

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2016

REFERENCE FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (LIFELONG LEARNING):  
11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2016

“ SUMMARY OF SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS FOR AUTUMN  
TERM 2015 (DLS) –

The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion advised that Wenvoe Playgroup and Albert Primary School had been inspected during the Autumn term 2015 with a summary of the inspection findings for each of the named school / playgroup appended to the report.

The report advised the school inspections were governed by the Education Act 2005 and related regulations. The purpose of inspections was to:

- Provide accountability to the users of the services and other stakeholders through public reporting on providers
- Promote improvement, education and training
- Inform the development of national policy by Welsh Government.

The report advised that the overall judgement achieved by the Vale of Glamorgan schools which were inspected was as follows:

	Current Performance	Prospects for Improvement
Albert Primary	Excellent	Good
Wenvoe Playgroup	Good	Good

When undertaking the inspections, Estyn recognised the unique position to showcase some of the excellent practice identified across the education and training sectors that it inspects. One way it did this was by asking schools in which it had identified excellence to write case studies, outlining how excellence had been achieved in identified areas. Following recent inspections, Vale schools had produced the following case study:

School	Case Study
Albert Primary	“Pupils Shape Their Curriculum”

During the Autumn term 2015 Estyn monitored Llanfair Primary School and Barry Comprehensive School. The results being:

School Name	Overall Judgement	Outcome
Barry Comprehensive	Satisfactory Progress against 2 recommendations and limited progress against 4	Placed in Significant Improvement
Llanfair Primary	Strong Progress against 4 recommendations and Very Good Progress against 2 recommendations	Removed from follow-up activity

The details of the progress in each of the progress made against each of the recommendations was provided at Appendix 3.

The Vale of Glamorgan also had two schools in Estyn monitoring, namely Bryn Hafren Comprehensive and Wenvoe Playgroup. In addition, three schools were monitored by the Local Authority. These were Albert Primary, Romilly Primary and Y Bont Faen Primary.

Appendix 4 to the report provided an overall summary of Estyn activity for the period September 2015 to December 2015.

The Chairman in referring to the identification of schools with excellent practice queried whether a report on this would be provided to the Committee. In response, the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion explained that the termly report to Scrutiny on inspection outcomes, always highlighted any excellence identified by Estyn. This together with the forthcoming report on the outcomes of national categorisation and previously reported school performance data would help inform the Committee and facilitate the identification of good practice that they may wish to learn more about.

The Cabinet Member added that Cabinet had approved an additional £900,000 for Barry Comprehensive School. He explained that this money would help implement some parts of the school's Post Inspection Action Plan and would be used as a capital spend on both internal and external building works. In querying the progress of improvement made within Barry Comprehensive School, the Director of Learning and Skills advised the Committee that the summer inspection by Estyn took place before an improved set of GCSE results were published. Estyn had therefore considered the school's results and benchmarking from 2014 and the Director indicated that Estyn's outcomes may have been different if the latest results had been available although it was not possible to be certain about this. Furthermore, and in terms of intervention at the school, the Director explained that following the formal warning letter, additional Governors had been appointed, she therefore assured Members that all powers of intervention were being used. She also made mention of the support that was being provided to the school, which included the work of School Challenge Cymru and the mentoring role provided by Treorchy Comprehensive School. She further stated that a lot was in place and that the Directorate was working closely with the school from which encouraging signs had been observed.

She finally added that the Directorate would continue to monitor, challenge and support the school.

Further to the Director's comments, the Cabinet Member explained that the issues around the culture within Barry Comprehensive School had not been a new thing and that this was something that had been inherited by the new Headteacher. He commented that both the Head and the Chair of Governors had challenged the culture and that a new ethos had been brought into the school. He went on to state that improvement had been made within the school which he believed was sustainable.

A Committee Member, in querying the improvement recommendation around providing a daily act of collective worship, was advised that limited progress had been made by the school. This was because the strategy around daily worship had been developed but had not been fully implemented. The Head of School Improvement and Inclusion was able to confirm, that since Estyn had carried out its inspection, he had been to the school and had witnessed that daily worship had taken place.

#### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the inspection judgements about schools inspected during the Autumn term be noted.
- (2) T H A T the judgements made by Estyn in its monitoring visits with regard to schools in the Local Authority be noted.
- (3) T H A T the judgements made by Estyn with regard to schools in Local Authority monitoring be noted.
- (4) T H A T a letter of congratulations be forwarded on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee by the Chairman to Albert Primary School.
- (5) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for its consideration, highlighting the overall judgements for the schools visited in the autumn term.

#### Reason for recommendations

- (1-3) In order that Members are aware of Estyn judgements about local schools.
- (4) To offer the Committee's congratulations.
- (5) For Cabinet's consideration."

Attached as Appendix – Report to Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning):  
11<sup>th</sup> January, 2016