

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

12 January 2018

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
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Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 9 January 2018 to provide an opening statement and answer questions on the agenda item **Cardiff Schools Annual Report 2016/17**. I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar and Jackie Turner for their presentation of the report and answers to Members questions. Members were also pleased to welcome Richard Thomas, Head teacher of Ysgol Pencae and Sian Voyce Head teacher Hywel Dda Primary School, and wished to thank them for their contribution to the scrutiny of this item.

The Committee welcomed the report and considered it to be well set out, clear and easier to understand. Members wished to congratulate the Schools, Consortium and Education Staff for their hard work over the past academic year. The members also asked for you to thank the officers who prepared the report for all their hard work in collecting, analysing and presenting, such a complex set of information, within a tight timescale. During the way forward section of the meeting the Members raised a number of comments, concerns and recommendations which they asked me to write to you on.

The Committee wished to express their pleasure at seeing the significant improvement in the performance of Cardiff schools over the last five years across a number of performance indicators and hopes that this will continue.

The Members, however, did express some concern at the list of areas of continuing concern, and at the need to improve the outcomes of young people as set out in the

summary section of the report. The Members focussed their concerns about improving outcomes for young people at Level 1, and the low attainment of traveller/Roma young people, and requested that a further briefing report setting of the actions to improve these areas be presented to Committee in April.

The Committee also expressed concern at the need to improve outcomes for children who are looked after. The Members welcomed the Directors suggestion to meet with Gillian James, achievement leader, to undertake a deep dive into the Educational attainment of Children who are Looked After, across all key stages. The Committee Chair and Scrutiny Officer will discuss with Gillian James how best the Committee can effectively undertake this deep dive.

Finally I will be writing separately to Richard Thomas, Head teacher of Ysgol Pencae and Sian Voyce Head teacher Hywel Dda Primary School, to thank them for their contribution to the scrutiny of this item.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN
Chair – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Jackie Turner, Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning