



## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
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Service Area	Learning
Committee Date	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

## **SELF-EVALUATION REPORT**

### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The local authority continues to have a planned work programme for the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) in order to build up a profile of judgements, which will be used to highlight any areas for improvement as well as come to an overall view on standards and performance.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the overall evaluations for the SER inspection areas:-
- Inspection Area 1 – Outcomes: Unsatisfactory – Important weaknesses outweigh strengths
  - Inspection Area 2 – Education Services: Adequate and needs improvement - Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement
  - Inspection Area 3 – Leadership & Management: Adequate and needs improvement Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 This report is discussed and noted.

### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Self-evaluation is the essential step in a cyclical process of bringing about change and improvement. The steps in the process are:
- Monitoring and evaluating improvement
  - Planning for improvement
  - Undertaking improvement work

- 3.2 The local authority's Self-Evaluation Report (SER) for Local Government Education Services (LGES) has been reviewed and updated to ensure that the judgements and actions will lead to improved outcomes for all learners – see Appendix 1. At the heart of self-evaluation are three questions:
- How well are we doing?
  - How do we know?
  - How can we improve things further?
- 3.3 ESTYN reviewed their framework for the inspection of local authorities and it was piloted during the last academic year. The local authority continues to have a planned work programme in order to build up a profile of judgements, which will be used to highlight any areas for improvement as well as come to an overall view on standards and performance. The information collected will feed into the local authority's Business Improvement Plans for improving the quality of provision. Reports on all the areas of the SER have been reported this academic year. This report provides the complete SER as of the end of June 2019. The department will continue to present regular self-evaluation updates to the LGES Scrutiny Committee over the next year.

## **4.0 WHERE WE WERE**

- 4.1 The previous LGES framework made judgements against the evidence provided – these judgement were:
- Excellent – Very strong, sustained performance and practice
  - Good – Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement
  - Adequate and needs improvement – Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement
  - Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement – Important weaknesses outweigh strengths
- 4.2 From September 2018, Estyn will no longer be making judgements. For the purpose of self-evaluation, the Learning Department have continued to use the definitions from last year.
- 4.3 In 2017-2018, the judgements for the SER were:
- Inspection Area 1: Outcomes – Adequate (strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement)
  - Inspection Area 2: Quality of Education Services – Good (strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement)
  - Inspection Area 3: Leadership & Management – Good (Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement)

## **5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW**

- 5.1 Current judgements for the SER are:
- Inspection Area 1: Outcomes – Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement (important weaknesses outweigh strengths)
  - Inspection Area 2: Quality of Education Services – Adequate and needs improvement (strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement)
  - Inspection Area 3: Leadership & Management – Adequate and needs improvement (strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement)

## **6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

- 6.1 Our ambition is for the outcomes of all learners in Merthyr Tydfil to be consistently higher than the Welsh average. We strive to ensure the children and young people of Merthyr Tydfil acquire the skills necessary to become ambitious and capable learners who are healthy, confident individuals.
- 6.2 Our aim is for all areas to be judged at least 'Good', with a number being 'Excellent'.

## **7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**

- 7.1 Within the SER are Key Priorities for Improvement and these will form actions for officers within their Business Improvement Plans.

### **7.2 Key Priorities for Improvement**

#### **7.2.1 Inspection Area 1: Outcomes**

- Improve standards, especially at the end of Key Stage 4
- Improve rates of attendance including that for persistent absentees
- Reduce the number of exclusions and days lost in primary and secondary schools
- Make more effective use of Capita within Inclusion and ALN Services

#### **7.2.2 Inspection Area 2: Quality of Education Services**

- Improve the quality leadership at all levels (particularly middle leaders), including governance through increased engagement through CSC Leadership Programmes.
- Improve levels of wellbeing for all pupils by developing a collective approach to prevent and minimise harm caused by Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Improve arrangements for supporting behaviour needs in schools.
- Improve outcomes for Children Looked After by working with Children's Services
- Determine and implement sufficient nursery education arrangements for three and four year olds and reflect in published admission arrangements.

#### **7.2.3 Inspection Area 3: Leadership & Management**

- Review and refresh the core learning strategy Raising Standards
- Continue to develop and embed other stakeholders' involvement in contributing towards the local authority's self-evaluation processes and identification of priority areas for improvement.
- Increase structured learning and training opportunities for all staff across education services particularly those at middle management level and above to support strategic development and succession planning.
- Secure financial resources for, and implement, a fit for purpose hosting and technical maintenance solution for Capita One during 2019/20. Also, secure appropriate staffing resources to continue the development and effective use of Capita One across the whole of education services within the local authority and to enable the delivery of a Capita One Development Plan.

## **8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES**

- 8.1 The contents of this report relate to the following Wellbeing Objectives:
- Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.

8.2 Examples of how the Learning Department meets the Five Ways of Working through Inspection Area 2.3 (Other Education Support Services) are provided in Appendix 2.

**SUE WALKER, CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER**

**COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON, PORTFOLIO LEAD FOR EDUCATION**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		