

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH



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16 January 2019

Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member – Education, Employment and Skills
County Hall
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 13 November 2018, to provide an opening statements and answering questions on the **Replacement Fitzalan High School, Central South Education Consortium's contribution to raising standards in Cardiff's School, Cardiff's Schools Annual Report, Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act 2018, and Estyn Inspection Report – St Peters RC Primary School.**

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning Jennie Nightingale, Jennie Hughes, and Liz Jones the ALN Transformation Lead and well as Louise Muteham. Geraint Lewis, Catherine Rowlands from the Consortium, for the reports, advice and answers to Members questions.

Following the Members consideration of the reports and answers to questions, the Committee, during the way forward, identified a number of comments, concerns, and recommendations to help improve the outcomes for children and young people in Cardiff.

Replacement Fitzalan High School

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet report, and were very pleased with the proposals for the new school, especially after having a tour of the new Eastern High School. The Committee agreed to **Commend the report to Cabinet**

The Committee did highlight a few issues, which they felt should be considered during the planning and design stage of the school, this included:

- A detailed traffic and pollution assessment, to ensure that the access and egress from the school is safe for pupils, staff and visitors;
- That appropriate community building and facilities are available;
- That lessons learnt from Eastern High School, particularly around the provision of sports facilities, are taken into account with the development of the new Fitzalan High.

Consortium Annual Report and Schools Annual Report – 2017-2018

The Committee welcomed the presentation on the performance of Cardiff's school and in particular the Consortium's view of Cardiff with the other Local Authorities. The Members were pleased to see the continued improvement in results across almost all areas. The Committee agreed to **Commend the Schools Annual Report to Cabinet**

The Members did however express some concern around a number of areas highlighted in the report, which the Committee considered, a priority, for improvement and action, during this academic year, and recommended that actions should focus on:

- the outcomes for children being looked after and children educated other than at school;
- Attendance levels at Primary Schools
- The impact of changes to funding from the Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant on the support for Ethnic Minorities and Gypsy Roma Travellers.

Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act 2018

The Committee was really interested in the fundamental changes required by the Act as set out in the briefing report and presentation, and now felt that they had a better understanding of the implications of the Act and the changes that are required to fully implement the Act and Code.

The Committee noted that as part of the actions, it was proposed to undertake a Local Authority readiness audit and individual school readiness audit, the Members requested that further information is provided on progress in undertaking this task.

The Committee also expressed some concern that, the implementation of the requirements of the Act, will not be resource neutral, and requested an indication of the anticipated cost of fully implementing the requirements of the Act be provided as part of the response to this letter.

Estyn Inspection Report – St Peters RC Primary School

The Committee was keen to be informed by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learnings of the response to the St Peters Estyn Inspection report and the inspector's opinion that special measures are required in relation to this school.

The Committee welcomed the briefing provided, that actions had already been agreed, following the appropriate consultation, and that they were being implemented as a matter of urgency.

Finally the Committee would like to inform you, that it agreed to contact Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education, Welsh Government, to invite her to a future meeting of the Committee, to discuss the impact on the Council of the numerous changes that are being imposed on Education, together with the system's capacity to cope. I will inform you of the outcome of our correspondence.

I look forward to a response together with the additional information requested within the next month.

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
Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Jacqueline Turner, Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Janine Nightingale, Head of Schools Organisation, Access & Planning
Jennie Hughes, Senior Achievement Leader Inclusion
Liz Jones, ALN Transformation Lead,
Louise Muteham, Central South Consortium
Geraint Lewis, Central South Consortium
Catherine Rowlands, Central South Consortium

Jo Watkins, Cabinet Office Business Manager