



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education**

Multi-Location Meeting - Lilian Hopkin Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

Thursday, 20 June 2024 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

A M Day
J D McGettrick

Councillor(s)

S M Jones
F D O'Brien

Councillor(s)

S Joy
A J O'Connor

Co-opted Member(s)

None

Other Attendees

R Smith Cabinet Member for Education and Learning

Officer(s)

Helen Morgan Rees, Director of Education
David Thomas, Lead School Improvement Adviser
Michelle Roberts. Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A Davis and B Hopkins
Co-opted Member(s): Beth Allender

154 Confirmation of the Convener

Councillor Lyndon Jones was confirmed as Convener for the Panel for the municipal year 2024/2025.

155 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Cllr's L Jones and M Day declared a personal interest on agenda items 8, 9 and 11.

156 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

157 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on the 9 May 2024 were agreed by the Panel.

158 Letter/s

The letter to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning following the meeting on the 9 May 2024 was noted by the Panel.

159 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

160 Role of the Performance Panel

The Panel noted the report detailing the role of the Performance Panel.

161 New Curriculum for Wales Update (watching brief item)

The Panel thanked the Lead School Improvement Adviser for the providing a report and attending the meeting to discuss progress with the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales.

The Cabinet Member said that this was still an evolving piece of work and that it is not without its challenges but that he continues to be pleased with how it was progressing in Swansea.

The report outlined:

- Background and context to the Curriculum for Wales
- Updated the Panel on the work that is happening across Swansea schools, the school improvement team and Partneriaeth.

In summary:

- a. The focus for schools in Swansea will be the evaluation of the impact of their curriculum offer. Officers will support the use of toolkits to provide effective, thought-provoking questions and promote deep self-evaluation.
- b. Swansea schools continue to feel they are supported well.
- c. LA officers need to continue the focus on how school leaders influence ongoing Curriculum for Wales design.
- d. LA officers ensure schools are supported well to make use of and evaluate the impact of professional learning offered locally and by the region.
- e. Further develop collaborative partnerships to support a better shared understanding of progression across and between schools.
- f. School improvement advisers have and will continue to identify schools that have the capacity to share effective practice in terms of curriculum design and review.
- g. School improvement advisers will sensitively identify schools that require additional support in their reform journey indicated by the progress that learners make over time.
- h. School Improvement Team and Additional Learning Needs officers will collaborate more closely to support a holistic view of support for learners.
- i. School improvement advisers will continue to make representations to Welsh Government on behalf of our stakeholders to inform national policy.

The following questions/issues were raised by the Panel. Summary of the Panels views on progress and the responses to these issues will form part of the letter to the Cabinet Member following the meeting:

- How are the clusters of schools across Swansea working together with regard to the Curriculum for Wales.
- Those schools in Wales that Estyn have identified that the Curriculum for Wales has not yet had a positive impact.
- Are we taking teachers with us in Swansea in the development of the Curriculum for Wales.
- Are we still focused on pupils learning basic skills in the bid to introduce the new curriculum.

162 Key issues affecting education 2024/25

The Panel thanked the Director of Education for her presentation outlining some of the key issues affecting education in Swansea 2023/2024. She covered 8 key issue areas including:

1. Resource Management
2. Support for Learners
3. Accountability
4. Learner Attendance
5. Behaviour and Wellbeing
6. Quality of Teaching
7. Welsh Language
8. Tiered Roles and responsibilities

The Panel will consider this presentation when they discuss and agree their work plan for the coming 12 months so that it is reflective of the key issues highlighted where possible.

163 Drafting the Work Programme for 2024/25 for discussion

The Panel discussed the key issues identified for the Panels work programme for the coming 12 months. The Scrutiny Officer will now formulate the plan to take this forward and circulate a draft to the Panel for agreement.

The meeting ended at 5.45 pm

Chair