

Education Scrutiny Working Group Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Education Self Evaluation Report

The Education Scrutiny Working Group met on the 13th March 2018 and considered the draft Education Self Evaluation Report (SER) v17.1.

The Group made the following observations to Cabinet/Management Team in respect of the draft SER on 20th March 2018.

The Education Scrutiny Group welcome the production of the Self Evaluation Report and the opportunity to comment on the contents of the report. It is understood that the SER and data analysis will link to the Corporate Improvement Plan and Service Improvement Plan which is where the delivery planning for the areas of improvement will be detailed. Scrutiny have the Service Improvement Plan on their work programme and will discuss with the Portfolio Holder and Director the most appropriate way of monitoring progress.

Specific issues include:

- 1.0 Key Stage 5 states 'a number of higher ability learners are leaving for out of county provision' but there is no reflection in the main areas of improvement that the action needs to be taken to encourage retention of Post 16 pupils
- 1.1 there are actions to be taken in respect of eFSM but no headline findings for that group
- 2.1 the question asks 'how well do we provide support for school leadership, management and governance?'. There is no reference in the headline findings or main areas of improvement regarding governance. Scrutiny were most concerned that governor support, or lack thereof, has not been included in this SER. There is a strong sense that governors do not always have the skills to assist their schools with improvement and the training offered is not always taken up or is of the quality required. This needs to be recognised both in the headline findings and the main areas of improvement.
- 2.4 Within the section on 'how do we evaluate access and school places' it may be appropriate to recognise the WAO findings on the pace and scale of change in implementing the School Organisation Policy.

- 3.1.3 Under Headline findings scrutiny is now undertaken under Scrutiny Committee B

Scrutiny welcome the candid assessment outlined by the Director of Education regarding the performance of the service in respect of the key questions asked in the SER. The group would support the Director and Portfolio Holder in expressing this position.

Membership of the Education Scrutiny Group on 13th March 2018
County Councillors **D Jones (Lead Member)**, A Jenner, S McNicholas, L Roberts, R Williams, Parent Governor Representatives A Davies and S Davies and Church Representative M Evitts