

Matter Which the Chairman has Decided Is Urgent by Reason of the Need to Consider the Reference in Conjunction With the Report at Agenda Item No. 10: School Performance Report 2015-2016: Foundation Phase and Key Stages 2 to 5

Agenda Item No.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 3RD OCTOBER, 2016

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
19TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

“337 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRESS PANEL MEETING (MD)

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The report provided the Committee with an update of the School Progress Panel meeting that had been held at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School on 12th July, 2016.

The Chairman, in presenting the report, advised that a meeting had been convened as a result of the recommendations of the Panel in January 2015 to revisit the school following GCSE results in August 2015. The letter from the Director of Learning and Skills dated 20th August, 2015 had placed on record the agreed targets for 2016. At the previous Panel meeting in January 2015, the Chairman stated that at that time the Panel concluded that there was a measure of confidence that the school would meet the target in English, but had limited confidence in the school meeting the Mathematics target.

The Panel also welcomed all the measures and procedures that the school had put in place, i.e. new initiatives, the pods, the lesson observations and the ME+3 project that had been introduced. The Panel had also been pleased with the decision of the Governing Body to appoint a Standards Committee and were aware that meetings were taking place with the level of challenge as mentioned by the Chairman of Governors and as reported to the Panel at the meeting. In referring to attendance, the Panel wished to see this improved upon and would urge that further work was pursued to seek that improvement.

During the latest Panel meeting held in July 2016, the Headteacher had outlined that at Key Stage 3, results for 2016 at Level 5, showed the school in a positive position, with the school being placed in quartile position 1 for all of the four key subjects and also for the core subject indicator. With regard to Level 6, he had advised that the main challenge facing the school was within Mathematics, for which, the school was in benchmark quartile 4. Level 7 performance data for the school showed a strong position with the school in benchmark quartile 1 for English, Mathematics and Science.

Data for Level 7 non-core subjects were also positive, apart from Information Technology which was in benchmark quartile 4. This would therefore be a key priority for the school during the next academic year, with actions for improvement included within the school's Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP). The Headteacher further advised that the school compared favourably to its family of schools and that the school had some of the best Local Authority averages for girls.

In terms of Mathematics, the Panel was advised that the school had evaluated its strengths and weaknesses within this subject and a number of improvements had been initiated. This included an increase in the amount of curriculum time for Year 11, with pupils now having eight hours per fortnight rather than the six hours that had previously been provided. The school had also undertaken early entry examinations in November 2015.

The Panel, in conclusion, acknowledged the improved level of attendance and the work that had been undertaken for free school meal pupils, but the Panel was mindful of the school to be properly focused on positive outcomes for its pupils.

The Panel asked the school to note the shared disappointment following the GCSE results in August 2015 and also a fall in performance in Mathematics at Key Stage 4.

The Panel recognised the positive achievements at Key Stage 3, but also understood the amount of work required to improve the quality of marking. The school's PIAP formed a useful basis for the future work required by the school and the Panel was encouraged by the plans in place.

The Panel commented that challenges would continue ahead of Estyn's next monitoring visit which was critical to the school's future. Other challenges included the GCSE results for this summer and the need for further work on marking.

The Panel had also heard of the improvements in the Mathematics department and the Panel hoped these would come to fruition and that the new staff employed were also successful to the school's plans.

A follow up visit would be considered sometime during the Autumn term 2016, following the publication of the GCSE results in August. These results would be the subject of a report to Cabinet, following which determination would be made as to whether a follow up visit was required.

Following full consideration of the report, the Chairman gave thanks to the Members, officers and all involved in the process and for the very positive meeting that had taken place. The Chairman further advised that Performance Panels sought to give a level of confidence in whether the school would achieve their targets and were keen that a follow up visit following GCSE results would take place. The recent results that the Chairman was aware of had shown improvements in Mathematics but unfortunately the results had been disappointing for English. He therefore suggested that the Cabinet be urged to allow the Panel to carry out a follow up visit early in the school year. The Head of Service advised that a report had been prepared for 3rd October Cabinet with a

recommendation that Cabinet approve that a follow up visit does take place at Bryn Hafren, following which the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Scrutiny Progress Panel findings as detailed in paragraphs 37 to 42 of the report be accepted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration and / or approval.
- (3) T H A T the Cabinet be requested to consider that a Scrutiny Progress Panel follow up visit is undertaken early in the school year.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To apprise Committee of the findings of the Progress Panel.
- (2) For Cabinet's consideration.
- (3) In order that a further follow up visit can be arranged if approved by Cabinet.”

Attached as Appendix – [Report to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee: 19th September, 2016](#)