



## EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5TH NOVEMBER 2013

**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 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 authority 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 Recommendations 1 and 2 are closely linked and therefore progress has been reported on these together. The majority of actions outlined in the PIAP have been completed and are having a positive impact on provision. Members were updated of this progress on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.
- 4.7 Through a newly developed Quality Assurance framework, the actions relating to Recommendation 1 and 2 are monitored regularly to ensure that progress is on track.
- 4.8 School performance data at Key Stage 4 has yet to be confirmed, so assessment of impact on Recommendation 1 is to be made in December 2013.
- 4.9 Estyn will examine evidence in support of these two recommendations during their next visit, , the date of which is yet to be confirmed.
- 4.10 In regard to Recommendations 3, 4 and 5, the local authority 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.
- 4.11 Estyn will subsequently confirm their assessment of the local authority's progress in writing and this will then be reported to this Committee.
- 4.12 Findings from the monitoring visit in October and the visit to gauge progress on Recommendation 1 and 2, will form part of the overall decision on the LA's categorisation.

## **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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Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning  
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