



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To:
Councillor Jennifer Raynor
Cabinet member for Education

Councillor Christine Richards
Cabinet Member for Services for Children
and Young People

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office 01792 637256
Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrochol:
e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date 1 September 2015
Dyddiad:

This is a letter from the Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel to the Cabinet Member for Education and Cabinet Member for Services for Children and Young People following the meeting of the Panel on 13 August 2015. It highlights the Panel's discussion and any outcomes arising from the meeting are contained.

Dear Cllr Raynor and Councillor Richards

Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel

We met with the Chief Education Officer at our meeting on the 13 August to discuss the potential implications of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform. The Panel was informed that the Draft Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill (which sets out proposals for a new legislative system for supporting children and young people, aged 0-25, who have additional learning needs) was currently out for consultation. The proposals from Welsh Government say it will create:

- A unified legislative framework to support learners aged 0-25 with additional learning needs
- An integrated, collaborative process of assessment, planning and monitoring which facilitates early, timely and effective interventions
- A fair and transparent system for providing information and advice, and for resolving concerns and appeals.

We were particularly interested to hear about the aspect of the Bill around individual development planning, which is part of the person centred approach (although we felt that this should ideally be the case for all children in the longer term).

We were informed that the Local Authority will be responsible for delivery of the reform but will not necessarily have control over all the funding. We agreed with the Chief Education officer that the Reform is a positive move but there are potentially major

risks to the authority around resourcing it; therefore the bill needs to be considered within that context.

We were informed that there is currently no definitive timescale for implementation but it is envisaged it will begin shortly after May 2016. We understand that schools are aware of the Bill but we felt it would be beneficial if they could be encouraged to formally contribute their views.

We also discussed a couple of issues arising from your responses to our previous letters arising from our meeting on the 18 May; from these we wish to raise the following:

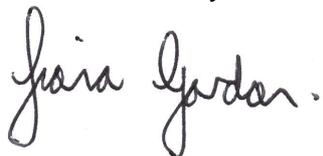
- *FSM administrative centralization*
The panel wished to find out if there has been a decline in the take up of FSM since this change in working? Is this something that is being monitored?
- *EMLAS and the capacity building model*
We would encourage you to evaluate how this particular approach impacts on pupils, and assess on an ongoing basis whether it is improving provision.
- *Elective Home Education and sharing of information across departments*
We would like to suggest that you investigate the use of and/or potentially learn from the WASPI information sharing Framework in relation to this matter.

In summary we would like:

- Schools to be encouraged to formally contribute their views with regard to this Bill
- To find out if there has been a decline in the take up of free school meals since the change and whether this is something that will be monitored.
- To know how EMLAS' capacity building model is being evaluated for effectiveness, in terms of outcomes for children.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin yellow rectangular border.

Fiona Gordon
Convener Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel
Fiona.gordon@swansea.gov.uk