



## CABINET – 2ND APRIL 2014

**SUBJECT:        PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE  
                      POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN (PIAP)**

**REPORT BY:    ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1.        PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1        To inform Members of the progress made towards meeting the recommendations within the Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) and how it is monitored by Estyn.

### **2.        SUMMARY**

- 2.1        The quality of Caerphilly Local Authority's education services for children and young people was inspected in July, 2012, and was carried out in accordance with section 38 of the Education Act 1997, the Children Act 2004 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000. Following publication of the report in November, 2012, a PIAP was produced and sent to Estyn for approval. The plan was approved in March 2013 and progress has been reported to Members of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet since that time.

### **3.        LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1        Raising standards of achievement and reducing surplus places in schools are current priorities within the Directorate Improvement Plan.

### **4.        THE REPORT**

- 4.1        Estyn use a four point scale to make judgements on three key questions - how good are outcomes?; how good is provision?; and how good is Leadership and Management, as well as current performance and prospects for improvement. The scale is as follows:-

- Excellent - many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice;
- Good - many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement;
- Adequate - strengths outweigh areas for improvement;
- Unsatisfactory - important areas for improvement outweigh strengths.

- 4.2        Caerphilly local authority (LA) was judged to be 'adequate' for the 3 key questions.

- 4.3 When the report was published in November, 2012, the following recommendations were made:
- implement improvement strategies and specific actions to improve outcomes for learners, especially at key stages 3 and 4;
  - strengthen the level of challenge to its secondary schools;
  - improve the robustness of self-evaluation and target setting;
  - align corporate and partnership strategic planning processes in order to make best use of available resources to improve outcomes for children and young people; and
  - take urgent action to reduce surplus capacity in schools generally and secondary schools in particular.
- 4.4 Estyn was of the opinion that the LA fell into the category of follow-up activity and required an Estyn Monitoring visit. The date and focus of this monitoring visit were to be determined by Estyn in due course.
- 4.5 The PIAP was produced by the Directorate Senior Management Team and senior officers in the Education Achievement Service (EAS). It outlines the recommendations made by Estyn in the inspection in July, 2012 and describes clear actions, timescales and success criteria. The PIAP includes contextual information within each recommendation, as well as arrangements for monitoring and reporting the progress made.
- 4.6 In regard to Recommendations 3, 4 and 5, the LA prepared progress reports and supporting evidence to present to Estyn during the monitoring visit which took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. In addition to the information supplied, inspectors interviewed members, officers and headteachers in order to confirm and assess the impact of actions taken. In November 2013, the LA received a letter stating that good progress had been made in all three recommendations. (Appendix 1)
- 4.7 In regard to Recommendations 1 and 2, the LA prepared progress reports and supporting evidence to present to Estyn during the monitoring visit which took place on the 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014. Evidence supporting Recommendations 3, 4 and 5, was also re-considered in order that an overall judgement on the LA's categorisation could be made. In addition to the information supplied, inspectors interviewed members, officers, governors and headteachers in order to confirm and assess the impact of actions taken.
- 4.8 Following this visit, there were three possible outcomes:
1. The LA will be removed from the monitoring category.
  2. The LA will remain in the monitoring category.
  3. The LA will be categorised as requiring significant improvement or special measures.
- 4.9 The outcome of the visit was extremely positive. Inspectors acknowledging that the authority have moved swiftly to address the recommendation from the 2012 Inspection. They also stated that the Council had demonstrated a strong commitment to improve its education services for children and young people.
- 4.10 As a direct result of the judgements made, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the local authority from further follow-up activity. (Appendix 2)

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken on the Post Inspection Action Plan itself however EIAs and relevant consultation will be undertaken where for example specific actions impact on issues of literacy and numeracy, school exclusions, discriminatory bullying etc. where an Equalities or Welsh Language perspective may be part of the context.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 All responses received are reflected in the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Members note the content of the report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 The PIAP has been submitted to Estyn and there is a requirement for progress to be monitored by the Council.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Education Act 2005.

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### Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Estyn Letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

Appendix 1 - Estyn Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.