

Children's Readiness for School Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Summary: This is an agenda pack for a meeting for the children's readiness for school Scrutiny Inquiry Panel taking place on the 20 December 2016. The main item is looking at children's readiness for school in Swansea.

Date: 20 December 2016

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Councillor Meeting Room 235, Guildhall, Swansea

Members of the Panel:

Cllr Hazel Morris (Panel Convener) Cllr Wendy Fitzgerald Cllr Fiona Gordon Cllr Ceinwen Thomas	Cllr Elliot King Cllr Mike Day Cllr Jan Curtice Cllr Paulette Smith
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Copies of Agenda to:

Lindsay Harvey – Chief Education Officer
Julie Thomas – Head of Child and Family Services
Sian Bingham – Prevention and Early Intervention Strategic Manager
Chris Sivers – Director of People

AGENDA

No.	Item
1.	Q&A with Health Visitor/s <i>See attached questions from inquiry project plan</i>

Please note members should declare personal /prejudicial interests and party whipping in usual manner

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Linking the work of the Readiness for School Scrutiny Inquiry panel to the Corporate Priorities of the Council

Corporate Priority Four: Tackling Poverty

This is a priority for Swansea because we have residents experiencing poverty due to a lack of resources, their family circumstances, poor life chances.

This can result in worklessness, poor educational attainment, health inequalities, dysfunctional families, absence of aspiration or low expectations, poor housing conditions.

Swansea is a City and County of inequality with some of Wales's poorest and richest areas only miles apart.

What outcomes are we seeking to achieve?

- Children have a good start in life; 2 and 3 year old children in the Flying Start are helped to achieve their expected, language, emotional, social and cognitive development
- Children who are not disadvantaged by poverty when achieving and attaining standards and wellbeing in education
- Young people and adults are in employment, education or training
- People have a decent standard of living; receiving the maximum benefits they are entitled to receive and in a prompt and timely way
- Investment to improve council housing, bring wider economic and employment benefits and contribute to the regeneration of estates
- Prevent homelessness to help maintain stability and security for families, safeguard health, wellbeing and prevent social exclusion.

Corporate 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.

Questions for Health Visitor/s

A core set of questions/issues for discussion have been sent to those attending in order to prepare for the meeting. These questions include:

1. What is the baseline and/or criteria for school readiness and what does that actually mean in practice?
2. What do you believe are key issues facing parents when preparing their children for school?
3. What do you think are the key issues facing schools when pupils start school?
4. How do you help parents/carers/community to prepare and develop children so they are able to get a good start in life?
5. What do you see as the role in improving children's readiness for school?
6. How do you think children's readiness for school could be improved in Swansea?
7. Do you have any examples of good practice that you would like to share with the Panel on this matter?

Children's Readiness for School Scrutiny Inquiry Panel Timetable of Work

When / Where	What / Who	Councillors attending
Pre Inquiry Working Group 11 October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview Report and discussion with Cllr Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Health City, Sian Bingham, Prevention and Early Intervention Strategic Manager and Dr Nina Williams, Public Health Wales Planning the Inquiry: discuss the key question, lines of inquiry and evidence gathering 	
Evidence gathering		
Session 1 3 Nov at 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree Terms of Reference, timetable of work and key questions The Marmot Review Info on Wales Government Initiative/s Libraries pre-school initiatives Discuss survey to send to Welsh medium school and early years settings 	
Session 2 17 Nov 16 (AM)	Stepping Stones (Killay) Meet staff, see facilities and activities, meet group parents	HM/CT/WF (Tentative MD/FG)
Session 3 23 Nov 16 (PM)	Children's Centre (Penlan) Meet staff, Health Visitor, see facilities and meet some parents (include dads, young mothers)	HM/MD/WF (Tentative FG)
Session 4 20 Dec 16	Health Visitor Meet with Health Visitor/s to discuss the baseline for readiness and what that actually means in practice	HM/CT Tentative FG/WF/JC
Session 5 11 Jan 16 (10am)	St Helens Primary School (see flying start, speak to staff and meet group of parents in Coffee morning)	HM/JC/WF (Tentative FG/EK)
Session 6 19 Jan 17 (4pm)	GP Partnership Project pilot	HM/MD/WF/FG/CT (Tentative EK)
Session 7 27 Jan 17 (AM)	Trallwn Primary School Meet Headteacher about work being done with parents and the community in catchment before children start school.	Date Confirmed HM/MD/WF/JC (Tentative EK/FG)
Session 8 2 Feb 17 (4pm)	Quality of Early Years Settings project, UWTSD	Date Confirmed HM/MD/WF/FG/CT (Tentative EK)
Finalising Inquiry		
Session 9 20 Feb 16 at 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of consultation outcomes Good practice examples here and elsewhere Start to draw together evidence and discuss emerging themes arising from the inquiry. 	
Session 10 20 March 16 at 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Final Report 	

As at: 12/12/2016