

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

20 December 2016

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones
Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: School Improvement

REPORT FOR: Information

At the meeting of the Strategic Overview Board on 18th October 2016, the Board requested that in addition to a review of quarter 2 performance that the Cabinet be provided with the following information at its meeting to be held on 20th December 2016.

1. Details relating to school performance broken down by sector
2. A report on secondary schools in special measures.
3. Progress report on review of provision for pupils Educated Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS)

1. Performance by sector

a. Primary Performance

There are a range of performance measures which are used to evaluate primary school performance. These in the main refer to the performance at the end of the Foundation Phase (Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI)) and Key Stage 2(Core Subject Indicator (CSI))

In the **Foundation Phase** at 90.2%, Powys improved from 4th to 3rd place in LA ranking. The performance gap between girls and boys was 4.5 percentage points(pp) compared to a Wales gap of 8.2 pp. 79.2% of pupils eligible for Free School Meals(eFSM) obtained the FPI, identical to the previous year. This compares to the 91.7% on non FSM pupils. All Wales comparative data is not available until the New Year.

At **Key Stage 2** at 90.2%, Powys retained its position in 4th place in Local Authority performance. The performance gap between girls and boys was 6.9pp with both boys and girls performance being above the welsh average. At 68.8% there was a 7.7pp decrease in the performance eFSM pupils. This compares to 90.2% of non FSM pupils.

b. Secondary Performance

At **Key Stage 3**, referring to the Core Subject Indicator at 89.2% Powys ranking dropped from 4th to 5th place due to a 0.1pp decrease from the previous year. The performance gap between girls and boys was 4pp with boys performing at 5.0pp above Wales averages and girls 1.6pp above Welsh averages. At 70.8% there was a 6.5pp decrease in the attainment of eFSMpupils. This compares to 91.4% of non FSM pupils.

At **Key Stage 4**, figures are currently provisional. The main indicator used to judge performance at Key Stage 4 is the percentage of pupils who attain at GCSE 5 A*-C including English/Welsh and Mathematics (Level 2 inclusive)

Provisional performance for 2015-16 is at 65%, an improvement of 1 pp from 2014-15 and an improvement of 5 pp over a three year period. All but two schools saw an improvement of varying degrees as demonstrated in the table below;

School	2013-14 (%)	2014-15 (%)	pp change	15-16 (%)	Pp change	3 yr trend
Brecon	57	65	+8	74	+9	+17
Builth Wells	59	58	-1	64	+6	+5
Caereinion	67	64	-3	65	+1	-2
Crickhowell	72	77	+5	87	+10	+15
Gwernyfed	70	68	-2	80	+12	+10
Llandrindod Wells	53	69	+16	69	=	+16
Llanfyllin	67	66	-1	57	-9	-10
Llanidloes	69	67	-2	71	+4	+2
Bro Hyddgen	67	61	-6	68	+7	+1
Maesydderwen	57	63	+6	41	-22	-16
Newtown	55	62	+7	64	+2	+9
Welshpool	60	66	+6	70	+4	+10
Powys	60	64	+4	65	+1	+5

The gender gap has closed significantly at 4.2 pp compared to 9 pp in 2014-15 and 14 pp in 2013-14. At 35.9%, there was a 1.6pp decrease in the performance of pupils eligible for Free School Meals. This remained above the Welsh Government benchmark of 32%.

In both L2 inclusive and the Core Subject Indicator, the **trajectory of progress** has been greater than in Wales in the three year period 2013-14 to 2015-16 as demonstrated below.

	L2+			L2			CSI		
	13-14	14-15	15-16	13-14	14-15	15-16	13-14	14-15	15-16
Powys	59.6	63.9	64.9	85.5	88.7	85.6	56.2	60.2	61.9
Wales	55.4	58	60.2	82.3	84.1	83.6	52.6	54.8	57.5
Powys	+5.3			+0.1			+5.7		
Wales	+4.8			+1.2			+4.9		

On an annual basis schools are **categorised for their standards** against a set of metrics established by Welsh Government. Schools are placed in Standards Groups 1, 2, 3 or 4.

In 2016, 75% of Powys schools were placed in standard groups 1 or 2, an improvement of 16 pp from the previous year. There were 5 authorities in Wales of 75% or over.

A full standards report will be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 7th February 2017

2. Secondary schools in special measures

There are currently 3 secondary schools in special measures namely, Brecon High School, Llandrindod High School and Builth Wells High School. All three schools have recently received their termly Estyn monitoring visit with the outcome letters expected in the New Year.

3. Provision for Pupils Educated Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS)

In the Schools Service Improvement Plan 2016-17, it was identified that there was a need to reduce the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions from Powys schools. This together with an unsatisfactory Estyn inspection report of the Powys Pupil Referral Unit which judged the PRU to be in need of special measures, identified a need to widen service reconfiguration.

A Post Inspection Action Plan was submitted to Estyn which included an action to review EOTAS provision in Powys. The plan is currently being implemented.

An integral part of the plan is to engage with key stakeholders to review the current provision. An inaugural meeting was held on 29th September 2016 with all secondary headteachers, a representative group of primary headteachers and a special school headteacher, together with officers of the Schools Service, CYPP and Youth Services. An outcome of the meeting was to establish a working group to further the review. The first meeting of the working group took place on 18th November 2016. It is the intention to have produced a draft strategy by January and to restructure the Pupil Referral Unit to ensure improved value for money, clear leadership, accountability and reporting structure.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
That the Cabinet notes the content of the report.	Information requested by the Strategic Overview Board.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

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