

**Report To:** Corporate Governance Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Lead Member/Officer:** Karen Evans, Head of Education and Children Services

**Report Author:** Karen Evans, Head of Education and Children Services

**Title:** Denbighshire's 2018 Estyn Inspection Outcomes

**1. What is the report about?**

1.1 To provide an update to the committee on the recent Authority Estyn Inspection.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1 As part of the Corporate Governance forward work programme, the Committee asked for a report to be presented showing the outcome of this inspection.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 That Members consider the information provided herein and comment accordingly.

**4. Report details**

**4.1 Background**

4.11 In February 2018 the Authority's Education Services were inspected by Estyn. All Authorities are required to be inspected by Estyn as part of their continual inspection regime in Wales. The previous inspection of Denbighshire being in 2012.

4.12 As part of this process the Authority was required provide a Self-Evaluation Report following Estyn's guidance.

4.13 The Authority was the first in Wales to be fully assessed against Estyn's new inspection framework which focusses on each of the following areas:

Section	Inspection Area
1	Outcomes
2	Quality of Education Services
3	Leadership and Management

## 4.2 Outcomes of Inspection

4.2.1 The outcome of the Authority's Estyn inspection was released in their report of April 2018. This report is shown in Appendix 1. Members attention is drawn to the summary on page 2 of this document.

4.2.2 The findings of the report were welcomed by Education and Children Services. Estyn had judged leadership and management in the service to be excellent and outcomes and quality of education to be good.

Section	Inspection Area	Outcome
1	Outcomes	Good
2	Quality of Education Services	Good
3	Leadership and Management	Excellent

4.2.3 Denbighshire was one of only two authorities to receive excellent for leadership in the last round of inspections, and is the first to be awarded an excellent rating for leadership under a new inspection framework introduced across Wales.

4.2.4 A notable feature of the report stated "... that outcomes in Denbighshire are strong across nearly all key indicators over several years in primary and secondary schools, and particularly at Key Stage 4."

4.2.5 The recent merger of Education and Children Services was also highlighted by Estyn as having a "positive impact" on services for children, young people and their families. Estyn have also asked Denbighshire to prepare a case study on the amalgamation of Education and Children Services, to share as best practice with other councils across Wales.

4.2.6 The report highlights that "the authority has a strong moral purpose that underpins its education services, focusing on an ambition to maximise the life chances of every learner."

4.2.7 Some other key Estyn comments from the report are as follows:

- "The authority knows its schools very well"
- "The authority has a strong moral purpose that underpins its education services, focusing on an ambition to maximise the life chances of every learner"
- "Pupils' standards in Welsh first language remain strong over their time in school"
- "The authority has a very secure understanding of the extent of elective home education in the county"
- "A very strong feature of the authority is the way it consults with children and young people when making decisions that affect them and when evaluating the wide range of services it offers"
- "Children can influence decision making"
- "Schools work well in clusters of primary schools and their partner secondary schools"

- “The authority sets clear expectations of all schools and parents in relation to pupil attendance”
- “The authority’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan demonstrates a strong commitment to developing services through the medium of Welsh”
- “There are good quality youth services are provided by the authority that meets the needs of a wide range of young people”
- “Officers and elected members implement the authority’s modernising education programme successfully”
- The authority’s political and strategic leadership is highly effective”
- “The authority’s approach to managing complex change are very effective”

4.2.8 The report makes very positive reading and is a tribute to the work undertaken in support of Education and Schools in Denbighshire. The report does include a small number of recommendations and an action plan is being drawn up to address these. The recommendations were as follows:

	<b>Recommendations</b>
1	Reduce the variability in outcomes in secondary schools
2	Ensure that the evaluation of services focuses clearly on measuring the outcomes that children and young people achieve through those services.

4.2.9 The outcome of this report is a testament the priority which Denbighshire has given Education for a number of years. This commitment to continually improving Education and the outcomes for children and young people will continue to be our focus and vision for the years to come.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The services described herein are all in support of the priority of improving education, in-line with the priority on Young People, and Denbighshire being a place where younger people will want to live and work and have the skills to do so.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

Any future work associated with the report is part of existing functions within Education and Children Services.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment (WBIA) undertaken on the decision?**

No WBIA undertaken. Not required as part of this process.

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

This report is provided following a request from Corporate Governance for feedback on the inspection outcomes.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

It is both pleasing and reassuring that the report makes positive references to the way the council manages the funding formula, budgets and the challenge and intervention process for schools that have a planned budget deficit.

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

The Inspection Report is extremely positive and the 2 recommended actions will be taken forward and addressed.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

Head of Education and Children Services