



**PARTNERIAETH**

To:  
**Cllr. Darren Price**  
Chair of Partneriath Joint Committee

Please ask for: **Scrutiny**  
Scrutiny Office Line: **01792 637256**  
e-mail: [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk)  
Date: **01/03/2023**

Dear Councillor Price

### **Partneriath Scrutiny Councillor Group – 13 February 2023**

The Scrutiny Councillor Group would like to thank Ian Altman, Lead Officer, Cressy Morgan, Strategic Adviser and Helen Morgan Rees, Lead Director for attending our meeting, for presenting the information we requested and answering our questions. I am writing to you to reflect on our views from the meeting.

The Lead Director outlined the financial position of Partneriaeth giving us a breakdown of funding streams including the grant funding, the local authority contributions and service level agreements in place. She also reassured the Panel that the governance arrangements are running as set out in the legal agreement, including Joint Committee, Scrutiny and regular stakeholder meetings.

We were interested to hear about the evaluation and impact report that is currently being written, understanding that it will outline areas such as the value for money of Partneriaeth (so far) and that this will be submitted to the Joint Committee in June. We look forward to sight of this once it is available. We noted the 28 members staff were now employed by Partneriaeth which well down on the number employed by ERW.

We also reviewed the Risk Register with Ian Altman noting one amendment which strengthened the comment around the increased risk of priority one and schools not being sufficiently supported in their implementation of the new curriculum. We discussed and were concerned to hear about the risk of the Welsh Government grant funding not coming through on time, because clearly Partneriaeth is dependent on this grant. However, we were reassured to hear that the monies do tend to come through in a timely manner.

We did raise a concern about the impact of the Welsh Government workload pay award and its potential impact on teaching time. We understand there is no detail available at present but we would appreciate being kept up to date as this progresses and informed of the potential impact it will have in our schools.

As outlined in our last letter we agreed to receive an update on the implementation of the six Partneriaeth key priorities, one at each of our meetings. At this meeting we started with Priority One: Curriculum & Assessment, supporting a national curriculum with equity & excellence at its core that sets high standards for all learners. Cressy

Morgan and Ian Altman gave us details on progress with this, including looking at how it flows through the Business Plan and the Professional Learning offer. We discussed how successful cluster working has been in some areas and were shown three examples of this. We do recognise that there are different challenges across the different clusters, so one size will not fit all and that a mixture of universal and bespoke support seems to be most effective. We were pleased to hear that a flexible and agile approach is taken when supporting all clusters.

We also wanted to emphasise the importance of taking all teachers on the journey to implement the New Curriculum for Wales, recognising the prescriptive nature of the old curriculum and the skills required for the New Curriculum, which could be challenging for some who are used to the old system.

The Councillor Group wanted to recognise and thank Partneriaeth staff for their hard work in developing a team working ethos with schools particularly in relation to the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales.

We would welcome your thoughts on the contents of this letter but on this occasion do not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Lyndon Jones**  
**Chair of Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group**  
[Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk)