

**CARDIFF AND VALE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP:
ESTYN MONITORING VISIT**

Purpose of report

1. This report enables Members to assess the performance and progress being made by the Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership, providing feedback from the Estyn Monitoring visit undertaken in January 2015.

Background

2. The Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership (CVCLP) was established on 1 September 2013 as the successor body to the former Cardiff Community Learning Network (CCLN). This was in response to Estyn inspections of Adult Community Learning (ACL) in Cardiff (January 2013) and the Vale of Glamorgan (February 2013) which identified significant shortcomings in respect of learner outcomes, provision and leadership and management.
3. The Adult Community Learning providers within the partnership are Cardiff and Vale College, Vale of Glamorgan Council, City of Cardiff Council, WEA Cymru and YMCA Wales Community College.

Estyn Monitoring

4. In January 2015, Estyn undertook a monitoring visit of the CVCLP to review progress in relation to the recommendations made in the 2013 inspection reports. The Inspectorate's report is attached for Members' information at **Appendix A**.

In brief, Estyn grouped the recommendations made to the separate authorities in order to evaluate the progress made by CVCLP as follows:

Recommendation 1:

Cardiff (Recommendation 1) - Improve success rates for all learners.

Vale of Glamorgan (Recommendation 1) - Improve success rates and accreditation for all learners.

Recommendation 2:

Cardiff (Recommendation 2) - Improve the strategic leadership, management and co-ordination of adult community-based learning in Cardiff to make sure that provision is better aligned to local and national priorities and that all operational managers understand their roles and priorities.

Vale of Glamorgan (Recommendation 4) - Improve the strategic leadership, management and co-ordination of adult community-based learning in the Vale of Glamorgan to make sure that provision is better aligned to local and national priorities and set targets that challenge performance.

Recommendation 3:

Cardiff (Recommendation 3) - Improve the quality of the curriculum and provision offered to learners, especially in the most deprived areas and to priority groups of learners.

Vale of Glamorgan (Recommendation 6) - Review and revise the curriculum to ensure that all learners have equal access to appropriate learning opportunities.

Vale of Glamorgan (Recommendation 2) - Improve the provision for developing learners' literacy and numeracy skills, particularly to ensure that Adult Basic Education (ABE) learners have access to higher level courses.

Recommendation 4:

Cardiff (Recommendation 4) – Improve arrangements for self-assessment and subsequent improvements by the partnership at a faster pace.

Vale of Glamorgan (Recommendation 5) - Analyse data robustly and improve quality processes to monitor and evaluate performance effectively to bring about improvement for learners.

Recommendation 5:

Cardiff (Recommendation 5) - Improve the quality of teaching and make sure that all tutors fully understand their professional role.

Vale of Glamorgan (Recommendation 3) - Improve the quality of teaching across the partnership.

Recommendation 6:

Cardiff (Recommendation 6) - Improve the identification, early assessment and support for learners with additional learning needs and subsequent monitoring of the impact of this support.

Cardiff (Recommendation 7) - Improve the support available for learners with health and personal issues that hamper their progress.

5. The inspectors made the following judgements following the monitoring visit:

R1 - Very good progress in addressing the recommendation

R2 - Very good progress in addressing the recommendation

R3 - Strong progress in addressing the recommendation

R4 - Very good progress in addressing the recommendation

R5 - Strong progress in addressing the recommendation

R6 - Strong progress in addressing the recommendation

6. The outcome of the monitoring visit is as follows:

'The Cardiff and Vale Adult Learning Partnership is judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations from their separate core inspections. As a result, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the Cardiff and Vale Adult Community Learning Partnership from any further follow-up activity. Estyn will monitor progress against the recommendations during link visits to the partnership.'

Previous Scrutiny

7. The Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee previously scrutinised the CVCLP in April 2014. Having received an overview of the CVCLP and the findings of the Estyn Inspection of CCLN, Members of the Committee made the following observations to the Cabinet Member – Education and Skills:

- The Committee was reassured by the confidence expressed by officers and partners that the concerns expressed by Estyn were being appropriately addressed.
- Members were encouraged by comments on the capability of the Partnership in understanding this challenge, and by evidence of good work undertaken by the College's Director of Learning. Members noted the resource challenges around extending this approach across the Partnership's functions.
- Members were pleased to hear that steps were being undertaken to blur existing silos between teaching in Cardiff and the Vale, and that joint monitoring of quality across the two authority areas was being undertaken.
- Members heard that – while the length of service of many tutors was a strength in terms of continuity – it presented challenges in that few of them had had experience elsewhere of the kind of challenge presented by Estyn. Members hoped that the Partnership will support the continuous professional development of tutors by exposing them to the issues and opportunities of inspection, and enabling them to play a dynamic role in the improvement process.

Scope of Scrutiny

8. This Scrutiny Committee has the power under the Council's Constitution to hold to account the Cabinet Member for the Cabinet's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of lifelong learning. It also has the power to assess the impact of partnerships with external organisations on the effectiveness of Council service delivery, and to report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make

recommendations on measures, which may enhance Council performance or service delivery in this area. It does not, however, have power to hold to account the performance of individual members of the Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership.

Way Forward

9. Councillor Julia Magill (Cabinet Member Education and Skills) has been invited, and may wish to give a statement.
10. Sarah McGill (Director – Communities, Housing and Customer Services), Isabelle Bignall (Cardiff Council's Assistant Director of Communities and Customer Service), and Cardiff and Vale College Vice Principals Mark Roberts and Kay Martin will also be in attendance.
11. Following the meeting, Members will send their recommendations and observations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

Legal Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken

having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/ Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the progress being made by the Cardiff and Vale Community Learning Partnership in the context of the Estyn Inspection undertaken in January 2015, providing feedback by a Committee letter to the Cabinet Member.
- ii. Consider how it would like to provide future scrutiny of this matter.

Marie Rosenthal
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer
8 May 2015