

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:
<p>08-Feb-2018</p>	<p>School Standards</p>	<p>The Committee felt that whilst the report included a vast amount of data there was a lack of analysis in relation to individual schools within the county borough and therefore Members felt it difficult to get a grasp of the current situation with schools in Bridgend i.e. which ones were of concern and required significant support etc.</p> <p>The Committee also queried the fact that the report did not provide detail of how exactly the Consortium had firstly had an impact on school performance last year – much work was described but the direct impact and outcomes of this on individual schools was not apparent. Secondly whilst areas of improvement were identified throughout the report, it did not provide ideas or examples of how these improvements would be put in place. Members understood that improvements would be somewhat different in each school however, for areas such as improving attainment of boys across the County Borough, the Committee felt there should be some overall plan for this directed by the Consortium.</p>

With this in mind the Committee requested that they receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:

- School Categorisation information;
- In relation to Post-16 data at 4.53 of the report, the Committee requested that they receive the baseline for each school to give a better indication of how each school has improved;
- Information on Bridgend's ranking for Key Stage 4 based on the latest results;
- Information on what targets were set at each stage in order to determine whether the performance was expected and possibly a cohort issue or whether any actuals differed significantly from the targets set;
- Information that the Consortium has gathered through drilling down into each schools' performance to determine what challenges schools face;
- Further detail of the performance of those with ALN attending the PRU or Heronsbridge School as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree;
- Information on the work that the Consortium is doing to identify the variation for each secondary school at

Key Stage 4, and what is being done about it;

- More information in relation to each schools performance – not necessarily more data but detail of the where, what and how in relation to good and poor performance for each school so that the Committee has an overall understanding of the current situation and priority schools in Bridgend;
- What extent are schools responding to the changes recently introduced such as the removal of Btec etc, to ensure they are still meeting the needs of the pupils;
- What work is being done to mitigate against future dips in performance resulting from any changes to curriculum or changes to performance measures;
- Evidence of how the Consortium has made a direct impact on schools and school performance, what outcomes can they be measured on in relation to Bridgend to assure Members of value for money;
- What is being done to mitigate against the impact of changes in teachers to ensure that this does not have a resulting impact on the performance of pupils;
- Performance in relation to vocational qualifications and non-core subjects – where are there causes for concern and where there is excellent work taking place etc.

Further comments

The Committee agreed to keep an eye on the performance of English Literature as a result of it being removed from the Level 2+ performance measure.

The Committee requested that they invite representatives from other schools to give a broader viewpoint including that of the Consortium support – the Scrutiny Officer agreed to look into this on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee also requested that representatives of the school budget forum be invited to attend future meetings on school performance to seek their views on the consortium and the value for money aspect and the potential impact of the budget reduction to future Consortium funding for 2018-19.

Members requested that the Chair draft a letter to Estyn on behalf of the Committee regarding the recent experiences of some schools having inspections during periods of refurbishment, renovation or a move. Such instances have not only caused extra stress on staff but could potentially affect the school's inspection results even though they were outside of the school's control and could have been avoided had the inspection taken the situation into account and been better timed.

Response/Comments	Follow up required
<p>The process of categorisation provides a view of all schools across the Borough. It is an indication of which schools are of concern and the level of support required. Categorisation indicates the capacity of each school to improve (A, B, C or D with A being very good capacity to improve and D being a limited capacity to improve). The level of support ranges from green support (minimal support) to red support (intensive support). Categorisation for the 2017-2018 academic year has just been verified nationally.</p>	
<p>Direct impact of the Consortium's work on outcomes of individual schools is recorded on Evaluation for Improvement reports, retained centrally at CSC for all schools. Performance of schools and actions taken to improve performance, particularly in relation to those schools causing concern, are reported to the Director on a termly basis through the LA Performance report and meeting. Specific areas of improvement that are particular to a LA are also reported in this report and discussed at the termly meeting e.g. improving Welsh at level 5 and level 6 in 2016-2017. Challenge advisers regularly report to the senior challenge adviser and a termly meeting between all the challenge advisers and LA group managers for school improvement is held. All schools' performance and progress is reported at this meeting. Required actions for improvement / intervention are also agreed.</p> <p>CSC establishes its annual business plan, based on regional and national need. Progress with the business plan is reported annually to the LA. For LA specific improvements the LA does identify areas. Schools are made aware of the general areas through headteacher meetings. This academic year the LA Annex to the CSC business plan is focussing on schools working in their clusters to identify the general areas for improvement that are pertinent to their cluster. Each cluster has produced a 'School on a Page' that sets targets that they need to improve. The Festival of Learning, in June 2018, will share the impact of these improvements across BCBC schools.</p>	



