
**THE PERFORMANCE OF CARDIFF SCHOOLS 2016 / 17 – 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 in 2016 / 17” due to be considered by Cabinet on 20 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 the public, 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 2017 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 including the school’s annual report in January.

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 2016-17 across all areas together with an analysis of progress made in the Education Service's 2016/17 priority areas for improvement.
6. The report also includes a number of appendices which provide a more detailed analysis, including:
 - Appendix 1 Summary of Performance
 - Appendix 2 Explanation of Frequently Used Terms
 - Appendix 3 Performance in the Foundation Phase
 - Appendix 4 Performance at Key Stage 2
 - Appendix 5 Performance at Key Stage 3
 - Appendix 6 Performance at Key Stage 4
 - Appendix 7 Performance at Key Stage 5
 - Appendix 8 Attendance at school
 - Appendix 9 Exclusions
 - Appendix 10 Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
 - Appendix 11 Outcomes of 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.
8. The report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning recommends to the Cabinet that :
 - Cabinet is recommended to note the performance of Cardiff schools in the academic year 2016/2017.

Scope of Scrutiny

9. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to review the Draft Cabinet report “Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2016/17” 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:

- Consider and review the contents of the draft cabinet report.
- Pass on any observations, comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills prior to the consideration of the Draft report by Cabinet.

Way Forward

10. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a copy of The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2016/17 (copy attached at **Appendix A**). Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills) may wish to make a statement. Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Jacqueline Turner (Assistant Director of Education) will make a presentation, and both are available to answer any questions Members may have.

11. The Managing Director of the Consortium, Mike Glavin, has been invited along with some of his staff, together with some Head Teachers from Cardiff’s Schools, and they will all 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 in 2016/17* 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 2016/17* 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 20 January; and
- Identify any issues for further consideration or investigation as part of the Committee's work programme.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

3 January 2018