



## Report of the Convener of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel

Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – 20 June 2024

### Education Scrutiny Work Planning for 2024/2025

<b>Purpose:</b>	Giving information to enable the Panel to discuss and agree its Work Programme for the coming municipal year.
<b>Content:</b>	Potential issues for the 2024/25 Work Programme.
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	Consider the information provided, discuss and agree the Education Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25.
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Lyndon Jones, Convener of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel
<b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author:</b>	Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer <a href="mailto:Michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk">Michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Scrutiny Panels each year in June discuss and agree their work programmes for the coming 12 months.
- 1.2 This report gives details of the items the Panel regularly looks at, items suggested by Panel members over the last year and key issues identified for consideration by the Director of Education.
- 1.3 The Panel are asked to consider the information provided in this report alongside the presentation that will be given by the Director who will outline the key issues affecting education in Swansea.

#### 2. Education Scrutiny Work Planning for 2024/2025

##### 2.1 *Items the Panel have scrutinised on an annual basis*

- Annual Education Performance against identified priorities RAG (Dec 2024)
- Cabinet Member Q&A (Dec 2024)
- Annual Budget as it relates to Education matters (Feb 2025)
- Pupil Development Grant Spend on vulnerable pupils – Annual Analysis (Nov 2024)
- School Improvement Service Annual progress update (Nov 2024)

- Swansea Skills Partnership Annual update (May 2025)
- Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning (May 2025)

## 2.2 **Sessions with schools or groups of schools**

Chosen each year based upon Estyn outcomes, good practice and advice from Director. Purpose is to see work happening on the ground in schools including those that are showing excellent practice or are in special measures/Estyn follow up or to look topic based i.e. curriculum for Wales introduction.

- 3 schools sessions (Bishopston Comprehensive plus 2 others) – (Sep, Oct, Mar)
- 1 cluster regarding new curriculum for Wales (Jan 2025)

## 2.3 **Watching Brief items**

These are items the Panel receive regular updates on. This may be due to the introduction of new ways of working, big legislation or policy change and/or current key ongoing challenges for education

- Additional Learning Needs Reform
- Curriculum for Wales
- Education Other Than at School services (Apr 2025)
- Pupil Voice Manifesto and the pupil voice in education (Apr 2025)
- Estyn progress against recommendations (once more in Dec 2024)

## 2.4 **Key up and coming issues identified by Director of Education**

- Progress with the **Inclusion Strategy** approved by Cabinet in 2023 (that came from the STC) as pupil behaviour is a hot topic.
- How schools are supporting a million **Welsh speakers** by 2050 so looking at schools' performance from a school improvement perspective and progress with the **Welsh in Education Strategic Plan**, following Cabinet approval in 2022.
- The Strategy for **Poverty Proofing** the school day given the cost-of-living crisis.
- How schools improve the quality of **teaching and learning – cluster and regional work.**

## 2.5 **Other items to add to 2024/2025 work programme, as per discussions and suggestions at Panel meetings over the past 12 months**

- Religion, Values and Ethics education update (May 2025)
- Managing/improving school attendance and exclusions, *add to watching brief list*

*For example, other items suggested/looked at in 2023/2024 included:*

- Cookery in Schools
- Managing/improving school attendance and exclusions
- Religion, Values and Ethics education
- Following up on the 10 CDC educations recommendations
- School organisation - Amalgamation of special schools in Swansea

## 2.6 **Information for the Panel**

- Partneriath Regional Education Partnership Scrutiny (*Convener updates Panel after each Partneriath Scrutiny meeting*)
- Individual School Estyn Inspection outcomes circulated

## Education Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/2025

Date	Items to be discussed
<b>Meeting 1</b> 20 Jun 24 4.30pm	1. Curriculum for Wales update 2. Overview of key issues in education 2024/2025 3. Work Planning – discussing and agreeing the work programme for 2024/2025 – <i>discussion by Panel members</i>
<b>Meeting 2</b> 19 Sep 24 4.00pm	<b>Schools Session and Visit (1) – Bishopston Comprehensive School</b> (moved from 11 July meeting) To discuss School Development Plan (Pre-meeting with School Improvement Advisor)
<b>Meeting 3</b> 17 Oct 24 4.00pm	<b>Schools Session and possible Visit (2)</b> – school is to be agreed
<b>Meeting 4</b> 14 Nov 24 4.30pm	1. 2.
<b>Meeting 5</b> 12 Dec 24 4.30pm	1. 2.
<b>Meeting 6</b> 23 Jan 25 4.30pm	<b>Curriculum for Wales: Cluster of schools</b> – a school cluster - to be agreed
<b>Meeting 7</b> Feb 25 Date tbc	Annual Budget as it relates to education matters
<b>Meeting 8</b> 20 Mar 25 4.00pm	<b>Schools Session and possible Visit (3)</b> – school is to be agreed
<b>Meeting 9</b> 10 Apr 25 4.30pm	1. 2.
<b>Meeting 10</b> 8 May 25 4.30pm	1. 2.

### 3. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications raised in this report.

### 4. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

### 5. Background papers: None