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**ESTYN Monitoring Visit – Inspection Letter**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to be presented with the Estyn inspection outcome letter by Clive Phillips, Assistant Director for Estyn (copy attached at **Appendix A**), as published in March 2016.

**Background**

2. Estyn inspected Cardiff Local Education Authority in 2011 and, whilst judging provision to be 'adequate', the Inspectorate placed the authority in Estyn's Monitoring category . Two monitoring visits were carried out, in June 2012 and February 2014, the latter judging that Cardiff Local Education 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 six 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 monitoring visit in October 2015 focused upon Recommendations 2 and 4. The inspection team return in January 2016 to inspect progress against Recommendation 1 and all recommendations, by which time two years of verified data across all key stages would be available.

### **Spring 2015 Monitoring Visit**

- 4. Huw Davies HMI led a team of four inspectors on the second monitoring visit during the period 25 to 29 January 2016. The inspection team held discussions with the Leader of the Council, elected Members, the Chief Executive, senior officers, head teachers 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, Chair of this Scrutiny Committee, the Chief

Executive, the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and a representative from the Welsh Government.

5. The Assistant Director, Clive Phillips will provide the Members with an overview of the inspection, together with the broad messages arising from the inspection for the Committee, which the Members may wish to take into consideration during its future monitoring of the Education service.

### **Scope of the Scrutiny**

6. Members will receive a presentation on the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning's views of the monitoring visit findings, and the plans to address the issues highlighted in the letter.

### **Legal Implications**

7. 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 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**

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 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 Estyn's Inspection Outcome Letter, and provide any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

**DAVID MARR**

**Interim Monitoring Officer**

**11 May 2016**