

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

9 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT BY THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

PLASNEWYDD PRIMARY SCHOOL POST-INSPECTION ACTION PLAN

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (SOSC1) of the progress made by Plasnewydd Primary School in respect of the objectives in the school's post-inspection action plan (PIAP).

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 The report links to the following improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- **Supporting a successful economy**

We will take steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.

- **Helping people to be more self-reliant**

We will take early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.

- **Smarter use of resources**

Ensuring that all its resources (ie financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

3.1 Plasnewydd Primary School was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, Estyn, in January 2018. The full text of the report is available on the Estyn website: www.estyn.gov.uk.

3.2 As a result of the inspection, Estyn was of the opinion that Plasnewydd Primary school required 'special measures'.

3.3 Plasnewydd Primary school was required to draw up a PIAP which illustrated how it will address the six recommendations identified. The recommendations were as follows:

- Recommendation 1 - Improve the quality of teaching and assessment in key stage 2

- Recommendation 2 - Raise standards in reading, writing and mathematics in key stage 2
- Recommendation 3 - Revise the curriculum so that it is broad and balanced and meets the needs of all pupils
- Recommendation 4 - Challenge more able pupils
- Recommendation 5 - Strengthen the effectiveness of senior leaders in identifying and addressing shortcomings in standards and provision
- Recommendation 6 - Address the safeguarding issues identified during the inspection

3.4 The PIAP was approved by Estyn during its monitoring visit in July 2019.

3.5 The local authority, supported by Central South Consortium (CSC), has written a statement of action (SOA) detailing how it will support the school. This was approved by Estyn in July 2019.

3.6 Since September 2018, Plasnewydd Primary School has received intensive support from the local authority and CSC. The package of support has been significant in terms of time spent in school by local authority officers and staff from CSC. In addition, there has been funding for other schools to work with Plasnewydd Primary School in supporting them with their recommendations.

3.7 A new chair of governors was appointed in October 2018.

3.8 Progress review meetings between the local authority, Plasnewydd Primary School and CSC are held on a half- termly basis. The purpose of these meetings is to report on progress and identify barriers to improvement. A report is produced by CSC for each meeting which details progress made.

3.9 Estyn has visited Plasnewydd Primary School on a termly basis to carry out monitoring visits. Following each visit, a report is written detailing progress, which is then shared with the local authority and Plasnewydd Primary School.

3.10 In May 2019, Plasnewydd Primary School was issued with a 'schools causing concern' warning notice by the local authority. The school is required to send weekly reports to the local authority detailing how it is addressing the concerns noted in the warning letter.

3.11 Information about the progress that Plasnewydd Primary School is making is shared at Performance and Financial Monitoring Group (P&F&M) meetings and at School Improvement Group (SIG) meetings on a termly basis.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Plasnewydd Primary School was most recently monitored by Estyn in June 2019. As a result of the monitoring visit, it was Estyn's opinion that, overall, the school still requires 'special measures', although Estyn did identify progress (since March 2019) in some areas.

- 4.2 Estyn's judgement regarding progress reflected the view of the local authority and CSC.
- 4.3 Very good progress has been made in the following recommendation:
- Recommendation 6 - Address the safeguarding issues identified during the inspection
- 4.4 Satisfactory progress has been made in the following recommendations:
- Recommendation 1 - Improve the quality of teaching and assessment in key stage 2
 - Recommendation 3 - Revise the curriculum so that it is broad and balanced and meets the needs of all pupils
- 4.5 Limited progress has been made in the following recommendations:
- Recommendation 2 - Raise standards in reading, writing and mathematics in key stage 2
 - Recommendation 4 - Challenge more able pupils
 - Recommendation 5 - Strengthen the effectiveness of senior leaders in identifying and addressing shortcomings in standards and provision
- 4.6 Estyn's most recent report can be found at Appendix A.
- 4.7 The local authority's most recent progress report can be found at Appendix B.
- 4.8 Plasnewydd Primary School will continue to receive intensive support until it is deemed not to require special measures. This support will be provided and brokered via the CSC and the school's challenge adviser. It will focus on addressing the actions detailed in the PIAP.
- 4.9 CSC will provide formal termly reports in relation to progress against PIAP objectives to the School Improvement Group (SIG).
- 4.10 Estyn will conduct another monitoring visit to review progress during the autumn term 2019.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1. There is no effect upon policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1. There are no direct equality impact issues arising from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1. A summary of the implications relating to the five ways of working as identified in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is as follows:

7.2 Long term

Supports the improvements of standards and outcomes for children and young people.

7.3 Prevention

Development of a PIAP helps to ensure that any recommendations are addressed and acted upon in a timely manner to ensure that there are swift improvements in the recommended areas.

7.4 Integration

Monitoring and acting upon the Estyn inspection report is key to ensuring that outcomes are achieved thus helping to support a successful economy.

7.5 Collaboration

The local authority works closely with schools, Estyn with CSC and other key partner agencies to deliver the well-being objectives. For example, the local authority receives school inspection reports from Estyn, and this informs the work conducted by CSC to deliver the support for school improvement services.

7.6 Involvement

This area of work involves all stakeholders in improving outcomes for children and young people. For example, schools work closely with challenge advisers from CSC to refine their improvement plans or post-inspection action plans and to identify strategic support from the local authority, CSC and elsewhere (as required) reflect the diversity of stakeholders involved in aspects of school improvement.

8. Financial implications

8.1. Any financial implications have been noted in the resource section of the PIAP and SOA. The following will be met from within existing:

- Bridgend County Borough Council budgets - Inclusion and Human Resources (HR) support;
- CSC resources - CSC Strategic Team support, school-to-school support and Accelerated Progress Lead support;
- School budgets - Leadership time, supply cover, staff training, resources and various building maintenance works.

9. Recommendation

9.1. It is recommended that SOSC1 notes and provides comments regarding the content of this report.

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