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**EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE  
UPDATE**

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**Reason for the Report**

1. The Committee agreed, as part of its work programme, to receive regular monitoring reports from the Education Directorate on the Estyn monitoring visit's six recommendations. The Estyn Inspection monitoring schedule, set out in their letter dated 5 May 2015 proposed further monitoring visits for recommendations 2 and 4 in autumn 2015, with a further visit in spring 2016 to cover recommendation 1 and overall progress against all recommendations.
  
2. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to receive an update on the progress being made in addressing the Estyn monitoring recommendations which are due to be reviewed by Estyn in the Autumn, namely:
  - (i) Reduce exclusions and reduce the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training post 16;
  - (ii) Improve performance management processes to ensure a consistent approach in delivering objectives.
  
3. The Committee at its meeting on June 9 2015 received a detailed report on the current position in respect of young people's disengagement from education, employment or training, and the actions being taken to address the issues. As a result the Committee wrote to the Cabinet Member, welcoming the work that was being done to reduce the numbers of NEETs in the City. The Committee suggested that the Council's Traineeship Scheme be used to help NEETs gain work experience. The Committee also requested a progress

report on the Cardiff Partnership Board's work stream - Engagement and Progression ('Reduce the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training'), to be presented to Committee after the summer break.

4. As the Committee has already received a detailed report on the NEETs agenda. This progress report focusses on the exclusion portion of Estyn's recommendation 2. A copy of the June progress reports for recommendation 2 (exclusions) and 4 (Partnership working), attached at **Appendix A and B**.

### **Recommendation 2 (exclusions)**

5. The Committee last reviewed the performance of school in respect of Behaviour and Exclusions as part of the Schools Annual report in January 2015. Members were informed that based on the information provided by the Cardiff Exclusion Report pack (24.7.14):
  - a. The total number of **permanent exclusions (PEX)** upheld across all key stages in Cardiff for 2013/14 is three. These took place in secondary mainstream provision.
  - b. There were no permanent exclusions from the primary phase or specialist provision.
  - c. The total number of **fixed term exclusions (FEX)** across all key stages in Cardiff 2013/14 is 2118 which is a reduction from 2360 in 12/13. There was a rise in fixed term exclusions in the primary phase which was offset by a fall in the secondary phase. There was also a rise in fixed term exclusions from specialist provision.
6. The June 2015, progress report for Recommendation 2a, "*Reducing Exclusions*" is attached at **Appendix A** and provides an overview of the progress since the Estyn inspection in February 2014. It also highlights the processes and procedures that have been put in place to address the recommendation.

7. The progress report also includes (detailed by school) the key concern around exclusions, together with the actions being undertaken to address the concerns identified. The report also includes at Appendix 1 the key performance indicator being used to measure the Directorate's progress in reducing overall exclusions.

#### **Recommendation 4 (Improve the effectiveness of joint planning)**

8. The Committee has not previously review the progress being made in addressing this recommendation.
9. The June 2015 progress report for Recommendation 4 (*"Improve the effectiveness of joint planning across the range of Partnership working"*) followed from the Estyn comment that at the time of the Monitoring Visit the partnerships had not demonstrated enough impact on raising standards. A copy of this attached at **Appendix B** .
10. The progress report provides an overview of the progress since the Estyn inspection in February 2014, as well as a summary of the key achievements around: effective working with schools, the local authority and the Central South Consortium; partnership with Higher and Further Education and Business; and the wider partnership agenda. The report also highlights the next steps to be taken in addressing this recommendation, which include:
  - a. Pilot clusters of primary schools working together to pool resources and maximise collective capacity;
  - b. Tighter integration of roles and understanding between the local authority and Consortium, so that all challenge advisers have access to the full picture of a school's needs; and
  - c. Develop an Early Help Strategy and action plan, to identify the key role that schools play in working with children and families.

## Scope of the Scrutiny

11. These monitoring reports will enable Committee to review, assess and challenge the impact of the plans and processes put in place to reduce exclusions across Cardiff's schools and improve the effectiveness of joint planning. Members may also wish to pass any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning. At this meeting Committee can scrutinise:
- a. the progress being made to undertake the tasks identified to address both recommendations;
  - b. the anticipated reduction in exclusions by the next monitoring visit;
  - c. the impact improved partnership working is having on raising standards;
  - d. any identified risks and the appropriateness of any proposed countermeasure;
  - e. the quality and analysis of the performance information presented to Committee;
  - f. That the rationale set out by Estyn for their future monitoring visits will be achieved within the given timescale, for recommendation 2a exclusions as follows:
    - i. Nearly all of the objectives, as per action plan, are to be achieved by December 2014.
    - ii. All of the stated objectives will have been completed by the Spring 2015.
    - iii. The local authority will have two years of verified data available on exclusions and NEETs.

For Recommendation 4 (*Improve the effectiveness of joint planning across the range of partnership working*):

- I. All stated objectives will be completed, as per the action plan, by September 2014;
- II. Self-evaluation, including thorough analysis of performance data should be evident in strategy;

- III. New Group structure will have had time to embed and demonstrate coherence, and
- IV. External review of effectiveness of Education Improvement Group plus other will have been completed.

## **Way Forward**

12. This report will enable Members to receive a copy of the progress report on those objectives identified for recommendations 2 (exclusions) and recommendation 4, attached at **Appendix A and B**.

13. Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), will make a presentation on the progress being made to implement those actions to address Estyn recommendations 2 (exclusions) and recommendation 4, and answer any questions Members may have.

## **Legal Implications**

- 11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, 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**

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 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.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is recommended to:

- a. Consider the contents of the report, appendices and evidence presented at the meeting;
- b. Report any comments, observations or recommendations to the Cabinet.

**MARIE ROSENTHAL**

**Director Governance and Legal Services  
Cyfarwyddwr Llywodraethu a  
Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol**

**NICK BATCHELAR**

**Director of Education and  
Learning**

**8 July 2015**