



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

### Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel 7 June 2018

## Performance of Science in Schools in Swansea

<b>Purpose:</b>	To look at performance of science in Schools across Swansea.
<b>Content:</b>	Q&A session with professionals on performance of science in Schools
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	Consider the information provided and make the panels views known to the Cabinet Member via a Conveners Letter
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Cllr Mo Sykes, Convener Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The panel agreed to look at the performance of Science in Schools in Swansea at their meeting on the 15 March 2018.

### 2. Performance of Science in Schools in Swansea

- 2.1 The following people have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Helen Morgan Rees, Head of Achievement and Partnership
- Jeff Bird, Headteacher at Bishopston Comprehensive School
- Janet Waldron, Headteacher at Pontarddulais Comprehensive School
- Leader/s of Learning for Science (ERW)

- 2.3 The following questions have been sent to all those invited to attend so that they can prepare for this Q&A session.

1. How we are encouraging and inspiring pupils to take up science subjects (include how we are particularly encouraging female take up)?
2. How truly accessible is science to pupils across the whole of Swansea?
  - a. Are there financial implications to parents of young people choosing science subjects?
  - b. How do we ensure that all pupils can have high aspirations in science?
  - c. Are there examples of the PDG grant being used by any schools in this aspect?
3. Do we link with and use private, public or university sector (to inspire, for observational work and as role models in science field)?

4. How we are learning, sharing and celebrating good practice in science subjects?
5. Do we have any issues in Swansea with the recruitment and retention of science teachers? If yes, how are we addressing this?
6. How do excellent schools engage and retain the interest of pupils in science? How do you inspire children in science?
7. How do we link with or advise young people about their next steps in science after school?
8. How do schools link with 6<sup>th</sup> forms and colleges to ensure progression in science subjects?
9. What is stopping children taking up and/or performing in science, what are the barriers and how can they be overcome?
10. Is the curriculum sufficiently geared towards science, is there enough time allocated? Is there enough time in the early part of secondary school to give grounding to take to next level?

### **3. Conclusions**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Panel are asked to discuss and consider the evidence gathered from this exercise and to give their views via a Conveners letter to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning.