

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STATEMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

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**21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Funding**

The Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Education announced in November 2017 that a sum of £2.3 billion had been earmarked by the Welsh Government to modernise education infrastructure in Wales, commencing in 2019. As part of the announcement, the Welsh Government confirmed its commitment to supporting the projects submitted by local authorities in their Outline Strategic Business Cases. The value of Cardiff Council's Band B programme is £284 million, of which half would be funded by the Welsh Government. The Council will now work closely with Welsh Government officials to agree the profile of funding and submission of business cases for individual projects.

**Performance of Cardiff Schools**

The annual Performance of Cardiff's Schools report shows that the results for the 2016-17 academic year build on a clear pattern of continuing improvement in recent years. Of particular note is the overall improvement in the quality of education provision in Cardiff, as evidenced by Estyn inspections and national categorisation. There has been some reduction in the variation in quality and outcomes between similar schools, and an improvement in outcomes for some low attaining groups of learners. When these results are set against the aspirations and targets in Cardiff 2020, it is clear that further work remains to be done.

The overall strengths of Cardiff's performance in 2017 are:

- The continuing pattern of improvement in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2;
- Cardiff's performance in relation to the Welsh averages in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2;
- Performance at Level 2+ and Level 2 thresholds, compared with the Consortium and Welsh averages;
- Improved Estyn inspection outcomes and an increase in the number of schools removed from an Estyn category;
- Improved attainment of eFSM pupils at Key Stage 2 and 4;
- Continuing reduction in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training.

The 2017 Performance Report highlights the continuing importance of focused action in relation to:

- Improving outcomes for children who are looked after, particularly in relation to those young people who are not educated in a Cardiff school;
- Improving outcomes for young people at Level 1 and for those who are educated other than at a mainstream or special school;
- Reducing the number of young people who leave Key Stage 4 without any qualifications;
- Addressing the performance in English, which is the lowest of the areas of learning in FP, KS2 and KS3 and below the Welsh average at KS2 and KS3;
- Meeting the needs of an increasing number of young people with Additional Learning Needs;
- Continuing to address the low attainment of Traveller/Roma young people.

### **Additional Learning Needs**

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Cabinet considered a report, entitled 'Improving Provision for Children and Young People with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) 2018-22', and approved the refreshed strategic priorities for improving outcomes for learners with additional learning needs. The Cabinet also agreed to consult on 8 proposals for increasing school and specialist resource base places to meet increased demand over the next three years. The Council will hold a public consultation with all stakeholders in accordance with the Schools Organisation and Planning Code. The provisional dates for this consultation are from 30<sup>th</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### **New Year's Honours List 2018**

Mrs Julie Morris, Headteacher at Severn Primary School, was awarded an MBE for services to education in the New Year's Honours list. Mrs Morris started teaching in Llancarfan Primary in 1979, before moving to Severn Infant and Nursery School in 1986. She taught there for a number of years, before becoming Deputy Headteacher in 1994 and Headteacher in 1996. When the school amalgamated with Severn Junior School in 2008, Mrs Morris became Headteacher of the new primary school. Mrs Morris has paid tribute to the school, saying that this award really belongs to all the staff there.

### **New Eastern High School**

Eastern Community Campus, a new home for Eastern High and Cardiff and Vale College opened earlier this month and marked the culmination of a 3-year, £26m project. The new campus has been jointly funded by Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme and can accommodate up to 1,200 Eastern High and 320 Cardiff and Vale College students.

Cardiff Council and Cardiff and Vale College, together with Welsh Government, have created an innovative new campus, offering a learning environment fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with state-of-the-art facilities also available for the wider community to enjoy. These include flexible learning spaces that can be configured for a variety of uses and the very latest in science and IT facilities. The new shared campus will also bring significant opportunities for students to progress to further education and training.

## **Welsh in Education Action Plan 2017-2021**

The Welsh Government Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning, Baroness Eluned Morgan AM, visited her former school, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to mark the launch of the Welsh in Education Action Plan 2017-2021, which aims to put education at the heart of the Welsh Government's ambition to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050. The plan builds on the 2010 Welsh-medium Education Strategy, and sets the Welsh Government's direction for the development of Welsh-medium and Welsh language education over the next four years. The Minister spoke to pupils and teachers about their experience of Welsh-medium education and said that her visit highlighted the excellent all-round education that is provided through the medium of Welsh.

### **Ysgol Hamadryad**

The Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning also joined me last month at the site of the new Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad in cutting the turf to mark the start of construction work. The new school represents an investment in the area of almost £10m, which is being funded jointly by Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government through the £164m 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band A Programme for the city.

Ysgol Hamadryad will serve some of the most diverse areas in Wales, and it will be the first Welsh-medium school in Butetown. The project forms part of the continuing expansion of Welsh-medium provision and widening of parental choice in the city. Cardiff 2020 – the vision for education and learning in Cardiff – makes a clear commitment to provide more school places, ensuring that provision is available to all families who choose a Welsh-medium education.

Construction of the new school is expected to be completed by the end of 2018, with Ysgol Hamadryad moving to its brand new, permanent home in early 2019 (from its temporary accommodation next to Ninian Park Primary School in Grangetown). At two forms of entry, the new school will be able to accommodate up to 420 pupils, plus 48 full-time equivalent nursery places.

**Councillor Sarah Merry**  
**Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills**  
**24 January 2018**