

People Scrutiny Committee

17th March 2016

Education Scrutiny Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

Since the last meeting of People Scrutiny Committee on 16th December 2015 the following work has been undertaken:

Education Scrutiny Group

The Education Scrutiny Group met on the 10th February 2016 where the following matters were considered:

- ERW Challenge Advisor Service
- School budgets update
- Verified performance, attendance and exclusions,
- School categorisation
- Service Improvement Plan

A summary of the school categorisation outcomes across Powys is attached at Appendix A and a summary of the position in Powys compared to the other ERW authorities is attached at Appendix B.

Scrutiny of schools

Since the last meeting the School Scrutiny Panel has met twice. On the first occasion the Panel considered progress made by schools which had been invited to the Panel and schools in the Estyn category of Special Measures. A report on the observations of the School Scrutiny Panel is being prepared for Cabinet. On the second occasion Builth High School was invited to a meeting of a School Scrutiny Panel. Further meetings of the Panel are planned for the summer term to continue monitoring those schools which have already attended the School Scrutiny Panel and/or are in Special Measures and will consider calling in any schools which it would consider are appropriate to do so.

ERW Scrutiny

The Lead Member with Cllr McNicholas and the Scrutiny Officer attended a meeting on 11th March 2016 in Swansea with the other Education Scrutiny leads from across the ERW region to discuss:

- Partnership scrutiny
- ERW business Plan
- School Scrutiny – sharing best practice
- School standards and categorisation

The outcome of this meeting will be reported to the meeting of People Scrutiny Committee.

Service Improvement Plan

The Lead Member of this group is involved in Service Improvement Plan scrutiny which has been arranged for 14th and 15th March. The Education SIP was the subject of challenge from the Education Scrutiny Group on 10th February however, inclusion in this process will ensure that there is challenge from Lead Members from other areas which will give an additional perspective to the challenge.

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

There have been a number of items coming to Cabinet which the Lead Member has requested that scrutiny have sight of before they go back to Cabinet including:

- Primary School Modernisation proposals at:
 - Ysgol Dolafon (went to Cabinet 15th December 2015 due to come back to Cabinet 22nd March 2016))
 - Nantmel (went to Cabinet 15th December 2015)
 - Llanbister (went to Cabinet 21st January 2016)
 - Llanfihangel Rhydithon (went to Cabinet 21st January 2016)
- Secondary School Modernisation proposals at Llandrindod High School/Builth High School and Brecon High School/Gwernyfed High School (went to Cabinet on 23rd February 2016)
- Proposed changes to age of admission (went to Cabinet 5th January 2016 – is on the scrutiny work programme for 7th April 2015)

The Lead Member will continue to attend Cabinet to make observations on education matters as appropriate.

Education Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

7 th April 2016 2.00pm	Pre-Cabinet Scrutiny changes to school admission age School Asset Management Plan calculation of school pupil projection
July 2016 (TBC)	School budgets
Summer term 1.30pm	School Scrutiny 3
Summer term 1.30pm	School Scrutiny 4
19 th September 2016 10.00am	Standards data – verified for FP, KS2 and KS3 – unverified for KS4 and KS5 Ian Roberts Attendance, exclusions – Ian Roberts

Autumn Term 1.30pm	School Scrutiny 5
Autumn Term 1.30pm	School Scrutiny 6
28 th November 2016 10.00am	Quarter 2 Performance (Level 1 Monitoring Report) Ian Roberts Retention rates at Sixth Form School budgets update

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Sources/background papers:

Membership:

County Councillors: **D.R. Jones**,
M. Mackenzie, E. R. Davies, K. Roberts-Jones, Miss A. Holloway, S. McNicholas,
A. Davies.
Parent Governor Representative Mrs A. Davies and Mrs L. Jenkin.
Church Representative Mrs M. Evitts

