
**THE PERFORMANCE OF CARDIFF SCHOOLS 2015 / 16 –
Draft Cabinet Report**

Background.

1. 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 2015 / 16” due to be considered by Cabinet on 19 January 2017 (copy attached as **Appendix A**).
2. 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.
3. The Committee agreed at its September 2016 meeting that during the next academic year the Committee would monitor and review the progress of the Council and its partners in achieving the five key goals and desired outcomes identified in the Cardiff 2020 Schools Strategy. To this end the Committee agreed to receive termly monitoring and progress reports on all aspects of the Strategy.

Issues

4. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has provided a commentary at the beginning of the Cabinet report 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.

5. The report provides an initial analysis of educational outcomes for the academic year 2015-16 across all areas together with an analysis of progress made in the Education Service's 2015/16 priority areas for improvement.
6. The report also includes a number of appendices which provide a more detailed analysis, including:
 - Pupils' results in all phases
 - Attendance at school
 - Exclusions
 - Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)
 - Estyn Inspections.
7. The performance at each Key Stage provides further details of the gap in achievement by gender and by ethnicity, performance of Looked After Children, pupils eligible for free school meals, pupils with Special Educational Needs, and comparative data with other local authorities and cities.

Scope of Scrutiny

8. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to review the Draft Cabinet report "Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2015/16" 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

- 9. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a copy of The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2015/16 (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.
- 10. Members may wish to review the information contained in the Draft Cabinet report *The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2015/16* 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.
- 11. Representatives of Secondary, Primary and Special Schools have been also been invited, and will be available to provide a sector perspective on the performance report.

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

Members are recommended to:

- Consider the information contained in this report and *The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2015/16* 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 19 January; and
- Identify any issues for further consideration or investigation.

Davina Fiore

Nick Batchelar

**Director of Governance
and Legal Services**

**Director of Education and
Lifelong Learning**

3 January 2017