

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	9 April, 2019
Subject:	Progress Report by the School Progress Review Scrutiny Panel
Purpose of Report:	To report on the Panel's work from 7/11/18 to 2/4/19
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Gwilym Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor R Meirion Jones
Head of Service:	Arwyn Williams
Report Author:	Gwyneth Mon Hughes
Tel:	01248 752908
Email:	GwynethHughes@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Not Ward Specific

1 - Recommendation/s

The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is requested to recommend that:

1. It agrees that the Panel is providing robust challenge on individual school's performance.
2. It notes that Panel is focusing on developing shadowing arrangements with GwE to enable Members to attend various schools monitoring, support and training events.
3. It notes that the Panel will continue to monitor the implementation of the Learning Services Monitoring Plan.
4. The Panel is not aware of any key message that is currently in need of escalation to the Executive.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

The County Council Plan 2017-2022 has the ambition to work with the people of Anglesey, their communities and partnerships to ensure the delivery of the best available services that will improve quality of life for everyone across the Island. One of three aims is the plan to 'Create conditions that will enable everyone to reach their potential'. The work of the Scrutiny Panel - School Progress Review (the Panel) is key to supporting the Council and schools to realise that aim and objective.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [**focus on customer/citizen**]

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]

3.3 A look at any risks **[focus on risk]**

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role **[focus on performance & quality]**

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

- Is the Committee satisfied with the work undertaken by the Panel?
- Are there any suggestions to strengthen the work of the Panel?
- Are there areas that need to be scrutinised by the Panel?

5 – Background / Context

5.1 Members will be aware that 3 Scrutiny Panels have been established, namely:

- **Scrutiny Panel: Finance** -reports to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- **Scrutiny Panel: Children’s Services**- reports to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- **Scrutiny Panel: Schools Progress Review**- reports to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. Membership of the panel includes :
 1. Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
 2. Councillor Alun Roberts (Vice-Chair)
 3. Councillor Margaret M Roberts
 4. Councillor Vaughan Hughes
 5. Councillor Kenneth P Hughes
 6. Councillor Richard Griffiths
 7. Councillor John Arwel Roberts
 8. Keith Roberts

5.2 This report summaries the work of the School Progress Review Scrutiny Panel (the Panel), from 7th November 2018 to 2nd April 2019.

5.3 The Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee established the Panel on the 21st November 2012. It arose from recommendations made by Estyn on the quality of education services for children and young people on Anglesey. The Senior School Standards and Inclusion Manager provides guidance to the Panel about schools that are appropriate to invite to appear before it. The criterion used to select schools are based on the National School Categorisation System, school performance and Estyn reports and the aim is to have a good mix of small, medium, large and primary/secondary schools who fall into the various coding colour categories.

- 5.4 The Panel also received support from GwE school advisors during this period (GwE is the Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service for North Wales). It works alongside and on behalf of the Local Authorities of Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham and Anglesey to develop excellent schools across the North Wales and to improve outcomes for pupils by ensuring effective leadership at all levels and quality teaching and learning in all classrooms.
- 5.5 During January 2019, the Welsh Government published colour support categories for all schools in Wales. The Welsh Government and regional education improvement consortia developed the National School Categorisation System together in order to identify schools in Wales that need most help, support and guidance to improve. It also identifies those that are doing well but could be doing better and those that are highly effective and could help and support others to do better.
- 5.6 The Panel is very pleased to note that no schools on Anglesey were included in the red support category and is assured that five schools falling into the amber support category are in receipt of the appropriate level of support from GwE and the Learning Service. The remaining schools on Anglesey fall into either the Yellow or the Green category, which means that they are effective or highly effective requiring minimal support by GwE of between 4 to 10 days per year.
- 5.7 Since the progress report submitted to the Committee on 13th November 2018 the committee has met with Schools Head teachers and Chair of Governors as well as consideration of arrangements to shadow GwE at various activities:
- 22 November 2018 -Ysgol Gynradd Corn Hir (Green)¹ and Ysgol Gynradd Henblas (Yellow)¹.
 - 13 December 2018 –Ysgol Uwchradd David Hughes (Yellow)¹ and monitoring Learning Service Action Plan.
 - 24 January 2019 – Ysgol Gynradd Bodedern (Amber)¹.
 - 15 February 2019- Ysgol Gynradd Llanfairpwll (Green)¹ and Ysgol Gynradd Santes Fair (Amber)¹.
 - 22 March 2019- Consideration of shadowing GwE arrangements and self-evaluation.
- 5.8 The Panel has focused on the following matters:
- The Panel met with representatives of five primary schools and one secondary schools during this period. The Senior Standards and Inclusion Officer provided the Panel with a school performance summary before every meeting. The Panel also receives information from GwE officers so that it is aware of support arrangements in place for specific schools. The Panel is pleased to note that no schools on Anglesey are identified to be in the red support category and is assured that five schools falling into the amber support category are receiving the appropriate support from GwE and the Learning Service.
 - The Panel concerned to note that there had what appeared to be an anomaly with regard to grade threshold marking of pupils sitting the English GCSE examination during summer 2018. Secondary Schools, GwE and Local Government Education Services in Wales had

¹ National School Categorisation System Colour Coding (as at January 2019)

raised concerns that there had been a change in grade boundary threshold, which meant that pupils who sat the examination early were treated differently to pupils who sat a different paper earlier in the academic year. Because of the alleged anomaly, fewer pupils than envisaged got a grade C in the summer 2018, which had a negative effect on secondary school performance indicators in Key Stage 4. The Panel assured that there was ongoing dialogue with the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) to investigate the matter and if necessary to prevent/minimise reoccurrence.

5.9 On the 13th December 2018, the Head of Learning provided the Panel with a Progress report on implementation of the Learning Action Plan. The Plan sets out action that is needed in order to:

- Continue with the current work programmes that are already implemented within the Service;
- Sustain the activities in hand in attempt to influence stage outcomes;
- Set a foundation for improving children and young adults' educational results;
- Ensure that the partnership between the Learning Service and schools is professional, is based on respect and honesty, support one another, and form a co-ownership of the education system in Anglesey; and
- Ensure effective collaboration with strategic partners.

The Panel assured that the Learning Service is taking appropriate steps to implement matters that require attention and will continue to monitor implementation by the service.

6.0 During meeting with representatives of Anglesey schools, the Panel noted the important work undertaken by GwE on Anglesey in training, supporting and monitoring schools to be as effective as possible. On 15th December 2018, the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee agreed that arrangements be put in place for Members of the Panel to shadow the work of GwE. On the 22nd March 2019, the Panel considered options for Members to attend various activities arranged by GwE during the school spring term, The Panel will develop this practice during the summer term.

6.1 The Panel concluded that there are no key messages that currently need to be escalated to the attention of the Executive.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

Not applicable

7 – Financial Implications

Not applicable

8 – Appendices:

None

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

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