

Caroline Turner  
Chief Executive  
Powys County Council  
County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

14 January 2020

Dear Dr Turner,

**Re: Post-inspection Improvement Conference in Powys County Council**

On 28 November 2019, Tony Bate HMI chaired a post-inspection improvement conference in Powys County Council.

The purpose of the post-inspection improvement conference was to ensure that the authority understood the reasons for the inspection judgements, and that it is developing appropriate plans to address shortcomings. The conference focused on the recommendations in the recent inspection report:

- R1 Improve standards in secondary schools, and especially the performance of more able learners
- R2 Improve the evaluation, planning and coordination of provision for learners with special educational needs and other pupils who may require extra support
- R3 Improve the consistency and impact of senior leaders in improving the quality of education services and continue to strengthen the rigour, scrutiny and challenge about performance of the authority's services
- R4 Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained, post16; Welsh-medium education and secondary education meets the needs of the children and young people of Powys
- R5 Continue to improve the quality of financial management in schools and take appropriate action to address schools with significant deficit budgets

During the conference, the local authority demonstrated that it has identified and understood the current issues appropriately and has a clear commitment to addressing the issues that were raised during the inspection. It is developing coherent plans and is building leadership capacity which have the potential to secure sustainable improvements. Overall, the authority has identified sufficient resources to implement its plans has begun to consider any barriers to progress and associated risks.

The conference enabled participants to explore areas of the improvement plan which would benefit from being strengthened, such as to implement rigorous processes to monitor the implementation of its plans and evaluate the impact. The local authority link inspectors for Powys will contact the authority to provide more detail regarding the suggested improvements.

We will formally review the authority's progress in around 12 to 18 months. This will be in the form of a progress conference. The purpose of the progress conference is to review the extent to which the local authority has progressed its plans in addressing the recommendations identified by the inspection. In light of our view of the progress made by the local authority at that stage and its plans for further improvement, we will consider how likely it is the authority could be removed from follow-up in a year's time. If we think that it is likely that the authority will be able to demonstrate enough progress to be removed from follow-up, we will plan a monitoring visit. However, if we think that the authority will require more time, we will facilitate a second progress conference.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Phillips', written in a cursive style.

**Clive Phillips**  
Assistant Director