

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 12TH DECEMBER, 2016

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
14TH NOVEMBER, 2016

“ INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE PROGRESS PANEL (IDLS) –

Committee was informed of progress to date following the GCSE results in August 2016 and the Estyn monitoring visit in September 2016 of Barry Comprehensive School.

The Lead Officer for School Improvement informed the Scrutiny Committee that the school had been inspected by Estyn in March 2013, with the school's performance at that time judged to be good and its capacity to improve good. However, following a fall in standards, the school was placed in support category D of the regional classification system and a warning notice issued by the Director of Learning and Skills in November 2013. In June 2014 the Local Authority recommended that the school should not be removed from Local Authority monitoring and, in September 2014, Estyn concurred with the Local Authority report and was placed in Estyn monitoring and at that time the school was formally identified as a Challenge Cymru School.

In July 2015, in a monitoring visit, Estyn judged the school's progress in addressing the recommendations to be limited in four and satisfactory in two and as such, the school was placed on the list of schools requiring significant improvement. The Local Authority, in conjunction with the school's leaders, had produced a Statement of Action which took into account the Post Inspection Action Plan prepared by the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body. This document considered each recommendation and set out the Local Authority / Central South Consortium (CSC) and Schools Challenge Cymru (SCC) support that would be made available to the school.

In September 2015, despite significant improvement in a number of areas, further interventions were taken by the Director of Learning and Skills, as improvement in some areas, e.g. mathematics, was not at the required rate, whilst performance in other areas, such as L2+ eFSM was unacceptably low. Two additional school Governors were also appointed by the Local Authority. In 2016, performance in most indicators in both Key Stages 3 and 4 had increased for the third consecutive year and in Key Stage 3, the performance boys was above the average performance of boys in similar schools in all Key Stage 3 indicators.

In Key Stage 4, performance in the Level 2 threshold (5 GCSEs A* - C including English and Mathematics) rose 12 percentage points in 2016 following an increase of 13 percentage points in 2015. Performance in this indicator had doubled since 2013.

Improvements in attendance in 2015 and 2016 placed the school in the top 25% of similar schools.

Estyn revisited the school in September 2016 and judged the school's progress in addressing the recommendations to be satisfactory in one, strong in four and very good in one. Overall, Estyn judged the school to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the core inspection in March 2013 and, as a result, the school was removed from the list of schools requiring significant improvement. However, Estyn have recommended that in order to maintain and improve on the recognised progress, the school should continue to address the recommendations where further progress was required.

Having considered the report, in recognising the ongoing work where further progress was required and to ensure sustainability in the forthcoming GCSEs in August 2017, a Member requested that an early report following the August 2017 school GCSE results be presented to Committee for its consideration.

The representative for the Secondary Sector however stated that it was important that the Committee recognised the improvements that had been made at the school and that the success be celebrated.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the improvements that had been made, concurred that the school had made progress and had improved year on year, although he hoped that the impact would be sustainable in the future.

It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T an update report be presented to the Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible following the GCSE results in August 2017.
- (2) T H A T in acknowledging the improvements at the school, the Scrutiny Committee supports the view that meetings of the School Progress Panel now cease.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to the Cabinet for its consideration.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To monitor progress.

(2) In recognition of the improvements made to date and in noting that the Directorate of Learning and Skills in conjunction with the Central South Consortium and School Challenge Cymru would be monitoring the performance of individual schools and provide targeted and timely support where necessary.

(3) For Cabinet's consideration. ”

Attached as Appendix – [Report to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee: 14th November, 2016](#)