

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 th September, 2022
Subject:	Education Scrutiny Panel
Purpose of Report:	Provide an update on progress of the Education Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr. Dylan Rees
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr. Ieuan Williams
Head of Service:	Rhys H Hughes, Deputy Chief Executive Marc Berw Hughes, Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
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Local Members:	n/a

1 - Recommendation/s

The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is requested to :
R1 Note the initial progress to date regarding the work of the Education Scrutiny Panel.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Direct link to the Council Plan / transformation priorities. The Council's Plan includes an ambition to work with the people of Anglesey, their communities and with partners to ensure provision of the best possible services that will improve the quality of life for everyone across the Island. One of the Plan's 3 aims is to "create conditions that will enable everyone to fulfil their full potential." The work of the Panel is crucial in supporting schools and the Council in achieving that 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

At the Panel's request:

1. To what extent is the Scrutiny Committee satisfied with initial direction of the Panel's work?
2. What suggestions does the Committee have to further strengthen the Panel's work?
3. What other areas does the Panel need to scrutinise?

5 – Background / Context

1. CONTEXT

Members will be aware that scrutiny has developed during the previous Administration through the work of 3 scrutiny panels. The new Administration¹ has confirmed that the structure of the scrutiny panels for the current Council will be as follows:

- Social Services/ Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Panel
- Finance Scrutiny Panel
- **Education Scrutiny Panel.**

The Panel's Governance Arrangements

The Panel's terms of reference has been confirmed by the Scrutiny Committee² to create the conditions that will allow the Panel to broaden the scope of its work with the following key benefits:

- i. Develop a model of working in Education which focuses on a smaller group to enable Members to be more involved, to develop a level of subject expertise and to encourage good attendance and teamwork
- ii. Further strengthen the capacity of Members to challenge performance by improving the quality of their general information and also their understanding of schools' performance data
- iii. Forum to discuss information around Service risks as a basis to inform the forward work programme of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
- iv. Forum to develop a group of Members with the expertise and ownership to lead discussions on Education matters in the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Members will be aware of the robust governance arrangements in place to underpin the work of the Panel³ and it is intended to continue to hold monthly meetings of the Panel in the future. Furthermore, a process has been established for Cllr Gwilym Owen Jones,

¹ Meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 21st June, 2022

² Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 21st June, 2022

³ Meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 20th April and 27th June 2017

Panel chair to report progress on a quarterly basis to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Membership of the Panel:

Councillor	Scrutiny Committee
Gwilym O Jones (Chair of the Panel)	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Margaret M Roberts (Vice-Chair of the Panel)	
Non Dafydd	
Derek Owen	
Arfon Wyn	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Dyfed Wyn Jones	
Alwen Watkin	
Keith Roberts	

In terms of local context, it is noted that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the membership of the Education Scrutiny Committee comprises of Members newly elected in May of this year⁴. It will therefore be necessary for the Council to create the conditions for all Members to fully take part in the Panel's scrutiny work eg skills for effective scrutiny, effective questioning, understanding of the Education system, raise awareness of national education work streams etc. It is therefore the intention to make full use of the forward work programme to ensure appropriate and timely inputs to support members of the Education Scrutiny Panel.

2. FOCUS OF WORK OF THE EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL

This is the Education Scrutiny Panel's first progress report and covers quarter 1 of the current administrative year.

The Panel⁵ met once during this period and the following matters were considered:

2.1 The Panel's terms of reference and the context of its work

The terms of reference was considered in detail noting that education accountability and Member scrutiny of the broader education system is critically important. Reference was also made to the expectations of Estyn, namely – that Members have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the education provision to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively:

- **Standards** – challenge performance in order to raise standards around education attainment
- **Quality** – an understanding of the breadth and quality of education provision
- **Leadership** – understanding of the effectiveness of education leadership at all levels in the County.

The clarity of role of the Education Scrutiny Panel was also noted:

⁴ Local Government Elections May, 2022

⁵ Education Scrutiny Committee held on 14 July, 2022

- i. Monitor and scrutinise – standards, performance, progress and distance travelled
- ii. Understanding → the breadth and quality of education provision; education leadership at all levels
- iii. Ensure that the voice of learners is heard
- iv. Provide assurance to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Forward Work Programme of the Scrutiny Panel for the period July → December, 2022

There were discussions regarding the need for a robust forward work programme supporting the Panel's contribution to the governance arrangements of the Council. It was noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Panel⁶ will focus on the Estyn inspection report on the Education Authority (June, 2022) and the post inspection action plan.

6. MATTER TO BE ESCALATED TO THE PARENT COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION

None to be escalated by the Panel.

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

n/a

7 – Financial Implications

n/a

8 – Appendices:

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

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

⁶ Education Scrutiny Panel, 22 September, 2022

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Cllr. Gwilym Owen Jones
Chair of the Schools Scrutiny Panel
Date: 30/08/2022