

Report To: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 January 2014

Lead Member / Officer: Lead Member for Education/Head of Education

Report Author: Head of Education

Title: The post inspection action in response to the Estyn Inspection on the quality of Local Authority Education Services for children and young people in Denbighshire.

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. Provide an update on the progress made in response to the recommendations made by Estyn following the 2012 inspection.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To provide information on and consider progress made following the report presented to the scrutiny committee on 20 June 2013, in response to the recommendations made by Estyn following the 2012 inspection.

3. What are the Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 3.1 considers the information provided and comments on the progress achieved to date in addressing Estyn's recommendations; and
- 3.2 determines whether further monitoring of the action plan's implementation is required.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The main findings of the Estyn Report show that the Local Authority achieved 'Good' for the three key questions:-
 - 4.1.1 How good are outcomes?
 - 4.1.2 How good is provision?
 - 4.1.3 How good is leadership and management?
- 4.2 All other indicators were also judged to be 'Good', with the exception of 3.1 'Leadership', which was judged to be 'Excellent'.
- 4.3 However, in order to improve further, Estyn recommended the following:

- 4.3.1 **Recommendation 1:** Improve the accuracy of Teacher Assessments at the end of Key Stage 3; and
- 4.3.2 **Recommendation 2:** identify all services for children and young people in Denbighshire and establish an effective system to measure the impact of these services to help the Authority and its partners know whether these offer good value for money.

5. Progress against Recommendation 1

- 5.1. Progress has been made against actions identified under this recommendation (please refer to Appendix 1)

6. Progress against Recommendation 2

- 6.1. Progress has been made against actions identified under this recommendation (please refer to Appendix 2).

7. Next Steps

- 7.1 We are now at a crossroads in responding to the recommendations due to a combination of the efficiencies agenda, the regional collaboration work and plans for Estyn assessment in the context of ongoing changes regionally and nationally. Over the next six months officers will evaluate the work undertaken to date, evaluate its efficacy and revise the authority's approach to meeting the recommendations according to the resources now available.

8. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 8.1 Improving performance in education and the quality of school buildings is one of the Council's corporate priorities for 2012-17 term of office. In monitoring the delivery of the attached action plan the Committee can assist the Council to fulfil part of the above ambition.

9. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 9.1. All costs accrued will be supported by service budgets.

10. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

- 10.1. The purpose of the report is to review and consider progress against recommendations. Therefore, the report is not seeking a decision in response to a proposal. There are no adverse effects on any of the protected characteristics as a result of this report.

11. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 11.1. Consultation has been carried out with Key Stakeholders.

12. Chief Finance Officer Statement

12.1. N/A.

13. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 13.1 To reduce any risks to school support and challenge in Denbighshire schools, Education Officers within the Authority are monitoring and assessing the quality of the regional support from GwE.
- 13.2 There is an opportunity for officers working for the region to strengthen the moderation process for KS3 Teacher Assessments. This should improve the quality of external moderation ensure continuity and parity of Teacher Assessments across North Wales.

14. Power to make the Decision

- 14.1 No legal requirements but Local Authority inspections are mandatory.
- 14.2 Article 6.3.2 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that scrutiny committees may ensure that actions indicated in action plans are carried out.

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