
THE PERFORMANCE OF CARDIFF SCHOOLS 2014 / 15– Draft Cabinet
Report & EDUCATION QUARTER 2 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

Background

1. When considering its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive a series of performance reports which would focus on the impact of actions to address the recommendations made by Estyn in a monitoring visit in February 2014 and which would also include the Annual Performance of Schools report for 2014 / 15.
2. This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to consider a draft copy of the Cabinet report “The Performance of Cardiff Schools and the Youth Service in 2014 / 15” due to be considered by Cabinet on 21 January 2016 (copy attached as **Appendix A**). Together with the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate’s quarter 2 performance report (copy attached at **Appendix B**).
3. The publication of the Schools Annual Report is considered best practice and is produced to help inform elected Members, schools and school governors on the progress being made to improve performance across all schools in Cardiff.
4. The Committee agreed at its September 2014 meeting that in future certain sections of the Annual Report would be considered separately by Members. This will enable the Committee to consider the information in a more detailed

and timely manner. To this end the Committee has already received reports on:

- National categorisation of Schools March
- Needs June
- Provisional School Results September
- Performance in Literacy and Numeracy November
- The outcomes of School Inspections November

Corporate Performance Quarter 2

5. The Council's Performance Management Framework includes the regular reporting of Quarterly Performance by Directorate. The Quarter 2 Education Performance reports, attached at **Appendix B**, cover:

- Progress against Corporate Plan commitments
- Progress against Directorate Plan Actions
- Progress on challenges previously identified
- Service delivery issues
- Key Performance Indicator data
- Corporate risks.

6. The report provides the Committee with information about the context that these services are operating in, performance information and the management actions that are being taken to address performance issues. The report also provides an explanation of the progress being made in addressing the challenges identified in each quarter.

Issues

7. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has included, at the beginning of the Cabinet report, a commentary on the performance of Cardiff's Schools. This includes an overview of the performance data, identified areas of positive improvement, as well as aspects of continuing concern.

8. The report provides an initial analysis of educational outcomes for the academic year 2014-15 and identifies the main strengths and shortcomings in performance. Overall results are final, based upon actual performance data published by Welsh Government. Results in all phases for Free School Meal pupils are also provisional, pending publication by Welsh Government.

Scope of Scrutiny

9. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to review the Draft Cabinet report “Performance of Cardiff Schools and the Youth Service in 2014/15” to enable the Education Service and partners to achieve their principal responsibility to raise education standards and improve outcomes for all learners. It will also enable Members to enquire as to:
 - i. How have Cardiff schools performed in achieving their responsibilities to all learners?
 - ii. What can be learnt from the analysis of the results and what actions have been taken to address any issues?
 - iii. What actions have been implemented to ensure improvements in provision in areas achieving below target?
 - iv. What actions are being implemented to ensure that Cardiff’s Schools have high quality leadership and teaching?

Way Forward

10. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a copy of The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2014/15 (copy attached at **Appendix A**). Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education) may wish to make a statement. Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and Angela Kent, Head of Achievement and Inclusion will make a presentation, and both are available to answer any questions Members may have.
11. The following people have also been invited to contribute to the Committee’s consideration of the report; namely:

- Hannah Woodhouse (Managing Director) of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service – to present an account of the role of the Consortium in raising standards and the Consortium’s plans to further strengthen the impact of its work.
- Marc Beli (Head Teacher, Bishop of Llandaff High School), Joanne Colsey - (Head Teacher, Stacey Primary School) and Kevin Tansley – (Head Teacher, Ty Gwyn Special School) have also been invited, and will be available to provide a sector perspective on the performance report.

12. Members may wish to review the information contained in the Draft Cabinet report *The Performance of Cardiff Schools and the Youth Service in 2014/15* report (**Appendix A**) and in the officers’ presentations and answers to Members’ questions, and to consider highlighting any issues for further investigation or more detailed monitoring over the next year.

Legal 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 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

14. 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

Members are recommended to:

- Consider the information contained in this report and *The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2014/15* report and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 22 January; and
- Identify any issues for further consideration or investigation.

Marie Rosenthal
Director of Governance
and Legal Services

Nick Batchelar
Director of Education and
Lifelong Learning

6 January 2016