
ESTYN Inspection Monitoring Revisit Letter

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to be presented with a copy of the Estyn letter recently received by the Council following an Estyn significant Improvement monitoring visit undertaken between the 16 and 20 March 2015.

Background

2. Estyn inspected Cardiff Local Authority in 2011 and, whilst judging provision to be 'adequate', placed the authority in Estyn monitoring. Two monitoring visits were carried out, in June 2012 and February 2014, the latter judging that Cardiff Local Authority required 'significant improvement'. Estyn left the authority with six updated recommendations and agreed a monitoring programme outlining the scope of three further visits in Spring 2015, Autumn 2015 and Spring 2016. The 6 recommendations from the February 2014 visit were:
 - R1 Raise standards, particularly at Key Stage 4;
 - R2 Reduce exclusions and reduce the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training post – 16;
 - R3 Make sure that the arrangements for delivering school improvement services challenge and support all schools effectively, in order to improve standards for learners at all levels;
 - R4 Improve the effectiveness of joint planning across the range of partnership working;
 - R5 Improve performance management processes to ensure a consistent approach to delivering objectives;

R6 Improve the scrutiny of local authority education services and partnership working.

Monitoring Programme

3. The Spring 2015 monitoring visit focused upon recommendations 3, 5 and 6, whilst also evaluating the impact of actions to date on learner outcomes as specified in recommendation 1.

The inspection team will return in the Autumn of 2015 to review progress against recommendations 2 and 4. In Spring 2016, the team will inspect progress against recommendation 1 and all recommendations, by which time two years of verified data across all key stages will be available.

Spring 2015 Monitoring Visit

4. Huw Davies HMI led a team of four inspectors during the period 16th to 20th March 2015. The inspection team held discussions with the leader of the Council, elected members, the chief executive, senior officers, head teachers, school governors and partnership representatives. The team also scrutinised documentation including evidence on the progress made against each of the recommendations. At the end of the visit the team verbally reported their findings to the leader of the council, the cabinet member for education, an elected member of the scrutiny committee, the chief executive and the director of education and lifelong learning. The final letter from Estyn reporting the outcomes of the monitoring visit at **Appendix A**, to follow.

Scope of the Scrutiny

5. Members will receive a presentation of the monitoring visit findings and subsequent letter, delivered by representatives of the Estyn inspection team. Members will then have the opportunity to seek clarification of any issues raised from the monitoring visit and to identify what further actions are needed to secure improvement.

Way Forward

6. This report will enable Members to receive a copy of the Estyn monitoring visit letter.
7. Clive Phillips, Assistant Director Estyn and Mark Campion, Estyn Inspector, will make a presentation on the outcomes of the monitoring visit and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.

Legal Implications

8. 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 will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf 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

9. 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 will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to receive and consider the Estyn Inspection revisit letter and provide any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

County Clerk and Monitoring Officer

5th May 2015