

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL <u>Scrutiny Report Template</u>	
Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 th September, 2023
Subject:	Education Scrutiny Panel
Purpose of Report:	An update on the progress of the work of the Education Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Dylan Rees
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Dafydd Roberts, Portfolio Holder - Education and the Welsh Language
Head of Service	Marc Berw Hughes, Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
Tel:	07971167198
Email:	AnwenDavies@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	N/A

1 – Recommendation/s

The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the following:

R1 Progress made during the last period in terms of the work of the Education Scrutiny Panel

R2 Significant progress made in terms of developing a revised scrutiny model for Education issues as a basis for the work of the Education Scrutiny Panel and both parent committees.

2 - Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Direct link with the Council Plan: 2023-2028.

Education is one of the six key aims (Council Plan: 2023-2028) namely - ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations. It is considered that Elected Members have a crucial role in realising this aim by scrutinising and holding to account. The work of the Education Scrutiny Panel contributes towards this aim.

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]

3.6 Potential impacts that this decision could have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

At the Panel's request:

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

5 – Background / Context

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Members will be aware of how the scrutiny panels contribute towards the governance arrangements of the Council:

- Social Services Scrutiny Panel
- Finance Scrutiny Panel
- **Education Scrutiny.**

1.2 Panel Governance Arrangements

The Scrutiny Committee¹ confirmed the Panel's terms of reference in a way that creates the conditions to broaden the remit of its work with the following key benefits:

- i. Developing a scrutiny model for Education that focuses on a smaller group of Members working together on specific themes so that they can be more involved, develop a level of expertise in the subject and encourage good attendance and teamwork
- ii. Strengthen Members' capacity to further challenge performance by improving the quality of their general knowledge and understanding regarding school performance data
- iii. A forum for discussing information on Service risks as a basis for the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's forward work programme
- iv. A forum for developing a group of Members with the expertise and ownership to lead discussions on Education issues at the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

¹ Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 21st June, 2022

Members will be aware of the robust governance arrangements that are in place as a basis for the work of the Panel² and it is intended to continue to convene monthly meetings of the Panel in future. Furthermore, arrangements have been put in place to regularly report on progress to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee through the Chair of the Panel, Cllr. Gwilym Owen Jones. The Panel's membership is attached (**Appendix 1**).

2. FOCUS OF THE EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK

This is the Education Scrutiny Panel's third progress report and covers the period February – September 2023.

The Panel³ met on seven occasions during this period and considered the following issues:

2.1 Wales Additional Learning Needs Code

At its meeting in February⁴, the Panel received a presentation on the implications and requirements of the Wales Additional Learning Needs Code focusing on the following aspects:

- i. The Additional Learning Needs Regulations (Wales) 2021
- ii. The Education Tribunal for Wales Regulations 2021
- iii. Education Regulations (Pupil Referral Units) (Wales) (Amendment) 2021

Outcome:

Gain an understanding of the implications and requirements of the Wales Additional Learning Needs Code.

2.2 Elective Home Education

A comprehensive presentation was given during a meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel on 27th April on the arrangements put in place for elective home education on Anglesey.

Outcome:

Receive assurance that arrangements are in place locally to meet Welsh Government requirements.

2.3 Self-evaluation – impact of the Education Scrutiny Panel's work

Arrangements were put in place for the Panel to self-evaluate its contribution to Education scrutiny at its meeting in March, 2023⁵ - through an internally facilitated session. The following points were noted in particular:

- Self-evaluation is extremely important as a way of recognising success as well as identifying areas for development

² Meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel held on 20th April and 27th June 2017

³ Education Scrutiny Panel held on 16/02/23, 30/03/23, 27/04/23, 25/05/23, 13/06/23, 18/07/23 and 05/09/23

⁴ Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel held on 16th February 2023

⁵ Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel held on 30th March 2023

- A successful Estyn inspection – it is crucial that we continue to further strengthen corporate governance arrangements to support the education provision
- Create the conditions for Elected Members to succeed as political leaders continues to be a priority. This includes the ability to measure the impact of Councillors' work.

As a result of scrutiny, the Panel decided to prioritise the following aspects as a basis for further development of the Panel during 2023/24:

- ✚ Continue to focus on developing team working amongst Panel members (development workshop May 2023 was a further driver for this)
- ✚ Further develop engagement by Members and the use of questioning strategies
- ✚ Voice of the learner – to be strengthened in the Panel's work
- ✚ Further strengthen feedback from Members in light of shadowing activities as an integral part of the Panel's work programme
- ✚ The Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability Framework (Welsh Government) is a key foundation and sets a framework for developing a scrutiny model for education issues
- ✚ The Panel's forward work programme to be developed based on themes.

Outcomes:

- Self-evaluation plays a prominent part in our Scrutiny governance arrangements
- Arrangements in place for reviewing, learning and continuous improvement
- Elected Members take ownership of their contribution towards the education provision on Anglesey.

2.4 The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan: 2022-2032

At its meeting in June⁶, the Panel considered progress made in delivering the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. Specific attention was given to Anglesey's vision, aim and ambition for Welsh medium education as well as the contribution of the Language Unit across the primary and secondary sectors.

Outcome:

Receive assurance regarding progress made last year in delivering the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

2.5 Schools placed in a category, Requiring Follow up or Additional Support from Estyn

The Panel also reviewed the County's schools placed in a category, requiring follow up or regular additional support from Estyn during the latest period⁷ in order to scrutinise the improvement arrangements in place at specific schools.

⁶ Scrutiny Panel meeting dated 13th June 2023

⁷ Meetings of the Education Scrutiny Panel on 30th March, 2023 and 18th July 2023

Outcomes:

- i. Receive the latest information regarding standards in Anglesey's schools
- ii. Receive assurance that improvement measures are in place and that appropriate support is available for schools that are a cause for concern
- iii. The Education Scrutiny Panel's work is based on having arrangements for holding to account and robust scrutiny.

2.6 Developing Effective Collaboration → looking in detail at how the Learning Service creates the conditions for effective partnership working

At its meeting in July⁸, consideration was given to the way in which the Learning Service creates the conditions for effective partnership working by looking at the Authority's vision, aims and objectives through two case studies:

- **Holyhead** Catchment → teaching and learning
- **Llangefni** Catchment → strategic (headteacher collaboration).

Outcomes:

- i. A better understanding of the positive impact of partnership working on education provision and the individual learner experience
- ii. Confirm the added value and benefits of partnership working
- iii. Continue to monitor the conditions in place by the Learning Service for effective collaboration.

2.7 Model for Education Scrutiny – Education Scrutiny Charter

This was considered on two occasions in recent months⁹. It is the subject of a separate report on the Scrutiny Committee's agenda today.

Outcomes:

- i. Implement a work stream to further strengthen arrangements for education scrutiny and holding to account by Elected Members (as a part of our corporate governance processes)
- ii. Develop a local model for education scrutiny that complies with the outcomes of the Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability Framework (Welsh Government)
- iii. Develop an approach underpinned through co-production and joint accountability
- iv. Meet the recommendations of the recent Estyn inspection of the Local Authority¹⁰ → “**R2** Develop and strengthen formal scrutiny arrangements”.

2.8 GwE Annual Report for Anglesey: 2022/23

On 5th September 2023, there was a workshop-style discussion about the main conclusions of the GwE Annual Report: 2022/23. The document affirmed and recognised the nature of the working partnership between GwE and the Local Authority. The following aspects were considered in particular:

⁸ Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel held on 18th July 2023

⁹ Meetings of the Education Scrutiny Panel – 25th May 2023 (in the form of a face-to-face workshop, facilitated externally) and 18th July 2023

¹⁰ Estyn's Inspection Report on Anglesey Local Authority (June 2022)

- New format for the Annual Report – focus on quality locally under a series of specific headings:
 - ✚ Leadership
 - ✚ Improving Teaching and Learning
 - ✚ Curriculum and Provision
 - ✚ Progress and Learner Standards
 - ✚ Support and Challenge for Schools Causing Concern
 - ✚ Specific appendices for – Secondary and Special Schools; Primary School Clusters; training data and support for Anglesey.
- Main findings and areas by sector that will need further attention during 2023/24 and beyond
- The questioning strategy for public scrutiny of the Annual Report in the Partnership and Regeneration scrutiny Committee¹¹ – in order to evidence the added value and to put the principles of the Education Scrutiny Charter into practice.

Outcomes:

- i. **Implement the Education Scrutiny Charter as a basis for Scrutiny work by Members**
- ii. **Develop a robust questioning strategy on Education matters that are of strategic importance to the Council.**

2.9 Scrutiny Panel work programme for the period May 2023 → April 2024

The forward work programme was reviewed at every meeting of the Panel with the aim of ensuring a robust programme to support the Panel's contribution towards the governance arrangements of the Council. It was noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Panel¹² would concentrate on the following issues:

- i. Integrated Collaboration Model – progress in developing a local model for Anglesey (Looked After Children)
- ii. Shadowing Education activities – an update from Panel members
- iii. Forward work programme - review.

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

No matters to be escalated by the Panel.

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

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

N/A

¹¹ Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to be held on the 19th of September, 2023.

¹² Education Scrutiny Panel, 19th October, 2023

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

N/A

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

N/A

7 – Financial Implications

N/A

8 – Appendixes

N/A

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
--

Cllr. Gwilym Owen Jones
Chair of the Education Scrutiny Panel
Date: 10/08/2023
(revised 07/09/2023)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Member	Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Gwilym Owen Jones (Chair)	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Margaret M Roberts (Vice-chair)	
Cllr Non Dafydd	
Cllr Derek Owen	
Cllr Arfon Wyn	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Dyfed Wyn Jones	
Cllr Alwen Watkin	
Cllr Keith Roberts	