

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20 June 2018

Subject Education Achievement Service – Governor Support

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

| Invitee: | Role: |
|-----------------------|---|
| James Harries | Strategic Director - People |
| Sarah Morgan | Chief Education Officer |
| Clare Coff | Head of Education Achievement Service (EAS) Governor Support |
| Hayley Davies-Edwards | Education Achievement Service (EAS) Principal Challenge Adviser for Newport |
| Mr Alan Speight | Chair of Newport Association of School Governors <i>(as requested by Committee)</i> |

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the information provided within the submission of evidence from the EAS (**Appendix 1**) regarding the level of support in place for Governors, responsibilities for funding this support and an assessment of the adequacy of resources for Governors.
2. Consider whether Scrutiny should be involved in monitoring the level of Governor Support.
3. Determine if it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet Member and / or the EAS.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The EAS is the school improvement service for the five Local Authorities in the region (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen). As part of its role to support, monitor and challenge schools with the purpose of raising education standards in South East Wales, the EAS also provides Governor Support.

Previous Consideration of this item

- 2.2 Newport City Council makes an annual contribution to the commissioning of the EAS. At the meeting of the Learning Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee held on 22 March 2017, while considering the EAS Contribution report for 2016-17, and discussing school leadership, the Committee raised the following:

“Members raised concerns about the lack of support for governing bodies, given the crucial role required of governors, on a voluntary basis. It was confirmed that there was a small team in place to support governing bodies, but resources were stretched. Members suggested that this could be an area of inquiry for scrutiny’s work programme after the election, to establish levels of support in place, responsibilities for funding that support, and whether additional resources could be committed to this.”

(Links to the full Report and Minutes of the Learning Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 22 March 2017 are provided in the Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.)

- 2.3 Following the new Scrutiny Committee Structure approved at the Council’s Annual General Meeting in May 2017, the topic was scheduled in the Annual Work Programme for this Committee and a report subsequently requested from the EAS. The Committee when reviewing its Work Programme requested that Mr Alan Speight, Chair of Newport Governors Association, be invited to the meeting.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information has been submitted to the Committee for consideration:

- **Appendix 1 - Submission of Evidence – Education Achievement Services, Governor Support**

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to consider:

- 4.1 Whether the information presented provides the Committee with evidence to establish levels of support in place, responsibilities for funding that support and adequacy of resources?
- 4.2 How should scrutiny be involved in monitoring the sufficiency of Governor Support?
- Assess and make comment on:
 - What level of Governor Support the consortium is currently providing?
 - What future levels of support are planned?
 - How well the consortium is supporting Governors?
 - Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- 4.1 In evaluating the EAS Governor Support attached as **Appendix 1**, the Committee may wish to consider:
- Whether the report contains sufficient information to establish the level of support provided by the Consortium?
 - The report contains some information on the funding arrangements for Governor Support. Has funding declined in line with the overall budget and by what percentage in Newport?
 - What accounts for the decrease in Governor Attendance in 2016-17 in the majority of schools?
 - How frequently / infrequently are governors suspended for not attending the mandatory training within one year of becoming a Governor?
 - Why 7 out of 15 courses published for 2017-18 had to be cancelled due to lack of uptake?
 - Has the online training via Hwb started yet?
 - What are the main challenges / pressures of providing Governor Support?
 - How well the Consortium is working together to deliver Governor Support?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- Summarise how this report aligns with Council priorities – in particular the Corporate Plan and wellbeing objectives:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Well-being Objectives | Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment | Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities | Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient | Build cohesive & sustainable communities |
| Corporate Plan Commitments | Thriving City | Aspirational People | | Resilient Communities |
| Supporting Function | Modernised Council | | | |

6 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

6.1 General questions

- How is this area / policy affected by the new legislation?
- How will this decision / policy / proposal impact upon future generations? What is the long term impact?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
- Evidence from Community Profiles / other data?
- (When published:) Evidence of links to Wellbeing Assessment / Objectives / Plan?

6.2 Wellbeing Goals

- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*

6.3 Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the report / proposal demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
 - **Long Term**
The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
 - **Prevention**
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
 - **Integration**
Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies
 - **Collaboration**
Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
 - **Involvement**
The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [EAS Website](#)
- [Agenda and Minutes](#) of Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee 22 March 2017

Report Completed: 12 June 2018