

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 4 October 2017

Subject - Educational Achievement Service (EAS) - Briefing

Author Overview and Scrutiny Officer

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

- Hayley Davies Edwards - Principle Challenge Advisor – EAS
- Ed Pryce – Challenge Advisor - EAS
- Sarah Morgan – Deputy Chief Education Officer - Newport City Council

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is receiving this briefing session for information.

2 Context

- 2.1 The EAS is the school improvement service for the five Local Authorities in the consortium (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen). The role of the EAS is to support, monitor and challenge schools with the purpose of raising education standards in South East Wales.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 26 July 2017, the Committee requested briefings on all of the partnerships within the remit of the Committee, to enable Members to have an understanding of the partnerships prior to any scrutiny being undertaken.
- 2.4 The EAS have been asked to provide a briefing to the Committee covering the following:
- What is EAS? What is its purpose, aims and objectives?
 - Who are the key partners within EAS?
 - What are the governance arrangements in place for EAS? How is progress monitored and reported on.
 - Who are the key contacts within EAS, and who will be attending the Committee when EAS items are considered?
 - Any other information that might be useful for the Committee – such as key documents that you produce, current projects / update on current work.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 26 July the Committee agreed to include items relating to the EAS on its work programme for the coming year.

Topic	Role	Statutory Status
Education Achievement Services Contribution – Financial Year 2017/18 and Value for Money Model for Commissioning Arrangements	Performance Scrutiny of the EAS Partnership - through Annual Monitoring of the local authorities Financial contribution to EAS and also the through consideration of the value for money model, and its potential use / implications for scrutiny of other partnerships.	Newport City Council makes an annual contribution to the commissioning of the EAS. This report would provide the Committee with detail of the financial contribution which the Council has made and the level of support which the EAS has provided to Newport over the financial year 2017/18. EAS is one of a number of commissioned education services, and EAS were supporting work to develop a “Value For Money Model” so that the approach developed here could be applied more widely. It was suggested that this model could also be of interest to scrutiny in monitoring and assessing commissioned services. <i>Timescale – February 2018</i>
Education Achievement Services – Governors Support	Performance Scrutiny – of the EAS Partnership – through a consideration of the level of support in place for Governors, responsibilities for funding this support and an assessment of the adequacy of resources for Governors.	No statutory obligation to scrutinise this area. This is an area raised by the previous Scrutiny Committee. This would be a detailed look into a specific concern previously raised by the Scrutiny Committee that it felt warranted further investigation. <i>Timescale – March / April 2018</i>

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is an introductory document giving a brief overview of the EAS. There will also be a presentation at the meeting by the lead Officers.

4 Suggested Areas of Focus

- 4.1 It is suggested that the Committee discuss the role of EAS with the Officers present, and gain an understanding of the partnership and how the Scrutiny Committee may be involved with scrutinising the work of the partnership in the future.

Section B – Supporting Information

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

6.1 - Improvement Plan:

A Learning and Working City

5. Supporting young people into education, employment and training;
6. Ensuring the best educational outcomes for children

9 Background Papers

Learning, Care and Leisure Scrutiny Committee's last meeting details including Minutes, EAS Business Plan and Value for Money information. (22 March 2017)

Available from: <https://democracy.newport.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=6654>

Report Completed: 28 September 2017