

Report To: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 17 July 2014

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

Report Author: Partnerships & Communities Manager

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 16 January 2014, in response to the recommendations made by Estyn following the 2012 inspection.

3. What are the Recommendations

That the Committee:

3.2 considers the information provided and comments on the progress achieved to date in addressing Estyn's recommendations; and

3.3 determines whether further monitoring of the action plan's implementation is required.

4. Report details

4.1 The main findings of the Estyn Report showed 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 Provisional results indicate that this recommendation has been addressed. The key indicator at KS 3 is the Core Subject Indicator (CSI), this has risen for a seventh consecutive year. The CSI has risen from 75% in 2013 to 83.3% in 2014, an increase of 8.2%.
- 5.2 There is a significant increase in English, Welsh, Maths and science compared to 2013, there has also been an increase in the number of pupils achieving the higher Levels 6 and 7 in 2014 in all core subjects.

6. Progress against Recommendation 2

- 6.1 A revised approach to meeting the recommendation is proposed which builds on the mapping work that was completed as a pilot in 2012.
- 6.2 A small task and finish group has been convened to plan mapping activity going forward and a work plan has been agreed. This includes:
- Youth Workers completing 15 further mapping tools each (see Appendix 2)
 - Partnerships & Communities Team to include mapping activity through 'Access to Services in Rural Areas' project
 - Family Information Service (FIS) Outreach Officer completing mapping tools at engagement meetings
 - FIS Database to be updated with all information received
 - Lead Officers to meet regularly to consider themes and response required.
- 6.3 This approach not only matches the spirit of the Estyn Recommendation, but also supports the Council's Safeguarding responsibilities by developing better understanding of the requirements for safeguarding training and support for groups that are not directly funded or supported by the Council.
- 6.4 This activity will be completed by the end of December and a review of the approach, coupled with recommendations for embedding the work into 'business as usual' activities will be considered by the Children, Young People & Families Partnership in January 2015.
- 6.5 A further piece of work is underway under the auspices of the Children, Young People and Family Partnership which identifies all the performance indicators and outcome measures that are being reported by projects, programmes, services and partnerships in this area. To date there are over 400 separate indicators that are being reported to Welsh Government and beyond. The

partnership aims to identify shared outcome evaluations in order to be able to compare and contrast the initiatives, fully understanding the impact that is being made by them, identifying any duplication or gaps that need to be addressed, and have a good understanding of the value for money that is being delivered.

- 6.6 Welsh Government have expressed a desire to streamline performance reporting across the Anti-Poverty programmes (Flying Start, Families First and Communities First), but the holistic approach that Denbighshire is taking is understood to be the first such one in Wales; Welsh Government and other stakeholders will be kept informed of the outcome of the work.

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

- 7.1 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.

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

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

9. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

- 9.1. 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.

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

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

11. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 11.1 Any costs associated with the implementation of the recommendations must be contained within the resources available

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

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 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.

13. Power to make the Decision

- 13.1 No legal requirements but Local Authority inspections are mandatory.
- 13.2 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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