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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2015, 2.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

10 **Correspondence** (*Pages 1 - 4*)

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

16 November 2015

Hannah Woodhouse
Interim Managing Director
Tŷ Dysgu
Cefn Coed
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff
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Dear Hannah

Thank you for your letter dated 27 October entitled "A common scrutiny work programme and sharing best practice". I decided that it would be more appropriate for the full Committee to consider it at their next meeting on 10 November. The Committee considered your letter at the meeting and discussed at length the proposals put forward by the Joint Committee.

The Committee agreed with the proposal to hold termly meetings with the Scrutiny Chairs with a view to sharing best practice, and Councillor Richard Cook is looking forward to attending the first meeting in the near future.

The proposal to have a Joint Scrutiny Model for all five Authorities, in which the Joint Committee suggests that the Consortium attends all five Scrutiny Committee's once a year in January, Members considered this proposal at some length, particularly the need to have a consistent approach across all five scrutiny committees, however the Committee considered that at this time, when the Council is still in Estyn Monitoring, it would be unwise to reduce the number of times the Committee scrutinises the work of the Consortium in respect of its support for Cardiff's schools.

The Committee agreed to continue the current practice of inviting the Consortium to three Committee meetings a year, in January, June, and November, until this Council has improved and been removed from Estyn Monitoring.

Finally I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals and look forward to your attendance at the Committee's meeting on 12 January 2016.

Yours sincerely

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - LYNDA THORNE
On behalf of the Chairperson of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

CC Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

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Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah

Thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 10th November 2015 to provide an opening statement and answer questions on the agenda item **School Performance Monitoring – School Inspection and Literacy and Numeracy report**. I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar and Angela Kent for their presentation of the report and answers to Members questions. During the way forward section of the meeting the Members' considered the information in the report and answers to their questions, and identified a number of comments, concerns and recommendations for your consideration, as detailed below.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to be presented with these sections of the Schools Annual Report as the Members consider that they are able to focus more directly on these areas, rather than in the full Annual Report in January.

In respect of the School Inspections the Members initially questioned the lessons learnt from the June 2015, Eastern High School Inspection report. Members reflected on the comments made by Estyn in the report, and wished to be assured, that lessons would be learnt from the merger and opening of Eastern High and addressing the Estyn inspection report's recommendations, will be used to aid in the merger of Glyn Derw and Michaelston High Schools, when the merger is next reported to Committee.

Members also noted that the consultation on the merger of Glyn Derw and Michaelston High Schools is currently being undertaken and welcomed the Directors commitment to provide a further report on the merger, following the completion of the consultation on 23 November.

The Members were pleased to hear that all school assessments were now in line with Estyn inspections as this had previously been a concern of the Members as they had heard that some schools were being informed that they were performing well, but then received a disappointing Estyn assessment.

In respect of the report on the Literacy and Numeracy results for 2014/15, Members were pleased to hear that schools had access to the improving teacher programme and the outstanding teacher programme, as Members had previously recommended that a pool of expert teachers should be developed to support teachers across Cardiff.

The Committee recommended that future reports, including the Schools Annual report should present where possible a graphical representation of the results rather than the long list of tables that had been included in the report.

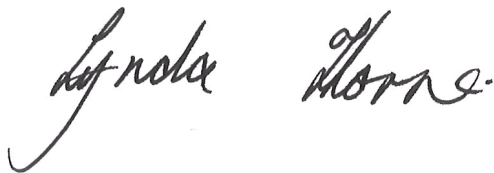
Finally the requested that the Annual Schools report presented to Committee in January 2016, should include a breakdown of the results using Free School Meal, looked after children and English as an Additional Language data, to enable members to assess the Councils progress in addressing the attainment issues in each of these groups.

I hope that these comments, advice and recommendations, detailed above will be of use and support in improving outcomes for Cardiff's pupils. The Committee looks forward to receiving the requested additional information listed above together and as such does not require a formal response to this letter.

To recap, this letter requests several actions, requests for information and recommendations, as follows and requires:

- A further report on the merger of Glyn Derw and Michaelston High Schools in the near future
- That future reports, including the Schools Annual Report should present where possible a graphical representation of the results.

Yours sincerely

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LYNDA THORNE
For the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar – Director of Education and Lifelong learning
CC: Angela Kent, Head of Attainment and Inclusion
CC: Cheryl Cornelius – Cabinet Support Manger
CC: Nichola Hayward – Resources Manager