

**Education Department Summary (September 2017)**

**Context**

1. The 2017 annual self-evaluation of local authority education services for children and young people (LAESCYP) has completed in draft and will be shared with stakeholders in September 2017, to review before it is published in October 2017.
2. The new Education Department Service Plan for 2017-2018 has been finalised and approved. There is a strong focus on corporate priorities, local targets and regional objectives.
3. The new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020 has been revised in accordance with amendments required from Welsh Government, following their review of all WESPs in Wales. This is due for publication in November 2017.
4. An internal departmental risk register is in place and reviewed on a regular basis. Operational risks are managed by Heads of Unit and are scrutinised through formal governance methodology using the Education Department's Strategic Leads Board (SLB) and Senior Leadership Team (EDSLT).
5. The structure for the Education Department continues to provide a stable and consistent service. Due to the internal appointment of the Chief Education Officer (previously Head of Learner Support Service) and the retirement of the Head of Strategic Planning and Improvement Group, temporary appointments have been made to those posts. It is planned that the structure will be reviewed by the end of the year to meet the future requirements of the department and regional working. The table below illustrates the current Education Department team/management structure.

<b>Chief Education Officer</b>						
Strategic Planning and Improvement Group		Education Improvement Service		Education Planning and Resources Service		Learner Support Service
<b>Strategic Planning and Improvement Group</b>						
Stakeholder Engagement Unit		Monitoring and Improvement Unit		Management Systems Unit		
<b>Education Improvement Service</b>						
Primary Phase Unit		Secondary Phase Unit		Curriculum Support Unit		
<b>Education Planning and Resources Service</b>						
Capital Funding and Delivery Unit			Funding and Information Unit			
<b>Learner Support Service</b>						
School Support Unit	Catering and Cleaning Unit	Swansea Music Unit	Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit	Lifelong Learning Unit	Additional Learning Needs Unit	Behaviour Support Unit

## **Pupil attainment**

7. Teacher assessment of pupil attainment at Foundation Phase and at key stage 2 in 2017 show improved performance to last year. There is an upward trend over five years. Key stage 2 results are the highest ever for Swansea.
8. Teacher assessment of pupil attainment at key stage 3 shows that performance is up on the previous year and is the highest ever.
9. It is too early to determine this year's key stage 4 results although early indications suggest that there is a decline for Level 2 inclusive performance. However, there are a number of significant changes to how this is calculated nationally, which makes the results not comparable with previous years. Similar declines are expected across Wales.

## **School improvement**

10. School inspections have been generally positive throughout the academic year 2016-2017. Currently, there are no Swansea schools that have been identified in the RED support category.
11. The consistent challenge to schools has shown strong progress since the local authority inspection in 2013. There are now effective standardised processes in place to ensure rigorous challenge (i.e. deep data analysis, tighter reporting mechanisms and quality assurance procedures).
12. The involvement of Education Improvement Service staff has been welcomed in the vast majority of schools. An additional support visit to schools by the service is planned for 2017-2018.

## **Attendance**

13. Attendance in our secondary schools hit an all-time high in 2015-2016 at 94.3%. In 2016-2017, attendance levels have been sustained at 94.3% and ranking has improved to 7<sup>th</sup> in Wales.
14. Attendance in our primary schools for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 at 94.9%. In 2016-2017, attendance has improved again to 95.0%, and ranking in Wales will be announced in November.
15. By the end of the summer term 2017, eight primary schools had attendance at or exceeding 96% and nine secondary schools at or exceeding 94% and four at or exceeding 95%.
16. Schools and the local authority will continue to work together to embed and share the strategies and actions that lead to higher levels of attendance and undertake a deeper focus on persistent absence.

## **Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)**

17. Cabinet approved moving forward on the proposed plans for the development of a new building to house PRU provision on the Cockett House Site in July 2017. Implementation of an interim model of the Half-Way House in the absence of any suitable accommodation to house a full model was also approved.
18. The PRU Improvement Plan is driving further progress and the new headteacher and interim deputy headteacher, are progressing this plan.

19. The designated challenge adviser continues to work closely with the centres that comprise the Swansea PRU. The Additional Learning Needs Unit and the Education Improvement Service are also working to support the PRU.
20. Reintegration to mainstream rates improved in 2016-2017 in comparison to 2015-2016.

**Notable other issues**

21. An updated Strategic Outline Programme was submitted (July 2017) for the Welsh Government 21<sup>st</sup> Century School programme which represents a natural development of the previously approved long term strategy. The Band B submission for £149.7m shows the high level of ambition and commitment to this programme. The submission reflects a consistent objective assessment and prioritisation of condition, suitability and sustainability issues as well as areas of basic need for additional provision. It continues the clear and consistent focus of the long term programme and will build on the considerable benefits already realised. We are likely to hear the outcome in November.
22. Budget pressures continue to be challenging; most notably involving out-of-county charges for pupils with additional learning needs.
22. There is a need to further improve education outcomes and skills to take advantage of the Swansea Bay City Deal.
23. There is a need to further improve the consistency and impact of the regional improvement service (ERW).