

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10th OCTOBER 2016

School Improvement Panel

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To review the Panel's work and update the Scrutiny Committee on the School Improvement Panel findings.

Reasons:

- To ensure that the Panel is challenging and holding school leaders to account.
- At its meeting on the 17th November 2014, the Executive Board unanimously endorsed a proposal to establish a School Improvement Panel. The Panel's Terms of Reference state that it must *"produce an annual report on the Panel's activity for consideration by the Executive Board and the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee"* and *"include any proposals or recommendations that the Panel considers could improve provision or performance"*.
- To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

Directorate: Education & Children	Designation:	Tel No. / E-Mail Address:
Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans	Chief Education Officer	01267 246450 edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Gareth Morgans		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10th OCTOBER 2016

School Improvement Panel

The **School Improvement Panel** was established to enable the Executive Board Member for Education and Children's Services and the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee to effectively discharge constitutional and statutory responsibilities for monitoring school performance, constantly striving to improve educational outcomes for our pupils.

At its inaugural meeting in February 2015 the **Terms of Reference** agreed by the Executive Board were presented:

- To support the Executive Board Member for Education and Children's Services and the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee in effectively discharging their constitutional and statutory responsibilities for monitoring school performance, constantly striving to improve educational outcomes for our pupils.
- To receive regular reports from the Director of Education and Children's Services and his officers on all aspects of school performance and to assist in identifying areas for improvement.
- To receive regular reports from ERW, the regional school improvement service, on its contribution to improving the performance of schools across Carmarthenshire, supporting the Director of Education and Children's Services and Chief Education Officer in holding ERW to account in accordance with the National Model for Regional Working.
- To scrutinise annually the outcomes of pupil achievements, including teacher assessments, national literacy and numeracy tests, external examinations and other pupil standards, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Awards, etc, drawing lessons from areas of high performance to be shared elsewhere and identifying areas of under-performance requiring improvement.
- To receive and discuss regular school categorisation reports from ERW and to support the Director of Education and Children's Services and the Chief Education Officer in identifying priorities for attention within school improvement programmes.

- To receive copies of every ESTYN school inspection report following their publication and to summon the Chair of Governors and Headteacher of every school to appear before the Panel in order to hold the senior school leaders to account for the outcome of the inspection and further action required in response to it.
- To receive reports from the Director of Education and Children’s Services and his officers on formal Warning Notices issued to schools causing concern and any subsequent formal intervention and to support the Director and his officers in securing the required outcomes.
- In tandem with the Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding Panel to maintain an overview of safeguarding practice in schools, as a central aspect of school performance.
- To produce an annual report on the Panel’s activity for consideration by the Executive Board and Education & Children Scrutiny Committee, to include any proposals or recommendations that the Panel considers could improve provision or performance.

The attached report outlines the ‘learning’ from the Panel meetings to date and how to disseminate the good practice identified.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Gareth Morgans Chief Education Officer

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

This report has been prepared in accordance with the School Improvement Panel's Terms of Reference.

2. Legal

The School Improvement Panel was established to enable the Executive Board Member for Education and Children's Services and the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee to effectively discharge constitutional and statutory responsibilities for monitoring school performance, constantly striving to improve educational outcomes for our pupils. It is important to sustain this Panel.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Gareth Morgans Chief Education Officer

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – N/A

3. Relevant Partners – N/A

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – The School Improvement Panel Report is scheduled to be presented to the Employee Relations Forum on the 8th November 2016.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Enhancing democratic scrutiny and monitoring of Education and Children's Services to support improvements in standards and safeguarding – E&C Scrutiny Committee (30th September 2014)	Agenda: http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC20140930/index.asp Minutes: http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC20140930/MINUTES.HTM
Enhancing democratic scrutiny and monitoring of Education and Children's Services to support improvements in standards and safeguarding – Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board (17th November 2014)	Agenda: http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EXEB20141117/index.asp Minutes: http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EXEB20141117/MINUTES.HTM#P106_7945