



Report of the Convener Education Scrutiny Performance Panel

Annual Review of Work 2023/24

Purpose:	As the municipal year ends, it is good practice to reflect on the Panel's work, experience and effectiveness
Content:	A summary of the year's activities is provided
Councillors are being asked to:	a) Reflect on the year's work; and b) Share ideas to improve the effectiveness of Scrutiny
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1. Background

- 1.1 As this is the final meeting of this municipal year, the Panel is invited to reflect on the year's scrutiny work, experiences and effectiveness. Any ideas that will improve the effectiveness of the scrutiny of education are welcome.
- 1.2 To aid panel members, a summary of the year's work has been included.
- 1.3 Some of the questions the Panel may want to consider:
 - **What has gone well?**
 - **What did not go quite so well?**
 - **Did the Panel's work focus on the right things?**
 - **What have we learnt that will help us with future scrutiny?**

2. Overview

- 2.1 The purpose of the Panel is to provide ongoing challenge to school performance to ensure that pupils in Swansea are receiving high quality education; and the authority is meeting its objectives in relation to improving school standards and pupil attainment.
- 2.2 **What were the lines of inquiry?**

To regularly review school performance including meeting with Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors to ask questions about performance and improvement, focusing on outcomes, provision and leadership. Look at relevant data,

commissioning reviews and anything that impacts on Education in Swansea including, for example, the new curriculum, Additional Learning Needs and Education Other Than at School Services.

2.2 The Panel has a core membership of eleven councillors and two parent governor co-opted members.

3. Supporting Data

There have been 12 Panel meetings, with 11 Conveners letters sent to the Cabinet Member. Councillor attendance at the Panel overall for the year has been 67%.

4. Education Scrutiny Performance Panel Work Programme for 2023/24

Date	Items to be discussed
Meeting 1 15 Jun 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional Learning Needs Reform Annual Update (watching brief item) 2. New Curriculum for Wales Annual Update (watching brief item) 3. Estyn Inspection – progress with recommendations 4. Key issues affecting education 2023/24 then discuss draft Work Programme for 2023/24
Meeting 2 13 Jul 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing and Improving School Attendance including data 2. Managing and Improving School Exclusions including data
Meeting 3 14 Sep 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looked after Children, support and progress in school 2. Following up on the 10 CDC recommendations (referred from Education Cabinet Development Committee) 3. Feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group
Meeting 4 19 Oct 23	<p>Schools Session and Site Visit 1 – Gorseinon Primary School School Development Plan <i>(Pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor 18 Oct)</i></p>
Meeting 5 23 Nov 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing disadvantage in Schools, including pupil development grant, roll out of free school meals, cost of the school day and school uniform 2. School Improvement Service Annual Update 3. Cookery in Schools
Meeting 6 14 Dec 23 4.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Education Performance against identified priorities (RAG) including Estyn Inspection recommendations progress and Cabinet Member Q&A 2. Feedback from Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group
Meeting 7 18 Jan 24	<p>Introducing the New Curriculum for Wales – a meeting with a Secondary School and its Cluster Primaries – Gowerton Comprehensive School cluster. <i>(Pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor on 17 Jan)</i></p>
Meeting 8 12 Feb 24	<p>Annual Council Budget as it relates to education matters</p>
Meeting 9 19 Feb 24	<p>School Organisation - Amalgamation of special schools in Swansea</p>

Meeting 10 22 Feb 24	Schools Session 2 – Clydach Primary School School Development Plan. (<i>Pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor 20 Feb</i>)
Meeting 13 Mar 24	Schools Session and Visit 3 – Bishopston Comprehensive School Postponed until 11 July 2024
Meeting 11 18 Apr 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Religion, Values and Ethics Education 2. Hearing the Voices of Children and Young People Education Other Than At School services (EOTAS) Annual Update
Meeting 12 9 May 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning Update 2. Swansea Skills Partnership Annual Update 3. End of year review in Education Scrutiny

5.0 The Future Work Programme

- 5.1 The future work programme will be discussed by first Education Scrutiny Performance Panel of the new municipal year 2024/2025 on 20 June 2024.