
The Performance of Cardiff Schools 2018 / 19 – Draft Cabinet Report

Background.

1. This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to review and assess the draft copy of the Cabinet report “The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2018 / 19”, which is due to be considered by Cabinet on 23 January 2020 (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 2019 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 monitoring and progress reports on all aspects of the Strategy including the school’s annual report in January 2020.

Issues

4. The Annual Performance Report provides an analysis of educational outcomes for children and young people in Cardiff in the 2018/19 academic year, including for key groups of learners. Results from Foundation Phase (year 2) to Key Stage 5 (year 13), and School Attendance, Exclusions,

Inspection and Categorisation outcomes are included within the report. Key strengths, areas for further development and opportunities for longer-term improvement in line with the commitments made in *Cardiff 2030* are noted in the front section of the report.

5. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has provided a summary of performance at the beginning of the Cabinet report. This includes an overview of the performance data, identified areas of overall strength, as well as aspects of performance which need further attention (paragraphs 10 – 11).
6. The report also includes the key messages arising from the evaluation of performance this includes:
 - The overall performance of Cardiff schools as evidenced by Estyn inspections, national categorisation and attainment across all key stages (paragraph 12 – 20)
 - The attainment gap between pupils eligible for free school meals, and those not eligible (paragraph 21 – 23)
 - Performance across identified groups (paragraph 24 – 36)
 - Transition between education and employment NEETS (Paragraph 37 – 41)
 - School Places (paragraph 42 – 49)
 - Well-being (paragraph 50 – 56)
 - Additional Learning Needs (paragraph 57 – 60)
7. Finally the report identifies the next steps to be undertaken as part of the actions identified arising from Cardiff 2020, together with the wider range of commitments outlined in Cardiff 2030 (paragraph 61 – 66).
8. The report also includes a number of appendices which provide a more detailed analysis, including:
 - **Appendix 1 Explanation of Frequently Used Terms**
 - **Appendix 2 PLASC (Annual School Census) 2019 Summary**
 - **Appendix 3 Outcomes for Learners**

- School inspections
- Primary Phase
- Secondary Phase
- Outcomes in Welsh
- **Appendix 4 Key Groups**
 - Pupils eligible for free school meals
 - Looked After Children
 - Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)
 - Ethnic Groups
 - More Able & Talented
- **Appendix 5 Progression to Education, Employment or Training (EET)**
- **Appendix 6 Attendance**
- **Appendix 7 Exclusions**

9. 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 2018/2019.

Scope of Scrutiny

10. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to review the performance of Cardiff's Schools, as set out in the Draft Cabinet report "Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2018/19", and to assess how the Education Service and partners, 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

11. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a copy of The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2018/19 (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), Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Suzanne Scarlett, (Partnerships & Performance Operational Manager) will present the report, and are available to answer any questions Members may have.
12. Members may wish to review the information contained in the Draft Cabinet report “The Performance of Cardiff Schools in 2018/19” (**Appendix A**) and in the officers’ presentations and answers to Members’ questions. The Committee may also wish 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 2018/19 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 23 January 2020; 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

14 January 2020