

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**28 APRIL 2014**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES**

**MEMBER AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

**1. Purpose of Report.**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the work of the Member and School Engagement Panel during 2013 - 14

**2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities.**

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013–2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 19 February 2014 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

**3. Background.**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 11 February 2013, the Committee decided that it would establish a Research and Evaluation Panel in order to engage with Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors. The purpose of this would be to explore school performance and improve levels of understanding in support of the Committee's accountability function.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed that the Panel would consider the Estyn report of each secondary school when it is published, alongside school banding figures and school performance data for the relevant year.
- 3.3 It was also agreed that the membership of the Panel would be determined on a rota basis, to allow all Members an opportunity to be involved and to minimise the potential for conflicts of interest, given that a significant number of members are also school governors.
- 3.4 It was also agreed that an annual summary report would be produced to ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Panel.

#### **4. Current Situation / Proposal.**

4.1 Since February the Panel has met on three occasions as follows:

20 March 2013	Maesteg Comprehensive School
12 July 2013	Pencoed Comprehensive School
21 January 2014	Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive School

4.2 Each meeting was attended by the Head Teacher, the Chair of Governors and the Corporate Director – Children.

4.3 Each Panel was provided with:

- The most recent Estyn Inspection report for the school
- School banding information for all Bridgend secondary schools
- A breakdown of banding data specific to the school
- Key Stage 3 data specific to the school
- Key Stage 4 data for all Bridgend schools
- Key Stage 4 data specific to the school
- A table comparing the performance of Bridgend schools with other, similar schools within the Central South Consortium area.

4.4 Each Panel discussed a range of topics specific to the circumstances of each school. However, some common themes to emerge were:

- The importance of senior staff in influencing the quality of teaching and improving outcomes for pupils. In each of the schools interviewed, changes to key members of staff had allowed positive change to progress more quickly.
- Each school saw the benefits of sharing best practice. However, the time commitment involved can lead to resources issues for the school providing the best practice, as it can potentially reduce the amount of time that experienced and effective teachers spend in their own classrooms.
- Each of the schools saw the support and challenge that the governing body was able to provide as critically important in improving standards. However, it was recognised that whilst expectations of governors are rising, many governing bodies find it difficult to recruit, and it can be difficult for volunteers to commit to the additional time required for further training.

#### **5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

5.1 The work of the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

#### **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equalities impact issues arising from the report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications.

## **8. Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the content of the report .

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### **Background Documents**

Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution  
Bridgend County Borough Council Corporate Improvement Plan 2013 -17