



## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22ND MAY 2018**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN PROTOCOL AND RISK REGISTER**

**REPORT BY: EDWARD PRYCE, SERVICE STRATEGIC AND POLICY LEAD, EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS)**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide information for Members on the agreed SEWC Schools Causing Concern Protocol and supporting Risk Register Process.
- 1.2 To provide an update for Members on Caerphilly Schools currently on the Risk Register (22 March 2018)

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The SEWC Schools Causing Concern Protocol (Appendix 2) forms a part of, and is aligned with the National Model for School Improvement. This report provides both a summary of these process and support Schools Causing Concern risk register. It also provides further information on the Caerphilly schools included on the register.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The recommended course of action contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:
  - A prosperous Wales
  - A resilient Wales
  - A more equal Wales
  - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
  - A globally responsible Wales

### **4. THE REPORT**

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The SEWC Schools Causing Concern Protocol (Appendix 2) forms a part of, and is aligned with the National Model for School Improvement. It describes the processes related to the informal support and challenge provided by the Local Authority (LA) to a school, prior to any issuing of a warning notice or invocation of formal powers of intervention based on the six grounds for intervention. It also aligns with the Welsh Government (WG) Guidance on Schools Causing Concern (March 2016) (Appendix 2). The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 consolidated, clarified and reformed the law in relation to intervention in schools causing concern.

- 4.2 Over the past three years local authority Directors in partnership with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) have operated a regional approach to the implementation of the statutory processes surrounding Schools Causing Concern.
- 4.3 The previous protocol was last updated in April 2017 and subsequently July 2017, to include a process for establishing and maintaining a Risk Register of Schools Causing Concern. The Register is used regularly to review the actions taken by local authorities, the EAS and religious authority (as appropriate) for each school identified at risk, to ensure that appropriate support and challenge has been provided to secure the necessary pace of improvement and to improve regional consistency, particularly in the use of statutory powers. Schools listed on the register are agreed by local authority Directors of Education and the EAS Managing Director. The Headteacher and Governing Body are notified in writing if their school is placed on the Schools Causing Concern Register. This notification letter notes the reasons why the school is included and explains the process of determining the support that both the local authority and the EAS will provide. This information will already be included on the school's support or intervention plan.
- 4.4 The register considers a range of criteria to identify schools at risk including:
- Pace of progress against current school support or intervention plan;
  - National categorisation outcomes (3-year period);
  - Current Estyn category (e.g. statutory category / remaining in a category for a longer than anticipated period of time);
  - Pupil outcomes (Benchmarks over a 3-year period) for relevant age phase including a comparison to Welsh Government modelled estimates at KS4;
  - Information provided through the target setting and progress towards targets process;
  - Attendance (Benchmarks over a 3-year period);
  - Exclusions; and
  - Any other LA specific concerns linked to: Finance, Safeguarding, Human Resources, Additional Learning Needs.
- 4.5 As part of this process, where a local authority in partnership with the EAS has concerns in relation to the quality of teaching, learning and standards achieved by pupils and/ or the leadership and management of a school, prompt action will be taken to support. Such concerns will be based on an appropriate range of available quantitative and qualitative evidence, including analysis of performance data, scrutiny of learners' work and progress, learning walks and evaluations of leadership and management. Where this is the case, a full review of the leadership and management of a school may be considered. The timetable for the review and subsequent school activity will be completed in full consultation with the school.
- 4.6 The register is reviewed on at least a termly basis by senior officers within the local authorities and the EAS to ensure that levels of support and challenge are consistent. Progress of schools is also discussed at the meetings with all Cabinet Members for Education on a termly basis. Following these meetings schools will be notified if there are any changes to their inclusion on the register or any updates regarding support. The process for holding Education Improvement Board meetings and/or intervention meetings continues and this is an opportunity to have open discussions about progress and support. These meetings will involve the Cabinet Member for Education, where appropriate.
- 4.7 This work recognises that the progress made by schools cannot be attributed solely to the work of the regional consortium, as other partners in the system also play an important role. The role of school leaders and governing bodies in holding these leaders to account are a key factor in securing school improvement.

- 4.8 The improvements that are required at regional and LA level will continue to require a strong commitment to partnership working to be successful; with each LA making full use of their statutory powers, as appropriate, and wider support services such as HR to ensure that all schools make improvements at the required pace.
- 4.9 School leaders in schools across the region requiring the most improvement will need to fully engage with the improvements that need to be made and, alongside governing bodies, will need to drive forward this change at pace. The EAS will offer support and challenge through this process but will not be able to effect change on a whole region level without the commitment from each tier within the system.

### Caerphilly Schools on the Risk Register (22 March 2018)

- 4.10 The last meeting of LA senior officers and the EAS took place on 22 March 2018. All Caerphilly schools on the register are listed, along with their: phase; whether there is a current live LA Warning Notice; National Categorisation over 3 years; and current Estyn follow-up status (where available)

School name	Phase	LA Warning Notice Issued	National Categorisation <i>updated for in-year changes</i>			Current Estyn Follow-up Status
			2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Bedwas High School	Sec	Y	Red	Amber	Red	Special Measures
Cwmcarn High School	Sec		Red	Red	Amber	None
Heolddu Comprehensive	Sec		Amber	Amber	Amber	None
Islwyn High	Sec			Amber	Red	n/a
Lewis Girls' Comprehensive	Sec		Amber	Amber	Amber	Estyn Review
Lewis School Pengam	Sec		Amber	Yellow	Amber	Estyn Review
The Learning Centre (PRU)	Sec		Amber	Amber	Amber	None
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	Sec		Yellow	Yellow	Amber	Estyn Review
Bryn Awel Primary	Pri		Yellow	Yellow	Red	None
Llanfabon Infants	Pri	Y	Green	Yellow	Red	Significant Improvement
St James Primary	Pri		Amber	Red	Red	None
Upper Rhymney Primary	Pri		Amber	Amber	Amber	None
Idris Davies School	3-18				Amber	n/a

The table below provides additional information on one key headline indicator on performance and one on attendance for each of the last 3 years.

School name	Phase	KS4 Level 2 including E/W&M			Percentage attendance		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Bedwas High School	Sec	35.0	51.0	54.7	94.4	94.3	93.6
Cwmcarn High School	Sec	55.9	55.2	57.6	92.9	92.7	94.0
Heolddu Comprehensive	Sec	48.9	44.3	40.4	90.4	93.0	93.4
Islwyn High	Sec	53.6	51.1	45.1	92.8	93.0	93.0
Lewis Girls' Comprehensive	Sec	54.3	54.5	56.0	91.6	93.2	93.1
Lewis School Pengam	Sec	57.8	58.5	36.6	92.5	93.0	93.5
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	Sec	53.5	62.0	52.5	93.0	93.5	94.0

School name	Phase	KS2 CSI (FPI for Infant School)			Percentage attendance		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Bryn Awel Primary	Pri	92.3	95.8	100	93.8	96.1	94.9
Llanfagon Infants	Pri	93.1	90.0	90.6	93.4	93.1	91.3
St James Primary	Pri	55.6	73.8	71.4	92.0	92.8	93.2
Upper Rhymney Primary	Pri	90.5	90.5	90.9	93.4	92.5	93.0

Please note that colour coding for the above table represents Benchmark Quarter. Information for Idris Davies 3-18 and The Learning Centre not available for

1	2	3	4
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- 4.11 The next meeting of the Schools Causing Concern – Risk Register group is 9 May 2018. This meeting will be used to review progress against agreed LA and EAS Actions to support these schools and to agree future required actions.

## 5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The schools causing concern protocol and risk register contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The long term strategy is to improve the standards in our schools and therefore improve attainment outcomes for our children and young people. The schools causing concern protocol and risk register aim to highlight concerns and risks at the earliest opportunity thereby enabling early intervention through an integrated and collaborative partnership approach and preventing the escalation to use of statutory powers.

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The EAS have their own Equalities and Welsh Language plans in place. CCBC has therefore not undertaken any specific impact assessment on this regionally agreed protocol.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7 There are no specific financial implications for maintaining the Schools Causing Concern Risk Register.

## **8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no consultations that have not been included in the report

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 For members to receive the report for information and take the opportunity to comment.
- 10.2 For members to consider the main strengths and areas for development within Caerphilly schools.

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 For members to have the opportunity to comment on the process and progress of Caerphilly schools included on the Risk Register.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

- 12.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000  
Children's Act 2004  
Standards and Framework Act 1998

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 SEWC Schools Causing Concern Protocol 2017-18  
Appendix 2 WG Statutory Guidance – Schools Causing Concern (March 2016) (202/2016)