



**To/
Councillor Jen Raynor
Cabinet Member for Education
Improvement, Learning and Skills**

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19 July 2018

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills following the meeting of the Panel on 18 July 2018. It is about pre decision scrutiny of proposed changes to the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service.

Dear Councillor Raynor,

Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel – 18 July 2018

We thank Cllr Raynor, Nick Williams, Mark Sheridan and Pam Cole for attending the meeting and answering their questions about the options for the future structure and delivery of the Ethnic Minority achievement Service.

As was raised at Cabinet on the 19 July we support the proposed decision and agree that Option 2 should be the preferred way forward for the service. We believe that this model will, given the current financial circumstances, will provide the best balance by retaining a small central team and then devolving the rest of the funds to schools. Given this we would like to highlight the following points:

- That the impact of this on pupil attainment will need to be monitored closely by the local authority and by individual schools.
- That the local authority and schools will, in the future, need to develop much wider working relationships with, for example local communities, community groups and the university in order to provide support and fill some of the language gaps that are identified.
- That an audit of those organisations that currently provide support for, and/or receive a grant for the ethnic minority support needs to be completed. This can then be used to build and develop more resilience and support for those pupils who require it.
- The need to recognise that support goes beyond language needs.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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- We were concerned about the perceived lack of understanding demonstrated by representatives of Welsh Government.
- The potential negative impact on the experiences of our children and young people and their rights as outlined in the Children's Measure and UNCRC is of concern. With our greater understanding of the long term impact of adverse childhood experiences- impact (positive or negative) must be measured/monitored beyond the narrow parameters of what we currently measure as "attainment".
- We were pleased to hear that a similar approach carried out by Cardiff in implementing an Option B type service has shown to be successful.

We would welcome your thoughts on any issue within this letter but as, on this occasion our views were fed directly to Cabinet, we do not require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR MO SYKES

Convener, Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

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