

Introduction

Scrutiny councillors were pleased that their work has helped to bring about service improvements for children that are educated other than at school (EOTAS).

Background

The main aim of the inquiry was to examine how are services being improved for those children and young people who need or are at risk of needing) EOTAS services.

Evidence was collected from a number of sources including:

- Overview of subject by Head of Education Inclusion
- The EOTAS independent Review Report1
- EOTAS consultation outcomes and restructure proposals
- Equality Impact and UNCRC Assessment
- Careers Wales West and Keeping in Touch project
- School Improvement Service
- Pentrehafoed Comprehensive School
- Bishop Gore Comprehensive School
- Clase Primary School
- Social Services Child and Family Services
- Behaviour Support Service
- Cabinet Member for Education and Chief Education Officer
- Youth Services Manager
- Youth Offending Service
- Education Welfare Service

'This issue must be urgently addressed so that every child can enjoy the right to an education that allows them to reach their full potential'

Children's Commissioner for Wales

Recommendations

After looking through all the evidence gathered the panel made 20 recommendations to Cabinet. These included:

- A specific part of the education strategy is developed that will provide a steer for the local authority, schools and EOTAS on how it will deal with behaviour matters into the future.
- The possibility of secondment of (or sharing of) teaching staff between schools and PRUs be investigated.
- It investigates the possibility of a more formalised holistic Team Around the Family type approach for all children and young people using EOTAS services.
- The use of restorative practice should be encouraged and used where possible in EOTAS provisions.
- The United Nations Rights of the Child should be embedded in practice within these provisions. This will include training and support for all EOTAS staff and external providers on these aspects.
- Carry out an awareness raising exercise to ensure that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the role of EOTAS services within the continuum of provision.
- PRU staff have access to and are encouraged to use the same training and development opportunities as their colleagues in mainstream schools.

In January 2016 the Cabinet Member agreed 19 recommendations.



Follow up

In November 2016 an impact report was presented to the Education Inclusion Inquiry Panel. They looked at what has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet, whether the agreed recommendations have been implemented and what was the overall impact of the inquiry.

All of the recommendations agreed by Cabinet have been implemented.

The Panel were pleased that the inquiry had helped to bring about service improvements for children that are educated other than at school (EOTAS).

We did feel that schools working at the coalface need more support and assistance in working with those children who are at risk of exclusion or Education Other Than At School (EOTAS).

**Councillor Cheryl Philpott –
Convener of the Education
Inclusion Scrutiny Inquiry Panel**

Impact

The inquiry has raised the profile of this service and issues. The findings have helped to inform decision making and the recent overhaul of the entire education other than at school service.

The Panel were particularly pleased to hear about progress in finding a more suitable building and location for EOTAS services, and were encouraged by the pending feasibility study for a potential new facility in Cockett.

The Panel now look forward with optimism for children using EOTAS services and feel vulnerable children within the

education system in Swansea will be much better served moving forward.

Further reading:

[Blog](#)
[Publications](#)

