

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**INFORMATION REPORT TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY****28 APRIL 2013****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN****LOCAL AUTHORITY ESTYN INSPECTION – POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Overview and Scrutiny on progress regarding the implementation of the post inspection action plan (PIAP) required following the Estyn inspection of the quality of Bridgend Council's education services for children and young people.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The report relates to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013-17:
- working together to raise ambition and drive up educational achievement;
 - working with children and families to tackle problems early.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Estyn inspection took place in October 2012 with the report being published in February 2013. The overall judgment was adequate. The judgment on the Council's capacity to improve was also adequate.
- 3.2 The inspection report noted a number of strengths, particularly in the areas of support for children with Additional Learning Needs, Access and School Places and Partnership Working. The report stated that the local authority's self-evaluation report was comprehensive and that the Council "identifies accurately areas for improvement and includes these appropriately in future plans". The report also acknowledged the good progress made by the Council in addressing the recommendations made in the previous inspection in 2010.
- 3.3 The Estyn inspection report included 5 recommendations. These formed the basis for the original Post Inspection Action Plan. The five recommendations are:
- Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners at all key stages
 - Recommendation 2: Improve Attendance
 - Recommendation 3: Strengthen self-evaluation
 - Recommendation 4: Improve the quality of information provided to elected members
 - Recommendation 5: Reduce the number of NEETs

3.4 The PIAP was developed following discussions with officers, elected members, schools and the Central South Consortia. The plan was submitted to Estyn on 23rd April 2013, showing how the recommendations would be addressed, and this was reported to Cabinet on 28th May 2013. The PIAP was signed off by Estyn in July 2013.

4. Current situation

4.1 The PIAP addresses the 5 recommendations in the inspection report. It sits within the wider planning and monitoring processes within the Council which ensure that those issues related to these recommendations, and other areas for improvements which are not the subject of a recommendation, are addressed in a coherent and efficient manner. Related actions are also identified in the Directorate Business Plan, corporate programmes and the Single Integrated Partnership Plan.

4.2 The School Improvement Monitoring group comprising the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Resources, Chairperson of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny, Chief Executive, Corporate Director – Children, Head of Service – Strategy, Partnerships and Commissioning, and the Council Leader, will oversee progress of both the action plan and the wider school improvement agenda. The monitoring group meets monthly and receives a report from the Director on progress at each meeting.

4.3 A task and finish group has been established for each of the five recommendations and comprises a range of Local Authority and Consortia Officers and is chaired by the Corporate Director - Childrens. These meetings focus on the tasks and actions in the PIAP and analyses and evaluate the impact of provision for children and young people. This is a key element in terms of strengthening our self-evaluation processes.

4.4 Evidence is posted to the Estyn Virtual Inspection Room (VIR). Officers have direct access to the VIR to support self-evaluation. Officers and members have access to the BCBC intranet Information Zone 'Estyn Inspection Framework Self Evaluation' pages where we are collating our self-evaluation report. Key documents are also posted in the Members Zone. The PIAP is very much a live, working document and changes regularly. The latest version is available on the Information Zone. The latest version of the PIAP is at Appendix A.

4.5 During March 2014 two Estyn link Inspectors carried out a monitoring visit held over 3 days. The focus was on recommendations 2 and 3. Interviews were held with the Chief Executive, Leader, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Corporate Director- Childrens, and a number of officers within the Local Authority and the consortia.

4.6 Written feedback from the monitoring visit is expected in early May. In the verbal feedback meeting the key messages were that overall, progress in responding to the inspection was initially too slow, and the overall judgement is that the current position is behind expectation. However, Estyn did point out that recent changes appear to be accelerating actions to address this. They stated that the pace of change under the new leadership of the Directorate has improved.

- 4.7 A further monitoring visit will be later in the autumn of 2014 to focus on recommendations 1, 4 and 5.
- 4.8 The PIAP in Appendix A sets out the progress to date. The key points are as follows:
- 4.9 Recommendation 1: Improve outcomes for learners at all key stages
There is a clear link between schools making insufficient progress in performance and deficiencies in tracking pupil progress. It is expected that the majority of our schools should be 'reasonable' or 'good' in terms of tracking pupil progress and acting on results.
- 4.10 Schools are currently not adequately linking the tracking of progress with target setting. System leaders are providing support to enable improvement in this aspect.
- 4.11 Analysis of the in- year Consortia data drop for year 11 is being used to target those schools, who are not on track, with appropriate support and intervention provided where necessary. Indicative data suggests that the number of pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold for GCSE's this summer could be around 72.83%. The number of pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Maths could be around 53.54%.
- 4.12 Recommendation 2: Improve Attendance
In order to help schools achieve attendance targets, the Consortia has acquired Callio toolkit materials for schools and provided workshops on their use. 68% of primary schools and 88% of secondary schools are currently using Callio. The remainder are operating other systems at present. Early indications are of positive impact. In academic year 2012/13 percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools was 92.46%. This was an improvement on the previous year. Current data suggests that we will see a further improvement for 2013/14.
- 4.13 Recommendation 3: Strengthen self-evaluation
The Local Authority has good systems to capture, monitor and report performance and to track delivery of plans. However, there is still not enough higher level analysis and evaluation of the impact of provision for children and young people. This will be the focus for development over the next few months.
- 4.14 Recommendation 4: Improve the quality of information provided to elected members
Progress has been slow to get off the ground but is now picking up pace. Training for elected members has been used appropriately to increase their understanding and ability to interrogate data. The Local Authority must ensure all scrutiny members received this and preferably, all elected members also.
- 4.15 Recommendation 5: Reduce the number of NEETs
There have been improvements in data and the frequency of data provision from Careers Wales, in line with the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF).
We have developed an overarching Information Sharing Protocol to enable improved data accessibility and joined-up working. It is envisaged that the NEETs Strategy will be superseded by the YEPF Implementation Action Plan.

Good progress is being made overall. Unsubstantiated, indicative data suggest that the NEETs figure (year 11) for 2012/2013 is down to 3.7% (41 male & 26 female) from 7.1% last year.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 There will be no direct effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules. The inspection will influence the way in which local authority education services are planned and provided in future years.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no implications arising from this report, as the required actions identified in the PIAP at present will be implemented from current resources.

8. Recommendation

8.1 Overview and Scrutiny is recommended to note the progress made against the revised Post Inspection Action Plan. Further reports on progress will be submitted to members in due course.

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Background documents

A. Post Inspection Action Plan