

## Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel

Summary: This is an agenda pack for a meeting for the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel taking place on the 14 April 2016. The main items being discussed relates to the good practice in Schools and the West Glamorgan Music Service.

**Date:** 14 April 2016

**Time:** 4.00pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 2, **CIVIC CENTRE**, Swansea

### Members of the Panel:

Fiona Gordon	Paul Meara
Mike Day	Anthony Colburn
Beverley Hopkins	Robert Smith
Cheryl Philpott	Dave Anderson-Thomas (Parent Governor Co-optee)
Hazel Morris	

### Copy of Agendas to:

Helen Morgan Rees – Hub Head of School Improvement  
Nick Williams – Head of Learner Support Services  
Lindsay Harvey – Chief Education Officer

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## AGENDA

No.	Item
1. 4.00pm	<p><b>Good Practice Event – Schools</b> The Panel at their work planning meeting agreed that they would like a meeting scheduled to look at good practice in Swansea. The Panel will consider the good practice examples and forward their learning points via a letter to the Cabinet Member for Education.</p> <p><b>One School will attend the meeting to present their good practice:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Craigfelen Primary School (Headteacher and children will attend panel)</li><li>b) A second school sent in their good practice submission but were unable to attend the panel - Trallwn Primary School</li><li>c) Plus other Good Practice information/pack relating to Swansea and across Wales - <i>circulated for consideration prior to the meeting by email and is also available online on the scrutiny publications page.</i></li></ul>
2. 5.00pm	<p><b>Pre-decision Scrutiny: West Glamorgan Music Service</b> Cllr Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member for Education <i>Report to follow</i></p>
3.	Work Programme Timetable

\*\*\*Please note members should declare personal and prejudicial interests and party whipping

Contact: Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01792 637256 Email: [michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk)

## **Linking the work of the Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Corporate Priorities of the Council**

The items on the Agenda today fall within the following Corporate Priorities for Swansea, as details in the Delivering for Swansea Corporate Plan 2015-17

### **Priority One: Safeguarding Vulnerable People**

Swansea Council is committed to ensuring that its citizens are free from harm, exploitation, including domestic abuse, child exploitation, human trafficking and modern day slavery. We want people to be able to live as independently as possible, in their own homes. We also want children to stay with their families or be supported in family settings, where it is safe for them to do so.

### **Priority Two: Improving Pupil Attainment**

We want every child and young person in Swansea to gain the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life. Currently too many children and young people are not attending school regularly and are not achieving the skills and qualifications that they need to go on into further education, employment or training.

We need to ensure that all children and young people attend school regularly so that they have a better chance of improving their skills and qualifications. Educational outcomes in Swansea have shown good improvements in recent years. The focus on improving outcomes for all children and young people remains. Raising aspirations and effective work will stop poverty and disadvantage holding back improvement and opportunities.

### **Priority Three: Tackling Poverty**

Our vision is that Swansea citizens will be aspirational and have the confidence and resources to make their aspirations a reality. We want everyone, regardless of where they live, to live in a vibrant, supportive place, where they feel proud to belong to the community. We want people to have aspirations for their communities and families that are challenging, rewarding and uplifting. We want to have communities of ambitions, where young people strive for a better future, and get the help and support they need to make it a reality. We want to provide strong role models for children and adults, from whom they can learn and with whom they can try out new options for themselves, which may have been beyond their wildest dreams.

## Craigfelen Primary School

### Good Practice Presentation

**In Attendance: Headteacher Alison Williams and children from the School**

#### **Background to school**

Craigfelen Primary School caters for pupils aged three to eleven years old and is located in the small township of Craigfelen in the Swansea Valley. It is maintained by the City and County of Swansea local authority (LA). There are 168 pupils, full-time equivalent, on roll. Children are admitted to the nursery class following their third birthday and initially on a part-time basis. Children attending the reception class attend school on a full-time basis. School numbers have increased a little over recent years.

Most of the pupils who attend the school come from the immediate area. In the year 2000, Craigfelen ward was identified as an area of significant deprivation and as such has been given Communities First Area status. It is categorised as one of the 20% most deprived areas in Wales. 53 per cent of pupils are entitled to free school meals; this percentage is significantly above the LA and national averages.

#### ***From Estyn Inspection report***

**168**

Number of pupils on roll

**52.9%**

Free school meals (FSM) - 3 year average

**93.5%**

% Attendance during the year

**90.5%**

Pupils achieving the expected level in the core subjects at Key Stage 2

**Green**

Support category

**87.5%**

Pupils achieving the expected outcome in the Foundation Phase areas of learning

## Good Practice at Craigfelen Primary School

- **The work being done with children with behavioural issues and reducing exclusions and/or referrals to EOTAS:** identifying individual pupils strengths to become involved in working positively in school life eg KS2 pupil developing skills to become a 'playground friend' to younger pupils, older pupils mentoring younger pupils with behavioural issues at break times providing a good role model to individual pupils. We also encourage pupils with behavioural issues to become involved in enterprise projects. One very successful example has been the pupil led 'Graigos Café' which has engaged our more 'hard to reach' pupils in developing literacy and numeracy skills' through an alternative 'real life' approach to the curriculum. There have been no exclusions or referrals to EOTAS during the last 4 years.
  - <http://www.itv.com/news/wales/update/2013-02-15/craigfelen-primary-school-pupils-open-cafe-in-swansea/>
- **Listening to the pupil voice:** Creation of a wide range of pupil voice groups to include pupils of all ages and abilities (school council, eco squad, playground friends, safety squad, enterprise troopers, Graigos Café staff and rights ambassadors). All have the opportunity to become involved in decisions about school life; in particular pupils led the review of our teaching and learning policy when we introduced a new curriculum 2 years ago, and have been monitoring and reviewing these changes regularly, including regular presentations to governors and the creation of a pupil friendly school development plan.
- **Involving families and community:** working in a community with 53%FSM pupil population, one of the school's main priorities is to engage positively with our whole community. Using our PDG grant to work with specialists in music and art, we have created a parent/pupil art gallery which is proudly on display in our school playground (See attached) Our very talented music specialist is currently preparing our first ever multi-generational choir, which will include grandparents, parents and pupils singing together and performing in the local church Christmas Carol Service. The HSA are also planning to invite the choir to perform in a charity fund raising event to raise money for the school. These projects have created more positive family relationships, raised self-esteem and confidence of all involved. The projects have also identified many talented parents and grandparents, as well as extending the skills of the pupils themselves.

## Trallwn Primary School

### Good Practice Presentation

**In Attendance: Headteacher Amanda Taylor**

#### **Background to school**

Trallwn Primary School is located in a built-up area near Llansamlet in Swansea. The majority of pupils come from the surrounding area, which is economically disadvantaged. Many pupils enter the school with well below the expected level of skills for their age. Approximately 92% of pupils come from homes where English is the home language. There are a few pupils from the traveller community and no pupil speaks Welsh as a first language.

Currently there are 252 full-time pupils on roll. Around 49% of these are entitled to free school meals; this is well above the all-Wales and local averages. The school identifies that about 47% of pupils have additional learning needs and this is well above the national and local averages. A few pupils have a statement of special educational need.

**252**

Number of pupils on roll

**49.1%**

Free school meals (FSM) - 3 year average

**94.3%**

% Attendance during the year

**£4,321**

School budget per pupil

**88.5%**

Pupils achieving the expected level in the core subjects at Key Stage 2

**Green**

Support category

**81.6%**

Pupils achieving the expected outcome in the Foundation Phase areas of learning

## Good Practice at Trallwn Primary School

### Engaging Parents and Building Brighter Futures Together at Trallwn Primary School

#### **Background:**

Trallwn Primary School in Swansea East has been working on how they can engage parents and families to support pupil learning over several years. The school serves over 275 pupils, with approximately 52% eligibility for Free School Meals. Despite having over 75% of families coming from the 30% most deprived areas, with significant issues linked to deprivation prevalent within the school community, the school is not part of a Flying Start community. Over the last 3 years the school has used the Welsh Government funded Pupil Deprivation Grant to support both pupils and their families, addressing issues such as pupil attainment, attendance and well-being through a supportive approach to families in need. This has led to a rising trend in attendance, from just under 91% to over 95% since 2012, and a very positive trend in the academic performance of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals. However despite much work and some success, there continues to be concern at not being able to engage with families earlier, and recognition that there is a downward trend in terms of milestones reached by children commencing school at the age of 3.

**Rationale:** Health and educational attainment are both strongly linked to deprivation and the impact of deprivation can be seen across the social gradient in Swansea. The peak time for early year's brain development is recognised as being between 0 and 3 years old. Local data has been collected that indicates that 75% of children have not achieved the expected developmental milestone for their age at 3 years. The majority of these children were not accessing the Welsh Government scheme "Flying Start" (covering parenting skills, free childcare, language and play) available in defined geographically deprived areas. Out of the 883 children not reaching the expected milestone, an estimated 500 (57%) of them were not living in a "Flying Start" area. The information collected shows that there is an average development gap of 10 months but some had an eighteen month gap compared to children of a similar age on entry to nursery at about 3 years. This data reflects the issues faced by the community served by Trallwn Primary School, and the impact on milestones reached by children commencing school at 3 years of age. On reviewing baseline data, the school has identified a rising trend in pupils commencing Nursery and not having acquired the necessary skills to equip them for school. Up to 50% of each intake are identified as having Speech and Language difficulties, up to 40% arrive at school not yet fully toilet trained, 100% are unable to independently dress/undress themselves and around 70% are unable to put on their coats. Over 70% of children lack the fine or gross motor skills to support early writing, fastening buttons or zips, or using cutlery; whilst balance is often a problem for children in being able to run with a steady gait or ride a simple bike or climb on apparatus. Other issues include under-developed awareness of simple concepts such as colour and early number and little or no knowledge of rhymes or familiar stories. Parental engagement, even at this early stage, is described as inconsistent. As a result of this, much of the focus of the Nursery Provision is focused around helping children to catch up in achieving expected early milestones and getting the children ready for school. Community aspirations appear low and professionals such as Health Visitors, who are assessing the children pre-school, feel disempowered with limited choices to influence improved acquisition of early milestones or change in the community.

**Process:** Changes to the funding allocation of PDG to include 3-4 year olds, and the Welsh Government 'Early Years PDG' document, provide an opportunity and scaffold to enable the school to take a pro-active stance in ensuring children are 'school ready' by the time they enter nursery. The school now plans to develop an outreach programme as a follow up to Health Visitors concerns to encourage activities to support early language and numeracy skills, independence including toileting; dressing; healthy eating and to develop early partnerships and engagement. Additional groups to support development in these areas will also be run by the school. The Headteacher and staff from the school have already commenced work with other professionals including Dr Nina Williams (Public Health Director), Health Visitors and staff from other agencies across Health and Education in Swansea who work with pre-school children, in

addition to Bryntirion Infant School in Bridgend where emerging excellent practice in this area is also underway. The work is also planned to dovetail with Swansea's 'Healthy City Board' aim to improve young children's development outcomes and improve their life chances with a clear aim on closing the gap in readiness for school between advantaged and disadvantaged groups by:

1. Increasing awareness of nursery and school readiness through a universal approach (like the Swansea Statement)
2. Assessment and signposting
3. Service reorientation and development
4. Data and service quality

Whilst the project is at a very early stage of development at Trallwn, it is already being considered as a pilot for other schools in Swansea. Close collaboration with Health Visitors has resulted in a commitment to tweaking current practice to include building links at the 27 month Health Visit, with the school. Parents will be provided during this visit with information as to what the school can offer parents, and links to designated school personnel, as well as school run pre-school activities. Follow up visits by the school team to parents at a range of levels depending on need and consent will provide opportunities for support in reaching expected milestones and in building a habit of engagement from an early stage.

In addition to this targeted support, the current school-run mother and toddler group will be enhanced with additional groups which will focus around the early development of language and play skills, targeted at infants through to pre-schoolers, with regular opportunities for informal working with the Health Visitor, thus providing a more seamless provision for the whole community. As the time nears for children to start Nursery at the age of 3, Foundation Phase staff will then join the team, undertaking a home visit to assess needs and abilities and provide a 'Learning through Play at Home' pack, which will include a clear 'readiness for school' checklist in addition to key resources to assist parents in supporting their child to be school ready prior to their first day at school.

In order to measure impact and inform next steps at both a strategic level and child based level, early developmental assessments both pre and post intervention are essential. Work is currently on-going to cross reference the 'Ages and Stages' assessment to be used by Health Visitors across Wales with the new Early Years profile being introduced as of September 2015 into schools in Wales. It is hoped that in 12 months time Trallwn Primary School will be able to use the outcomes of these assessments to demonstrate real success in engaging families from an early stage and in building brighter futures for the children in their community.

**Factors for success:** Engagement of wider stakeholders, including primary school head teachers, with the will to raise community and professional aspirations.

#### **Challenges faced/overcome**

- To initiate changes to policy and working practices of pre-school agencies to enable greater joined up thinking and working practices to be developed in order to impact on the development gap
- To tailor the data and examples to appeal to a variety of audiences

#### **Results observed**

Results at this planning stage are: The engagement of other agencies including Health Visitors, Speech and Language Service, Public Health, Team Around the Family, libraries, Education, etc in the recognition of the problem and the support in implementing the pilot and monitoring outcomes. We will hope to provide data in terms of outcomes achieved and milestones reached in terms of narrowing the gap after 12 months.

#### **Lessons learned**

- The need to be tenacious to get people with the power to make decisions to accept that the issues are very real and not met by the current Flying Start Provision.
- Work with the people who want to make a difference and have the same vision in order to make a difference that can then be celebrated, evidenced and developed on a wider scale.

**Item 3**  
**TIMETABLE/PLAN OF WORK 2015/2016**  
**Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel**

<b>Meeting date and venue</b>	<b>Item to be discussed</b>
<b>Meeting 1</b> 18 May 15 – 4.00pm Room 110, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree Panel work programme for the coming year</li> <li>• Update on current position with EMLAS</li> <li>• Briefing on the Education Improvement Grant</li> <li>• Revisit Elective Home Education letter and Cabinet Response</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 2</b> 18 June 15 – 4.00pm CR6, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERW Business Plan (Betsan O'Connor, Managing Director ERW, Lindsay Harvey, Helen Morgan-Rees)</li> <li>• Home to School Transport – consultation on policy changes</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 3</b> 13 Aug 15 – 4.00pm	SEN/ALN reform – What are we doing around this reform agenda
<b>Meeting 4</b> 10 Sep 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looked after Children Educational - Performance and Gypsy Traveller Children Education - Performance and support</li> </ul>
<b>**Extra meeting 5</b> 21 Sep 15 – 4pm 3.4.1, Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of curriculum change including implications for schools</li> <li>• Reviewing the work of the School Improvement Service Helen Morgan Rees (Hub Head of School Improvement)</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 6</b> 8 Oct 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<b>School 1</b> Casllwchwr Primary School (Headteacher and Chair of Governors) <i>Pre meeting with Challenge Advisor</i>
<b>**Extra meeting 7</b> 14 Oct 15 – 4.00pm	Pre-decision Scrutiny on the Future of Education Other Than At School Services
<b>Meeting 8</b> 3 Nov 15 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Inspection Action Plan progress report - arising from Estyn Inspection 1 year on (Cabinet report 15 Oct 15 - forward look)</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 10</b> 21 Jan 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Education Performance Reporting including pupil attendance and exclusion data (verified data); and Latest School Categorisation</li> </ul>
<b>Extra Meeting 11</b> 9 Feb 16 – 5.00pm Room 235, Guildhall	Annual Budget – Education aspects
<b>Meeting 12</b> 23 Feb 16 – 5.00pm CR1 Civic Centre	West Glamorgan Music Service Consultation
<b>Meeting 13</b> 17 Mar 16 – 4.00pm CR3b, Guildhall	<b>School 2</b> Brynhyfryd Primary School (Headteacher and Chair of Governors) <i>Pre meeting with Challenge Advisor for school</i>
<b>Meeting 12</b> 14 Apr 16 – 4.00pm CR2 Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Practice Event</li> <li>• Pre-decision Scrutiny West Glamorgan Music Service</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 14 - NEW</b> 11 May 16 – 4.00pm CR6, Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate year</li> <li>• Plan for year ahead</li> </ul>
<b>New municipal year</b>	
<b>Meeting 1</b> 16 Jun 16 – 4.00pm	<b>School 1</b> Cefn Hengoed Secondary School (to be contacted)
<b>Meeting 2</b> 14 Jul 16 – 4.00pm	<b>Education through Regional Working (ERW) Business Plan</b> (Confirmed) Betsan O'Conner (Managing Director ERW), Helen Morgan Rees (Head of Hub Education Improvement Service), Lindsay Harvey (Chief Education Officer)