

School Standards Monitoring Group (SSMG)

Terms of Reference

Key Principles

The SSMG is a sub-group of the Performance Scrutiny Committee and has the responsibility to support and challenge schools.

The SSMG was established in 2007 to ensure that schools which are under-performing are rigorously challenged by the Local Authority but are also appropriately supported in order to make progress and improve the outcomes for their learners. The group also provides elected members with the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of the level of school performance within the authority and actively work alongside officers in providing that challenge and support.

The meeting is as an important two-way process and will seek to engage in meaningful discussion between elected members, officers, headteachers and Chairs of Governors. Schools will be called to the SSMG on a rolling programme.

Meetings are held monthly, chaired by the Lead Member for Education and Children's Services, some meetings may be held in schools.

From 2019 Denbighshire schools are facing unprecedented change driven by national education initiatives and significant budgetary challenges. To support members understanding SSMG will focus secondary schools in 2019-20 allowing a two way dialog for members to gain a greater understanding of the changes facing schools and allowing schools to share challenges in implementing change.

All secondary schools will be invited to attend SSMG during 2019A range of factors will influence the timing of their invite including:

SSMG members will:

- nominate from each scrutiny committee for two representatives on the SSMG
- invite local elected member(s) for each school
- draw up a timetable for school attendance with officers on an annual basis
- invite schools to attend the next SSMG session (4 weeks prior to the meeting). This will include a personal invite to the Head teacher and Chair of Governors.
- receive a 30 minute update from officers on current school performance and issues.
- receive school classification profile from GwE two weeks prior to the meeting;
- familiarise themselves with the relevant data and paperwork
- ask questions sensitively and engage in discussion with the head and chair of governors in relation to the data and information about the school.

Officers will:

- provide all administrative support for SSMG.
- provide training and support for members.
- notify GwE of the schools due to attend the next SSMG session (One term prior to the meeting).
- officers will record actions/issues raised by schools in their presentations that require Local Authority or GwE for action.
- provide a 30 minute update on current position of LA schools for members.
- provide school performance data for members.

GwE will:

- provide school classification profile for SSMG members 2 weeks before the SSMG meeting.
- ensure that the school in attendance is accompanied by its GwE Support and Improvement Adviser.

Schools will:

- ensure that it is represented by the headteacher and Chair of Governors.
- schools can make a presentation if they wish.
- host meetings that are in schools.

Group Membership:

Lead Member for Education and Children's Services
6 members from the Scrutiny Committees
Local elected member (s)
Education and Children's Services Principal Managers
Education and Children's Services Business Manager
GwE Support and Improvement Advisers
Business and Performance Manager (BIM),