

IMPROVEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October, 2013

- PRESENT:** Councillor Ieuan Williams (Chair)
Chief Executive
- Executive : Councillors R.Dew, K.P. Hughes, Aled M. Jones,
Alwyn Rowlands.
- Corporate Scrutiny Chair : Councillor R. Meirion Jones.
- Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Sustainable Development;
Director of Lifelong Learning;
Director of Community;
Head of Function (Resources),
Service Improvement Manager, Children's Services (JD).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Committee Officer (MEH).
- ALSO PRESENT:** Professor Mel Ainscow (Chair of the Anglesey
Education Recovery Board),
Mr. Geraint Rees (Education Recovery Board),
Mr.Marc Roberts (Local Authority Inspector, CSSIW).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor H. Eifion Jones.
Mr. Andy Bruce (Wales Audit Office).

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None to declare

2. APOLOGIES

As noted above.

3. MINUTES

Submitted and confirmed as a true record, the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Sustainability Board held on 23rd September, 2013.

4. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANGLESEY EDUCATION RECOVERY BOARD

Submitted – A report by the Director of Lifelong Learning detailing the work of the Recovery Board up to and including September and outlining the future work programme.

The Director of Lifelong Learning stated that the report highlights the performance and progress of the authority against the action plan following the Estyn inspection. The

focus of the performance of Key Stage 4 (pupils age of 14-16 years old) was highlighted. The most important indicator is the L2+ threshold (5 A* - C grades which include Maths and either Welsh or English). This year's improvement in the L2+ threshold is around 1%, and the Director expressed his slight disappointment in respect of this minor increase. However this does represent an increase of around 5.3% since 2011, in comparison with the national increase of 1.8%. This improvement has been achieved despite the disappointing performance in Mathematics in one school and English in another. The improvement in the other indicators is relatively good as was noted in the chart included within the report. The Chair expressed that as the Portfolio Holder for Education he would challenge the Department to increase the L2+ in 2013/14 period.

Attendance in Secondary Schools has improved over the last three years from 90.9% (2010/11), 92.2% (2011/12) to 93.2% (2012/13). This has improved Anglesey's comparative position from 18th in Wales in 2010/11 to 7th in 2012/13. Anglesey's performance is now 0.6% above the Welsh average and only 0.4% behind the best performing authority in Wales.

The Director referred to the PIAP progress which was the 7 recommendations from the May 2012 Estyn Report and showed that all tasks are on schedule. He emphasized that this is the Lifelong Learning Officer's assessment against each of the priorities noted in the PIAP.

The Chair invited Professor Mel Ainscow (Chair of the Anglesey Education Recovery Board), to address the meeting. Professor Ainscow gave a detailed report on the work of the Recovery Board since November 2011 and stated that the Welsh Government had decided that they are going to change the nature of the Recovery Board for the next period in recognition of the it's achievement. He stated that it is an indication therefore that there has been a considerable progress on Anglesey to meet the expectations of the Review. The co-operation of the Authority with the Recovery Board has been a successful process. He noted that he would be stepping down as Chair of the Recovery Board.

The pattern of the improvements within the data in respect of primary and secondary schools on the Island since 2011 is to be congratulated. There is now a clear indication of progress being made and there is a sense of optimism that this progress will continue in the years to come. The priority of the Recovery Board was to support the authority to achieve the targets set by Estyn.

The Recovery Board has also been interested in the longer term developments within the Local Authority Education system. Professor Ainscow considered that the goal of the authority is to be an exemplar within the education system within Wales and beyond. He highlighted the strong community bond of the Island which is of an advantage in the education system. He further noted that the Recovery Board has identified 5 successful Head Teachers on the Island to become leaders in terms of educational improvement on Anglesey. They have been able to create a powerful strategy and have provided leadership with the support of the Local Education Authority in taking the strategy forward. He suggested that an invitation be given to one of the Head teachers to this Board to explain the achievement of the strategy.

Within the 5 Secondary Schools on the Island, there has been some new appointments of Head teachers recently. They are now taking joint action and responsibility to make sure that there is a better performance in 2014.

Professor Ainscow referred to the role of the 'Consortia' in Wales. He noted that there is a conflict in respect of the role of the LEA staff and the role of the Consortia staff and this is still be debated nationally.

The Chair invited Mr. Geraint Rees, a Member of the Recovery Board team to address the meeting. Mr. Rees explained his role in the Welsh Government and that he was one of four Officers seconded to work with local authorities in respect of the regional Consortia and LEA's. He thanked Professor Ainscow for his work on the Recovery Board and to the previous Portfolio Holder for Education, Mr. G.O. Parry MBE for the immense work to improve the educational provision on Anglesey.

RESOLVED

- **To thank Professor Ainscow for his guidance and leadership in his role as Chair of the Recovery Board;**
- **To invite one of the Headteachers identified to lead the educational improvements on Anglesey to a future meeting of this Board.**

5. UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Submitted – a report by the Director of Community in relation to the above.

The Service Improvement Manager outlined the contents of the report and noted that there is evidence, confirmed in the recent (Draft) Annual Letter from CSSIW, which indicates that the service has achieved and is sustaining change. The basic framework of the management team is largely in place, along with improved processes and procedures and on the whole an enthusiastic workforce. However, due to the relative small size of the service, the relative inexperience of staff and the unpredictability of demands on the service risks to service performance remain. The management team are able to anticipate many of the issues and, even with limited resources or capacity, plan actions to address problems in a way that not only maintains the cohesiveness of the Service but also ensures that managing and meeting performance requirements continues effectively.

The Portfolio Holder (Social Services and Housing), Councillor K.P. Hughes stated there has been progress within this service. However, he stressed the importance of continued improvements is essential in the Children's Services.

The Director of Community emphasized that the job evaluation scheme needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency in this service, to allow the recruitment of the best professional staff to carry out this important role within the authority. Training and mentoring within the service is essential.

Mr. Mark Roberts (Local Authority Inspector, CSSIW) noted that the report accords with CSSIW Annual Report with the same risks and matters identified. There is evidence of significant improvements in the service but concerns are still expressed in respect of the fragile workforce. The Fostering and Children's & Families Services Inspection had, despite concluding there were 'no areas of non-compliance identified', noted there were some areas remaining for improvement.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

6. PROGRAMME BOARDS' PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted – A joint report by the Chairs of the Programme Boards.

The Director of Sustainable Development gave a brief report on the three Programme Boards that oversee and drive change programmes and projects within the Council and with external collaboration partners. The remit of the Boards were noted at 1.1 to 1.3 of the report.

He noted that as well as the Programme Board, Project Boards are now strengthening and achieving the remit of their work. The key messages from the September Programme Boards have been published on the Transformation (MonITor) web pages of the Authority. Work will continue with the Programme and Project Leads and Managers to ensure they are supported to deliver their programmes and projects effectively.

The Chief Executive stated that the Boards must be managed carefully and excessive work load must be avoided; the project needs to be focused and manageable. The work of these Boards should also not duplicate the work of the scrutiny remits.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR IEUAN WILLIAMS
CHAIR**