  
*Direct Line:* 01792 63 7429  
*E-Mail:* [cllr.jennifer.raynor@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jennifer.raynor@swansea.gov.uk)  
*Our Ref:* JR/HS  
*Your Ref:* ref  
*Date:* 11 January 2019

Dear Cllr James

### **Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel – 11 December 2018**

Thank you for your letter dated 9 January 2019. Since the panel met in December, I am pleased to report that the reform of ERW is now securely underway with firm proposals for the Joint Committee to consider next month.

The new professional standards will take time to embed thoroughly but are aligned to curriculum reform. The work of officers in supporting schools with new standards will be monitored during the next few years. The five top priorities will help ensure our relentless focus on education and skills.

A review of local school improvements shows aspects that are very good, others are satisfactory and even a few that have yet to be addressed. However, the impact is seen in pupil performance across the authority. I am pleased that pupil performance and school performance against national criteria will be scrutinised fully in January 2019.

The Welsh *Siartr Iaith* (Language Charter) work is gathering momentum in Swansea and is in keeping with curriculum reform and professional standards. I expect to see all schools in Swansea receiving accreditation for promoting bilingualism and incidental Welsh during the next three years.

As accountability measures in schools in the future will focus more on mental and physical health, it will be interesting to see how we define and quantify wellbeing.

Swansea's digital strategy is a good example of partnership working and addresses the requirement for equity of opportunity for all learners. However, there is still work to be done to ensure that we provide our children with the skills for future occupations.

The opportunity for stakeholder opinion to be formally captured will be fed back to the interim Managing Director of ERW. Useful surveys have been conducted in the past and I am aware of a current survey to capture the views of headteachers on the value for money provided by the funding stream for curriculum reform.

The pupil development grant requires careful monitoring to ensure value for money. It is pleasing to report an increase in 2017-2018 in the proportion of free school meal pupils achieving five A\*-C grades, including mathematics and English/ Welsh at GCSE.

The operational detail is confidential, not for publication with the papers. It is shared with the Panel in response to their request for additional information. Names have not been redacted to illustrate the high level of joint work across schools, the department and ERW.

I trust that the panel is now satisfied with the level of detail presented.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Raynor', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Jennifer Raynor**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT, LEARNING & SKILLS**

## Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel Work Programme 2018/2019

Date	Items to be discussed
<b>Meeting 1</b> 17 May 18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Key issues for Education/Schools over coming year (Helen Morgan Rees)</li> <li>2. Panel discuss and agree work programme for coming year</li> </ol>
<b>Meeting 2</b> 7 Jun 18	<p><b>Session around Science in Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance of schools in Science and comparisons with others</li> <li>• Speak to 2 Headteacher of schools who excel in Science</li> <li>• Leaders of Learning for Science (ERW)</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 3</b> 12 July 18 10.30am	<p><b>School 1- Gowerton Primary School</b></p> <p>Green School – Foundation Phase (panel agreed to visit a school that is doing particularly well in this area)</p>
<b>Meeting 4</b> 18 Jul 18 2.00pm	Pre-decision Scrutiny on the Future Structure and Delivery of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit (EMAU) report to Cabinet on 18 July 2018
<b>Meeting 5</b> 27 Sep 18 4.00pm	Briefing on the National Mission for Wales including an update on the New Standards for Teaching and Learning (Jan Waldron, Challenge Advisor)
<b>Meeting 6</b> 17 Oct 18 2.00pm	<p><b>School 2 – Ysgol Crug Glas Special School</b></p> <p>Amber: visit school and meet with Headteacher and Chair of Governors School include the Challenge Advisor <i>(Meet 1.30pm for preparation session with Challenge Advisor)</i></p>
<b>Meeting 7</b> 19 Nov 18 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Questions</li> <li>2. Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) - Update on progress with changes to service and accommodation (Cabinet Member Invited)</li> <li>3. New Wellbeing and Behaviour Strategy</li> <li>4. Annual Audit report (for information)</li> </ol>
<b>Meeting 8</b> 11 Dec18 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School Improvement Service Performance update (Annual)</li> <li>2. ERW Progress against Business Plan priorities locally and regionally</li> <li>3. Briefing on the Pupil Deprivation Grant spend and the availability and quality of after school/homework clubs</li> </ol>
<b>Meeting 9 Extra</b> 17 Dec 18 4.00pm	Pre-decision Scrutiny of Small Schools Review and School Organisation linked to the Welsh Education Plan Cllr J Raynor and Nick Williams to attend Cabinet decision 20 December 2018

<b>Meeting 9</b> 17 Jan 19 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Questions</li> <li>2. Briefing on Looked After Children Educational Outcomes</li> <li>3. Annual Education Performance (incl. verified data) and School Categorisation (Cabinet Member invited)</li> </ol>
<b>Meeting 10 Extra</b> 11 Feb 19 3.00pm	Scrutiny of Annual Budget as it relates to education matters – Additional meeting (Cabinet member invited)
<b>Meeting 11</b> 20 Feb 19 2.00pm	<b>School 3 – Visit to Morrison Primary School</b> Visit to Morrison Primary School - progress and following up on the embedding of improvements one year on( <i>as you agreed on 15 Feb18</i> )
<b>Meeting 12</b> 21 Mar 19 4.00pm	<b>School 4 – Burlais Primary School</b> Amber: Speak to Head and Chair of Governors of a School including preparation session with the challenge advisor
<b>Meeting 13</b> 2 May 19 4.00pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Readiness for School, follow up on outstanding issues resulting from a scrutiny inquiry (<i>referred to the panel on 27 Mar 18</i>)</li> <li>2. Review of the year and planning for the year ahead</li> </ol>

**In addition dates to be arranged for:**

Date TBA	<p>Items referred to the Panel from Scrutiny Work Planning Conference on 11 June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Special Educational Needs (concern about increase in no. of cases going to tribunal)</li> <li>– School Transport</li> <li>✓ Free School Meals / LAC attainment and PDG spend(already scheduled on panel work programme – Dec/Jan)</li> </ul>
Date TBA	<p>Items suggested by panel members to added at Schools Work Programme discussion on 17 May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ERW (Item added to work programme for Sep 18)</li> <li>✓ After schools and homework clubs (Added to the work programme for Dec 18)</li> </ul>
Date TBA ( <i>awaiting a cabinet date</i> )	Pre-decision Scrutiny Alternative Learning Needs Reform Commissioning Review and/or ALN report legislation and implications/preparations
Date TBA	Post 16 – Pupil performance at sixth form and colleges
Date TBC	Wales Audit Office – Youth Services Report and any resulting Action Plan

For Information

**A. Estyn Inspections Summaries**  
*(Published since your last update in January 2019)*

For Information

**School Inspection Outcomes**

Published today, 31 January 2019

YGG Llwynderw

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/default/files/documents/YGG%20Llwynderw%20en.pdf>

New Inspection Arrangements:

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