

W ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	6 th February, 2024
Subject:	Education Scrutiny Panel
Purpose of Report:	An update on the progress of the work of the Education Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Dylan Rees
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor 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
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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

2 - Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities:

Direct link to the Council Plan: 2023-2028.

Education is one of the six key strategic aims (Council Plan: 2023-2028) namely - ensuring an effective education 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

Members will be aware of the robust governance arrangements 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

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

² Meetings of the Regeneration and Partnership Scrutiny Committee held 20th April & 27th June 2017

through the Chair of the Panel, Cllr. Gwilym Owen Jones. The membership of the Panel is attached (**Appendix 1**).

2. FOCUS ON THE EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK

This is the Education Scrutiny Panel's third progress report and covers the period September, 2023 – January, 2024.

The Panel³ met on 4 occasions during this period and considered the following issues:

2.1 Integrated Joint Working Model

During the meeting in October⁴, a development session was held in the form of a workshop to discuss progress made in developing a local integrated joint working model for Anglesey (Children in Care) focussing on the following aspects:

- Key objectives as a basis for our local arrangements → integrated model, Virtual School, emphasis on achievements and impact
- An integrated method is integral – early intervention, resources, data and outcomes, training, further develop measures in due course
- A whole school approach comprising learners' wellbeing, targeted strategies and responsive strategies.
- Trauma Informed Island – no wrong door frame of mind; working across the Education and Children's and Families Services; trauma informed lens; support wider range of learners.

Outcomes:

- i. An understanding of the obligations and requirements of the integrated joint working model across the boundaries of two services (Education / Children and Families)
- ii. Recognise good practice in local work.

2.2 Wellbeing / Mental Health / Safeguarding

The mental health and wellbeing framework (NEST) was examined in detail and how the Service ensures that children and young people on Anglesey are safe⁵. It was noted: the main aim is to establish a "whole system" approach for developing mental health, wellbeing and support services for infants, children, young people, parents, carers and extended families. The following elements are key to the framework:

- Everyone has a role to play
- Team structure in place to support and develop safe and supportive communities
- Being innovative through co-production is a key element of our arrangements
- No wrong door.

³ Education Scrutiny Panel held on 05/09/23, 19/10/23, 23/11/23, 25/01/24

⁴ Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel held on 19th October, 2023

⁵ Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel held on 23rd November, 2023

The details of one case study of good practice through the lens of one secondary school on the Island was presented to illustrate the principles of the framework in operation.

Outcomes:

- i. Receive assurance that robust arrangements are in place locally to safeguard children and young people on Anglesey through ensuring a “whole system” approach to developing mental health and wellbeing services
- ii. Highlight the local good practice that is happening
- iii. Understanding of local progress when realising our aim of a Trauma Informed Island.

2.3 Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

In January⁶, the Panel received a comprehensive progress report on the work streams introduced in response to the Additional Learning Needs legislation. Also, an update on the Inclusion systems and processes in place across the Island.

Outcomes:

- i. Receive assurance regarding the Authority’s response to the Additional Learning Needs legislation
- ii. Receive the latest data on school attendance, exclusions and de-registrations in Local Authority schools and the role of the specialist team when supporting individual schools on the Island
- iii. Continue to monitor developments in the additional learning needs and inclusion areas.

2.4 Schools Placed in Category, Estyn Follow Up or Receiving Additional Support

The Panel also reviewed Local Authority schools placed in category, subject to Estyn follow up or receiving regular additional support over the last period⁷, in order to scrutinise the improvement arrangements in place within specific schools.

Outcomes:

- i. Receive the latest information regarding standards in schools on Anglesey
- 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 input of the Education Scrutiny Panel is based on having arrangements for holding to account and robust scrutiny.

2.5 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 work programme to support the Panel’s contribution

⁶ Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel held on 25th January, 2024

⁷ Meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel held on 19th October, 2023 & 25th January, 2024

to the Council's governance arrangements. It was noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Panel ⁸would focus on the following matters:

- I. Voice of the Learner - how to ensure learner voice across the Island. Case studies at school, cluster and Local Authority level. An opportunity to discuss with young people on the Island.
- II. Curriculum for Wales – measure local progress in delivering the New Curriculum. Specific focus on the Primary and Secondary Sectors in the transition period
- III. Shadowing Education activities – update and feedback from Panel members
- IV. 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

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

Membership of the Education Scrutiny Panel (**Appendix 1**)

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: 25/01/2024
(Revised: 29/01/24)

⁸ Education Scrutiny Panel, 22nd February, 2024

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	