



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 9TH APRIL 2013

SUBJECT: THE POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE ESTYN INSPECTION IN JULY 2012

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to inform Members of the progress made towards meeting the recommendations within Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP).

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 will be reported to Members of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee.

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 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 is of the opinion that the authority falls into the category of follow-up activity and will require an Estyn Monitoring visit. The date and focus of this monitoring visit will 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 Recommendations 1 and 2 are closely linked and therefore progress will be reported on these together. All secondary schools have been categorised within the EAS Intervention Framework and have had a programme of support and challenge from their system leaders. Those judged to be most in need of support have individual Intervention plans which are monitored by senior leaders within the EAS and senior officers at the LA. These plans are also shared with governors. Progress against the plan is monitored carefully and reported to the school and LA. In addition to this, all secondary schools have received an additional visit to challenge targets at individual pupil level and additional interventions have been introduced. From April, a number of schools have been targeted for EAS intervention programmes in Literacy and Numeracy and St Martins secondary school is involved in a Welsh Government Initiative known as Education London, which is designed to accelerate progress in core subjects at KS4.
- 4.7 Recommendation 3 is being met within the established planning cycle, and the summative Self Evaluation Report from last July has been re-written, taking into account comments made during the inspection and within the Estyn report. All departments within the Directorate, and SMT have been involved in Challenge meetings where lead officers have presented their areas and given an evidenced rationale for their judgements. Areas of development for each area have also been identified and these will be included within the Service Improvement and Operational plans.
- 4.8 Recommendation 4 is focused on cohesion of all significant Council plans and the main progress within this has been the construction of the Single Plan which is out to Consultation which closes on 22nd March, 2013.
- 4.9 There have been several progress points against Recommendation 5 to date. The strategic plans (Schools Asset Management Plan 2012-2022 and School Places Plan 2012-2022) have both been updated and circulated to Members during the Members Seminar on 7th March, 2013. A thorough review of individual secondary school capacity to ensure accuracy and compliance with present usage has been concluded, and the detailed primary school review is due to be completed by 31st March 2013. The implementation of Phase 1 of secondary rationalisation was considered by Cabinet on 29th January 2013. A process was agreed for a potential Phase 1 recommendation to Council late July 2013.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been undertaken on the Post Inspection Action Plan itself as Equalities and Welsh Language issues have no direct relevance to the recommendations contained within the Plan.

5.2 EIAs and relevant consultation will be undertaken at the appropriate time however, where the specific actions for example impact on issues of literacy and numeracy, school exclusions 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 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this 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.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Education Act 2005.

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Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Chair and Vice Chair Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
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