



ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group

Date – 29 September 2017

Time 10.30 am – 3.00 pm

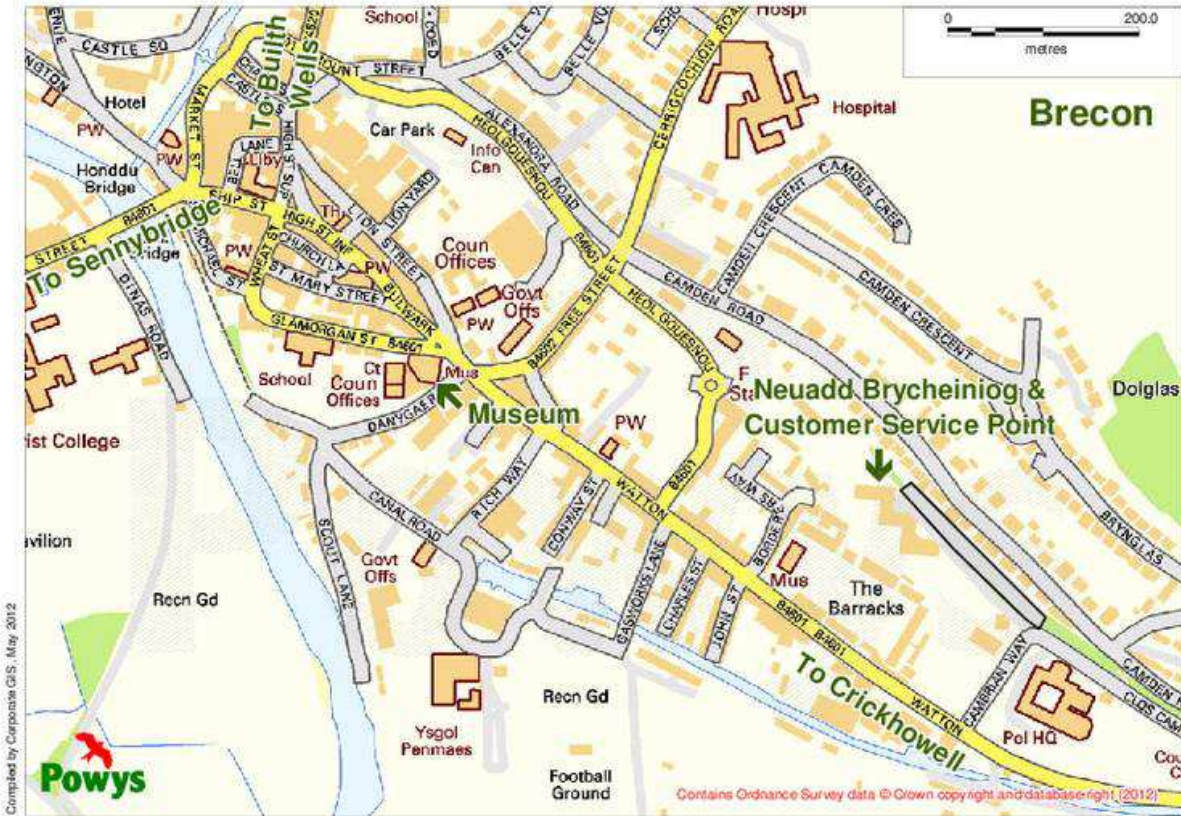
Venue: Neuadd Brycheiniog, Brecon (full details over the page)

Agenda

	Item	
10.30am	1	Arrival and welcome to Powys Welcome to Powys and introduction to meeting
10.35am	2	The first meeting of ERW Councillor Group for municipal year 2017/2018 a) Overview of ERW and role of the Scrutiny Councillor Group (accompanied by information pack) b) Agree ERW Councillor Groups Terms of Reference c) Membership List
11.30am	3	ERW Councillor Group on 27 February 2017 a) Blog published after last meeting b) Chairs letter from last meeting on 27 February 2017 and the response from the Joint Committee c) Further Letter to Wales Government on Elective Home Education and response from the Minister d) Response from Joint Committee with more detail on letter from 27 September 2016 e) Notes from the last meeting of the Group on the 27 February
11.40am	4	ERW updates a) Update - progress with performance management training in schools b) The ERW Business Plan, Estyn Actions and ERW's Progress So Far c) Other updates as identified by Betsan
12.30pm		Lunch and networking
1.15pm	5	Feedback on ERW Inspection and update on arrangements for local authority and regional inspections - Estyn
2.15pm	6	Work Programme update from each local authority
2.45pm	7	Discuss points for the letter to Chair of ERW Joint Committee arising from this meeting Agree items for next ERW Councillor Group meeting in March 2018 (date TBA)
3.00pm		Close

Venue:

Neuadd Brycheiniog, Committee Room 2, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HR.



Item 2

ERW Scrutiny Councillors Group

Terms of Reference

Aims

The purpose of the group is to help ensure the best educational outcomes for children in the ERW region by supporting effective scrutiny

- To support consistent scrutiny across the six councils
- To share scrutiny good practice
- To encourage shared scrutiny approaches and avoid the duplication of scrutiny work
- To provide critical and objective challenge to ERW on topics of interest as required
- To contribute to the good and effective governance of ERW

Assumptions

- Scrutiny of ERW takes place through the scrutiny arrangements of individual councils
- In each council the cabinet member(s) responsible for ERW will be held to account by scrutiny councillors
- The group is an informal coordinating mechanism not a formal committee
- The group will share its work and publish key documents
- The group will continue to develop and refine its role and its work

Membership

- The group is for scrutiny members with an education improvement role
- Up to two scrutiny members from each council including for example the education scrutiny chair / convener
- Membership is flexible and replacement scrutiny members will be allowed
- Scrutiny support officers and appropriate observers should attend

Meetings

- Two meetings to be held a year in or around February and September
- Councils to take it in turns to host the meetings (see list below)
- Meetings will be chaired by a scrutiny councillor from the host council
- Each meeting will:
 - Provide an opportunity for scrutiny councillors to share work plans, scrutiny outcomes and good practice
 - Give scrutiny councillors an opportunity to discuss topics of interest with representatives of ERW
- Discussion topics to be agreed in consultation with ERW
- Each meeting will provide a report back to ERW via a letter from the chair
- The letter from the Chair ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group will be directed to and responded to by the Chair of the Joint Committee, the letter and response will be agreed at a Joint Committee meeting.

Support

Lead support to be provided by the City and County of Swansea Scrutiny Team and to include:

- Facilitation of the bi annual member meeting agendas (including standing item for the co-ordination of work plans)
- Preparation of discussion points / questions before meetings
- Drafting of letters
- Collation of action points and discussions
- Arranging/ and recording the meetings of scrutiny officers as required
- Preparation and publication of key documents including agendas, work plans and letters

Support from each Council to include:

- Provide 6 monthly scrutiny work plan summary for own council including outcomes and forward look
- Provide scrutiny good practice examples as appropriate
- Host and chair meeting once every three years

Contribution from ERW:

- A simple lunch for each meeting
- Virtual space / discussion area to be developed on the ERW website
- Provide support and information as required by the ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group

Meeting Hosts (Sep 15 – Feb 19)

Neath Port Talbot – Sep 15 ✓

Swansea – Mar 16✓

Pembrokeshire – Sep 16✓

Ceredigion – Feb 17✓

Powys – Sep 17✓

Carmarthenshire – Feb/Mar 18

Neath Port Talbot – Sep 18

Swansea – Feb/Mar 19

Pembrokeshire – Sep 19

Ceredigion – Feb/Mar 20

Powys – Sep 20

Carmarthenshire – Feb/Mar 21

ERW Scrutiny Councillor Membership List (2017/2018)

Local Authority	Councillor/member representatives	Member email addresses	Scrutiny Officers and other support
Swansea	Cllr Mo Sykes (Convener of Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel) Cllr Mary Jones (Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee)	Cllr.mo.sykes@swansea.gov.uk Cllr.mary.jones@swansea.gov.uk	Michelle Roberts Michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk Brij Madahar Brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Neath Port Talbot	Cllr. Alex Thomas Cllr. Matthew Crowley Chair and Vice Chair of Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee	Cllr.a.l.thomas@npt.gov.uk Cllr.m.crowley@npt.gov.uk	Neil Evans g.n.evans@npt.gov.uk Stacy Curran s.curran@npt.gov.uk Charlotte Davies c.l.davies2@npt.gov.uk
Ceredigion	Cllr Odwyn Davies Cllr Endaf Edwards Chair and Vice Chair of Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee	odwyn.davies@ceredigion.gov.uk endaf.edwards@ceredigion.gov.uk	Lisa Evans Lisa.Evans3@ceredigion.gov.uk
Powys	Cllr David Jones (Lead Member Education Scrutiny Group) Cllr Susan McNicholas (Member of Education Scrutiny Group)	cllr.david.jones@powys.gov.uk cllr.susan.mcnicholas@powys.gov.uk	Elizabeth Patterson Elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk
Pembrokeshire	Cllr John Davies (Chair of Schools and Learning Committee) Cllr Steve Yelland (Vice Chair of Schools and Learning Committee)	Cllr.johnt.davies@pembrokeshire.gov.uk Cllr.steve.yelland@pembrokeshire.gov.uk	Amanda Davies Amanda.davies@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
Carmarthenshire	Cllr Darren Price (Chair of Education and Children Scrutiny Committee) Cllr Edward Thomas (Vice Chair of Education and Children Scrutiny Committee)	DaPrice@carmarthenshire.gov.uk EGThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk	Catherine Gadd CEGadd@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Other	ERW	Osian.evans@erw.co.uk betsan.oconnor@erw.org.uk	Osian Evans Betsan O'Connor

Blog published after last meeting

ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group – 27 February 2017

March 28, 2017 by [Michelle Roberts](#)



The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all six local authorities' Education Scrutiny Committees came together in Ceredigion for their bi-annual Scrutiny Councillor Group. Detailed below are the views, conclusions and recommendations from that meeting.

Performance Management

The Councillor Group heard about the package of training on performance management for schools and how it is being introduced. They welcomed the development of this package recognising the importance of performance management in the school improvement process.

School Categorisation

The Councillor Group had previously expressed concern regarding the public understanding the Categorisation system particularly the fact that this is about the support schools receive rather than as a 'grading' system. They were pleased to hear that there has been a positive change in the communication of this issue and in how information about categorisation is being communicated and reported in the press.

The Group also had asked the Chief Executive of ERW to provide them with further information on what is being done to address the Estyn comment '*Local authority portfolio holders do not have a clear enough input to the management or oversight of the work of ERW despite their key responsibility in their local authority for the oversight of education services*'. They heard that in order to address this issue the portfolio holders will be involved in the six weekly Hub Quality Assurance meetings. A survey of portfolio holders across the region has been completed and they have said they are happy with their involvement.

The Group discussed the current position in relation to numbers and quality of Challenge Adviser support for local authorities. They were concerned to hear that not all Local Authorities in the region have reached their full agreed quota. They were

however pleased to hear that the level and quality of Challenge Adviser support has improved hugely.

The Campaign to Recruit teachers

The Group were pleased to hear about plans for a campaign across all regions in Wales to encourage people to get into teaching. They agreed that there is a need for the use of positive messages about teaching in Wales.

Elective Home Education

The Group previously wrote to the Welsh Minister for Education after the last meeting but were disappointed with her response and with the non-statutory guidance that was recently published. They felt that there are solid safeguarding legislative powers that are available that could be used in relation to this aspect but that there seems to be a reluctance to link this to the Elective Home Education guidance. They plan to write to Welsh Government again on this matter.

School Governance

The Group had a session looking at School Governance where the new training that is available online, accessible through the ERW website was discussed. The Group agreed that it was important that Headteachers are encouraged to develop their Governing Body using these resources.

The Panel will write giving these views to the Chair of the ERW Joint Committee and have also asked for further information at their next meeting on why are some local authorities not at the agreed full quota of Challenge Advisers and what is being done to address this.



To: Cllr A Thomas
Chair of the ERW Joint Committee

Please ask for: Scrutiny

Scrutiny Office Line: 01792 637256

e-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

Date: 31 March 2017

Dear Councillor Thomas,

ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group - 27 February 2017

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all six local authorities' Education Scrutiny Committees came together in Ceredigion for their bi-annual Scrutiny Councillor Group. I am writing to you with their views, conclusions and recommendations from the meeting on the 27 February 2017.

The ERW Chief Executive provided us with information and updates on

Performance Management

We heard about the package of training on performance management for schools and how it is being introduced. We welcomed the development of this package recognising the importance of performance management in the school improvement process.

School Categorisation

We had previously expressed our concern regarding the public understanding the categorisation system particularly the fact that this is about the support schools receive rather than as a 'grading' system. We were pleased to hear that there has been a positive change in the communication of this issue and in how information about categorisation is being communicated and reported in the press.

Estyn Inspection of ERW

After our last meeting we wrote to Estyn about the inspection of regional bodies and how raising educational standards is not reflected in inspections. Estyn, in their response, have offered to come along to one of our meetings to discuss this further. We plan to take them up on this offer for our next meeting.

We asked the Chief Executive of ERW to provide us with further information on what is being done to address the following aspect '*Local authority portfolio holders do not have a clear enough input to the management or oversight of the work of ERW despite their key responsibility in their local authority for the oversight of education services*'.

We heard that in order to address this issue the portfolio holders will be involved in the six weekly Hub Quality Assurance meetings. A survey of portfolio holders across the region has been completed and they have said they are happy with their involvement.

The Group heard about the current position in relation to numbers and quality of Challenge Advisor support for local authorities. We were concerned to hear that not all Local Authorities in the region have reached their full agreed quota. However, we were pleased to hear that the quality of challenge advisor support has improved hugely.

The Campaign to recruit teachers

We were pleased to hear about plans for a campaign across all regions in Wales to encourage people to get into teaching. We agreed that there is a need for the use of positive messages about teaching in Wales.

The other topics we covered during the meeting include:

Elective Home Education

As you will be aware we wrote to the Welsh Minister for Education after our last meeting but were disappointed with her response and with the non-statutory guidance that was recently published. We felt that there are solid safeguarding legislative powers that are available that could be used in relation to this aspect but there seems to be a reluctance to link this to the Elective Home Education guidance. We also recognise that this is a cross cutting issue that falls within the portfolios of a number of Ministerial Departments so would like it to be looked in a Cabinet Workshop. We plan to write to Welsh Government again on this matter.

School Governance

We had a session looking at School Governance where we discussed the new training that is available online, accessible through the ERW website. The Group agreed that it was important that Headteachers are encouraged to develop their Governing Body using these resources.

We would welcome your response to any points in this letter but would particularly like to receive your response to the following point:

- Why some local authorities are not at the agreed full quota of Challenge Advisors and what is being done to address this?

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,


Councillor Paul Hinge
Chair ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group and Vice
Chair of the Learning Communities Scrutiny Committee, Ceredigion Council

Dear Councillor,

Thank you for your letter outlining your questions for the Joint Committee.

I would like to focus on the primary question posed by the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group regarding the issue of Local Authorities not operating at the agreed full quota of Challenge Advisers, and the steps being taken to address this issue. As a Joint Committee, we were informed by the Managing Director of ERW that the current capacity of Challenge Advisers in the region stand at a Full Time Equivalent of 41. It was agreed at the meeting on 17/7/17 that we would undertake a detailed review of Challenge Adviser's capacity and their compliance against the national Challenge Adviser standards. This review will be reported at the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 21/09/17. I trust this will better inform us all with regard to the quality and capacity of our Challenge Advisers.

Yours Sincerely,





To:
Kirsty Williams AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Welsh Government

Please ask for: **Scrutiny**

Scrutiny Office Line: **01792 637256**

e-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

Date: **03 April 2017**

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Elective Home Education

I am writing to you again on behalf of the Education Through Regional Working Scrutiny Councillor Group. We came together in Ceredigion on 27 February 2017 for another of our bi-annual Scrutiny ERW Scrutiny Councillor Groups. We discussed your response to our last letter (9 November 2016 ref. KW/06016/16) along with the recent Non Statutory Guidance published on Elective Home Education and agreed that we must write to you again to share our concerns.

We believe that the Guidance does not address the safeguarding concerns we expressed on this matter. We feel that there are strong safeguarding legislative powers available that could be used, but these do not seem to be linked or referenced in the Guidance.

We also recognise that this is a cross cutting issue affecting a number of Ministerial Portfolios so we would politely request that this be looked at further in a cross Cabinet Workshop.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Paul Hinge

Chair ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group and

Chair of Learning Communities Scrutiny Committee, Ceredigion Council

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00602/17

Councillor Paul Hinge
Chair
ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

25 April 2017

Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 3 April about the Welsh Government's non-statutory guidance on elective home education.

The main purpose of the guidance is to help local authorities support home-educating families provide a suitable education. It was important to strengthen the guidance in respect of safeguarding. The welfare and protection of all our children and young people, whether in school or home-educated, should be of the upmost concern to all involved. I believe we need to adopt a more robust approach to education provision for all children, regardless of where that education is provided.

The guidance will form part of a package of measures I'm considering to support local authorities, the home educating community and alternative providers, including the potential for introducing legislation. Some of these measures will clearly take time to develop.

In the meantime, my officials have begun a series of meetings with local authorities to establish what training they need to implement the guidance and better support the EHE community. My officials have also met with home educators to explore the factors which are helping to build relationships between some local authorities and their EHE communities.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

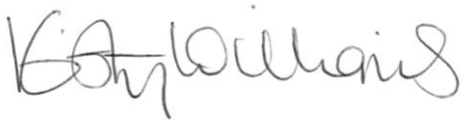
Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I will be meeting the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children next month to discuss how we can address elective home education and safeguarding across Cabinet responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Further Information to support previous correspondence from JC to Scrutiny

Dear Councillor Woodham,

The first topic to update since the previous Scrutiny Councillor Group meeting is the efforts being made by the Consortium to make parents more aware of Categorisation. We do have a link on our website to the current guidance on Categorisation as written by the Welsh Government, and it has been made a featured news item on the ERW website in order to try and direct more traffic towards this guidance:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/raisingstandards/schoolcategorisation/?lang=en>

Categorisation has been made a focal point of our outgoing communications in the lead up to the publication of the National Categorisation of Schools 2017, and we are trying to spread a positive outlook on categorisation as a system and an essential part of the school improvement continuum. Further information is available on the ERW website regarding Categorisation and what it actually means in terms of effect on school via our Ladder of Support. This easily accessible resource puts the categorisation process into a specifically regional context, which parents should find more relevant:

<http://www.erw.wales/media/168394/ladder-of-support-2016-17.pdf>

Also, we have attached as papers some graphics and charts that are currently being produced that break down the various elements of this year's categorisation of schools, with various criteria to choose from if a more specific understanding of this year's results is needed. (see attachment named "Categorisation Graphs 2016").

Regarding our second recommendation surrounding the effective inclusion of Elected Members, more specifically Portfolio Holders, several steps have been taken in order to improve and strengthen our relationship with democratically elected stakeholders, and ensure clarity on their level of oversight.

A brief document has been drafted by the ERW Central Team and is currently undergoing design work, to be aimed at Elected Members and Governors. It is a basic guide to the working of the Consortium that uses simple terms in order to remain clear. The aim of this document is to generally raise the baseline for awareness among stakeholders – this document will prove a useful starting point for many Governors and Elected Members. The Portfolio Holders have been surveyed via e-mail and telephone. Responses have been positive overall, and the feedback on deepening their level of involvement has been extremely useful. Multiple solutions have been discussed, such as increasing attendance in Hub QA, attending Joint Committee meetings as observers, and when necessary, the arranging of 1 to 1 meetings with the Managing Director.

Regarding the third element of our update – the ERW Business Plan, there is a brief presentation encapsulating the most noteworthy aspects of this year's Business Plan (see attachment named "Cyflwyniad Cynllun Busnes Presentation"). The final draft of the Business Plan has also been attached for your perusal, but please note that while it is the final draft in terms of content, this document is still undergoing translation into Welsh as well graphic design and typesetting work at





Dr. A. Williams

Yours Sincerely,

present. It will be bilingual and graphically designed in good time for the new financial year, and the monitoring system will also be in place.

Eîn Rhanbarth ar Wailh
Education through Regional Working
www.ermwales
www.ermwales



Fwy o wybodaeth i gefnogi gohebiaeth blaenorol o'r Cyd-Bwyllgor i'r Bwrdd Craffu

Annwyl Cynghorydd Woodham,

Y peth cyntaf i'w nodi ers cyfarfod blaenorol y Grŵp Cynghorwyr Craffu yw ymdrechion y Consortiwm i wneud rhieni'n fwy ymwybodol o'r broses Gategoreiddio. Mae gennym ddolen ar ein gwefan i'r canllawiau cyfredol gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar Gategoreiddio, canllawiau sydd wedi bod yn eitem newyddion ar wefan ERW er mwyn ceisio cyfeirio mwy o bobl atynt:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/raisingstandards/schoolcategorisation/?skip=1&lang=cy>

Mae categorieiddio wedi bod yn ganolbwynt i'n gohebiaeth yn ystod y cyfnod cyn cyhoeddi System Genedlaethol ar gyfer Categoriadau Ysgolion 2017, ac rydym yn ceisio lledaenu neges gadarnhaol am gategoreiddio fel system a rhan annatod o'r continwmm gwella ysgolion. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael ar wefan ERW am Gategoreiddio, ynghyd â'r hyn y mae'n ei olygu mewn gwirionedd o ran yr effaith y bydd yn ei chael ar ein hysgolion trwy ein Hysgol Cymorth. Mae'r adnodd hygyrch iawn hwn yn gosod y broses gategoreiddio mewn cyd-destun rhanbarthol, a ddylai fod yn fwy perthnasol i rieni:

<http://www.erw.cymru/media/182089/ysgol-gymorth-2016-17-1.pdf>

Hefyd, rydym wedi atodi peth graffeg a siartiau sy'n cael eu cynhyrchu ar hyn o bryd, sy'n dadansoddi'r gwahanol elfennau o broses categorieiddio ysgolion eleni, ynghyd â gwahanol feini prawf i ddewis ohonynt os oes angen dealltwriaeth fwy penodol o ganlyniadau eleni. (gweler yr atodiad "Graffiau Categoriadau 2016").

O ran ein hail argymhelliad ynglŷn â chynnwys Aelodau Etholedig mewn modd effeithiol, yn fwy penodol Deiliaid Portffolio, mae nifer o gamau wedi cael eu cymryd i wella a chryfhau ein perthynas â rhanddeiliaid a etholwyd yn ddemocrataidd, ac i sicrhau eglurder o ran lefel eu goruchwyliaeth.

Mae dogfen fer wedi cael ei drafftio gan Dîm Canolog ERW, ac mae gwaith dylunio wrthi'n cael ei wneud arni, i'w hanelu at Aelodau Etholedig a llywodraethwyr. Mae'r ddogfen hon yn ganllaw sylfaenol ar waith y Consortiwm, sy'n defnyddio termau syml er mwyn sicrhau eglurder. Ei nod yw codi ymwybyddiaeth gyffredinol ymhlith rhanddeiliaid – bydd yn fan cychwyn defnyddiol i nifer o Aelodau Etholedig a llywodraethwyr. Mae'r Deiliaid Portffolio wedi derbyn arolwg dros y ffôn a thrwy e-bost. Mae'r ymatebion wedi bod yn gadarnhaol ar y cyfan, ac mae'r adborth ar gynyddu lefel eu cyfranogiad wedi bod yn ddefnyddiol tu hwnt. Mae nifer o atebion wedi cael eu trafod, er enghraifft cynyddu presenoldeb mewn sesiynau sicrhau ansawdd Hwb, arsylwi ar gyfarfodydd y Cyd-bwyllgor, a threfnu cyfarfodydd un i un â'r Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr, pan fo angen.

O ran trydedd elfen ein diweddariad – Cynllun Busnes ERW, ceir cyflwyniad byr, sy'n cynnwys y prif agweddau ar Gynllun Busnes eleni (gweler y "Cyflwyniad Cynllun Busnes" yn atodedig). Mae drafft terfynol y Cynllun Busnes hefyd yn atodedig er mwyn i chi ei ddarllen, ond er mai dyma'r drafft terfynol o ran cynnwys, cofiwch fod y ddogfen hon yn cael ei chyfieithu i'r Gymraeg ar hyn o bryd, a bod gwaith dylunio graffeg a chysodi yn dal i gael ei wneud. Bydd ar gael yn ddwyieithog ac wedi'i





Elr. A. J. Thomas

Yours Sincerely,

dylunio mewn da bryd ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol newydd, a bydd y system fonitro hefyd ar waith
erbyn hynny.

**ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group
Notes – 27 February 2017**

In attendance:

Cllr Paul Hinge (Ceredigion) - Chair
 Cllr Rowland Rees Evans (Ceredigion)
 Cllr Guy Woodham (Pembrokeshire)
 Cllr Wynne Evans (Pembrokeshire)
 Cllr Eirwyn Williams (Carmarthenshire)
 Cllr Ryan Bartlett (Carmarthenshire)
 Cllr Susan McNicholas (Powys)
 Cllr David Jones (Powys)
 Cllr Fiona Gordon (Swansea)
 Cllr Alan Lockyer (Neath Port Talbot)
 Cllr Hugh James (Neath Port Talbot)
 Betsan O'Connor (ERW)
 Aneirin Thomas (Head of Support and Performance ERW)
 Lorna Simpson (ERW Human Resources Manager)
 Neil Evans (Scrutiny Manager, Neath Port Talbot)
 Kay Davies (Scrutiny Officer, Ceredigion)
 Elizabeth Patterson (Scrutiny Officer, Powys)
 Michelle Roberts (Scrutiny Officer, Swansea)
 Matthew Hughes (Scrutiny Manager, Carmarthenshire)
 Nicholas Evans (Scrutiny Manager, Pembrokeshire)

Apologies:

Cllr Mary Jones (Swansea)

Item		Action
1.	<p>Arrival and welcome to Ceredigion The Chair for the meeting was the representative from the hosting Council Ceredigion Councillor Paul Hinge. He welcomed everyone to the Ceredigion Council Offices in Aberaeron.</p>	
2.	<p>Chairs letters and responses from 27 September 2016 meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Committee response Betsan said the Letter is available and will be circulated shortly. Councillor Group are asked to send any urgent comments/issues to Michelle so they can be addressed before next meeting. 	Circulate to Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to and response from Minister on Elective Home Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Councillor Group are disappointed with the response from the Minister on Elective Education feeling that it did not address the safeguarding issues raised. – Felt that there is solid safeguarding legislative powers available that could be used but there seems to be a reluctance to use them in registering home education pupils and in relation to unregistered schools. – The Group recognise that this issue has cross cutting responsibilities across Ministerial Departments and would 	Letter from Chair to be sent to Minister for Education and the First Minister

	<p>like the Cabinet took take a cross cutting look at this issue in a Cabinet workshop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A letter to be written to the Minister for Education and to the First Minister 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to and response from Estyn <p>The Councillor Group would like to invite a representative from Estyn to their next meeting to discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What was reflected in the recent letter to Estyn with regard to Educational Performance and the ERW and Consortium Estyn Inspections – The up and coming changes to School Estyn Inspections 	BO will arrange for Estyn to come to next meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes from meeting <p>Panel agreed the notes from the last meeting.</p> <p>Councillors highlighted the need for collective training and development in the role in ERW for new councillors who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – new portfolio holders and – Scrutiny representatives on ERW Councillor Group 	To be looked into further
3.	<p>Good Practice Learning points from the last meetings discussion on vulnerable learners</p> <p>The group agreed that this piece of work was useful and that it has been used to develop by individual authorities to develop their scrutiny of their Pupil Deprivation Grant usage.</p> <p>BO informed the Group about a relevant report by University of Bangor call 'Hurdles to School Improvement in isolated schools in rural areas.</p>	Report to be circulated
4.	<p>Updates on ERW</p> <p>Betsan O'Connor updated the Group on:</p> <p>Performance Management</p> <p>The group heard from the ERW Human Resources Manager about the package of training for performance management in schools. It consists of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – E-learning programme available on ERW website – Resource Toolkit available on Website – Face to Face workshops (interactive) will be delivered jointly by Challenge Advisor and Human Resources representative <p>This programme is being introduced now and is available online. Dates for the workshops are currently being arranged.</p> <p>The Councillor Group emphasised the importance of the role of Performance Management in the school improvement process and welcome this package. They would like to see all school leaders and governors accessing this and would strongly encourage they do so. They were pleased to hear that those schools that have been identified to be weak in this aspect will be targeted for attendance specifically.</p>	Update on progress at next meeting

The Councillor Group have asked for an update on how this is progressing at their next meeting.

School Categorisation

- The Councillor Group heard that there has been a positive change in the communications and how it is being picked up by the press with regard School Categorisation.
- That the picture of categorisation is improving and Headteachers have more confidence in this system.
- Still a challenge in getting parents to understand messages behind categorisation but working on this
- There are changes afoot in how KS4 will be measures and the categorisation system will have to respond to this.

Estyn Inspection of ERW

The Group at the last meeting asked for further information of what was being done to address the issue raised by Estyn in relation to 'Local Authority portfolio holders not having a clear enough input into the oversight of ERW'.

The group have for update from ERW for this meeting on

- What ERW have done and plan to do to address this issue i.e. whether this statement is being addressed?

Response

Portfolio members to be involved in the 6 weekly Hub QA meetings. Estyn have indicated that this would meet that need.

- ERW to survey its portfolio holders on their thoughts and where they are with this and report this to the ERW scrutiny group.

Response

Survey indicates that Portfolio holders are happy with process and feel they are get enough detail and get enough of an overview of the information across region.

A number of issues were raised and discussed under this item including:

- Importance of ensuring full compliance by all Challenge Advisors
- All Pupil Referral Units now have had Challenge Advisor allocated
- Must ensure that when data is used that it details every group of pupils
- Ensuring a full quota of challenge advisors across the region. The Group were concerned to hear that some local authorities have not reached their full quota.
- The Group also heard that the quality of Challenge Advisors has improved hugely with very few requiring 'extra support'.
- The Group would like to see each local authority:
 - Identifying, supporting and addressing Challenge Advisors fully where weaknesses have been identified
 - The outcome of those that have required extra support and have gone through the cycle to address this, be feedback Betsan to monitor outcomes across the region.

Update in 12 months

	<p>– For each authority to continue to look to recruit into challenge advisor vacancy's and looking for creative solution to ensuring schools are supported and challenged effectively</p> <p>The Group agreed they would like a update on progress in 12 months.</p> <p>Campaign to recruit teachers</p> <p>A campaign is being launched working across all regions in Wales to encourage people to get into teaching. It is called Discover Teaching. It will have positive messages around teaching through posters, social media and press but also designed to encourage current teaching staff to portray a positive message.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>School Governance across the region</p> <p>The Group had a session with Aneurin Thomas on School Governance. The following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New training available online through a set of Powerpoint presentations covering induction, data, chairing etc. • Accessible to all through ERW website • All Headteachers should be in a position to use this to develop their governors skills through using these training materials • Also produced a short guide of ERW for all governors • There is also lots of other supporting information for governors on the website <p>The Councillor Group agreed that this is a positive move. The Group thanked Aneurin Thomas for this informative and useful discussion.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a letter detailing outcomes of this meeting be sent to the Joint Committee. 2. Further letter to be written to the Minister for Education and other minister with regard to Elective Home Education 3. Betsan O'Connor will arrange for Estyn representative Mark Campion to attend the next meeting. 4. Update on progress with Performance Management Package/programme for the next meeting 5. Update on progress with Estyn recommendations in 12 months 6. Blog be written and shared on the scrutiny event today. 7. The next meeting will take place on in September/October, date to be arranged in new municipal year. It will be hosted by Powys Council. 	

Work Programme Updates from Individual Authorities 29 September 2017

Carmarthenshire County Council

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Update 2017/18

Due to the Local Government Elections taking place in May 2017 and the subsequent induction programme for new Members, no meetings of scrutiny committees were scheduled for the summer months. The first meetings are being held in September 2017. The Elections resulted in significant changes to the membership of the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, including a new Chair and Vice Chair.

The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee had an informal session in July 2017 to develop their Forward Work Programme for 2017/18. In addition to the standard budget and performance monitoring reports, the following education items have been scheduled into the Programme (Children's Services items have not been listed).

- Unverified & Verified Results 2017
- School Performance and Achievement 2016/17 – including discrepancy between Welsh Government categorisation and Estyn judgements.
- Behaviour Services Review
- School Budgets
- Youth Support Service Business Plan 2017/18
- ERW Business Plan 2017/18 & Review of 2016/17
- Education & Children's Services Business Plan 2018/19
- Modernising Education Programme Proposals
- School Leadership - Footprint/Federation of schools
- 11 – 19 Learning Network Update
- Welsh Government Categorisation of Schools 2018
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) – including the number of pupils transferring from Welsh medium primary to Welsh medium secondary schools.

Members had further suggestions for areas that they wished to scrutinise and the best way to undertake this work will be identified by the Committee.

- Music Service / Music in Donaldson Agenda
- Curriculum changes
- Central support for consistency in information provided to parents from schools.
- Schools Organisation Code

Development Sessions

Members of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee have identified the following topics for development sessions:

- Elective Home Education
- Safeguarding
- ALN Reform – Including SEN

Scrutiny Investigations

During 2016/17 the Committee's published its report on the task and finish work on the attainment gap between learners eligible for free school meals and those who are not. Several recommendations were presented to the Executive Board and endorsed.

For 2017/18, the Committee has identified two potential areas within Fostering Services for further scrutiny investigation. The other topic that was highlighted and will be considered for future investigation is performance at Foundation Phase.

Site Visits

The Committee began a programme of visits to schools in Carmarthenshire in 2009/10. In 2015, the Committee had completed visits to all the County's primary, secondary and special schools, along with the 3 integrated family centres. In 2016/17 it began re-visiting schools, linking in with the School Improvement Panel's work programme and the Authority's Modernising Education Programme proposals. With the recent changes to the Committee the opportunity was taken to consider the future format and focus of the visits. The Committee has agreed to continue with the visits and to do so on a rota basis of 5/6 Members (including either the Chair or Vice Chair). The main focus will be on school improvement and timely feedback provided to the Committee.

City and County of Swansea Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel Work Programme – 2017/2018

So far this municipal year the Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel has undertaken the following:

Briefing 6 Jul 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education Scrutiny Workshop (Overview of Education, School Improvement Service and ERW) 2. Planning the year in Education Scrutiny
Meeting 1 31 Aug 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreeing the Scrutiny Work Programme 2. Discuss how you wish the panel to operate (pre-meeting, questioning) 3. Developing key questions for school scrutiny sessions* 4. Information on the Pupil Voice in Swansea
Meeting 2 21 Sep 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) - Update on progress with changes to service and accommodation 2. How Schools are building capacity to manage behaviour internally

The future work programme for the rest of this municipal year 2017/18 includes:

Meeting 3 18 Oct 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Improvement Service Performance update (Annual) 2. Quality in Education (QED) and 21st Century Schools Programme 3. Annual Audit report (for information)
Extra Meeting Date TBA	Pre-decision Scrutiny Alternative Learning Needs Reform Commissioning Review (awaiting a cabinet date)
Meeting 4 16 Nov 17	School 1 – a Pioneer School (Green/excellent School) Visit to school – invite and speak to Head and Chair of Governors along with the challenge advisor
Meeting 5 12 Dec 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looked After Children Educational Outcomes 2. Pupil Deprivation Grant spend and support for vulnerable pupils
Meeting 6 18 Jan 18	*Annual Education Performance (incl. verified data) and *School Categorisation
Extra Meeting Date TBA Feb	Scrutiny of Annual Budget as it relates to education matters (when Budget Cabinet date is arranged early Feb 18)
Meeting 7 15 Feb 18	School 2 Amber: Speaking to Head and Chair of Governors of a School including preparation session with the challenge advisor
Meeting 8 15 Mar 18	School 3 Amber: Speaking to Head and Chair of Governors of a School including preparation session with the challenge advisor
Meeting 9 12 Apr 18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School to School Collaboration, and/or 2. Science in Schools in Swansea, <i>or</i> 3. Meeting with the Association of School Governors

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Education Scrutiny Group Work Programme 2017 - 2018

Date	Venue	Item
2017		
Friday 22 nd Sept 10.00 – 13.00	Cttee Rm B	School Scrutiny Panel Training
Tue 3 rd Oct 2.00 for 2.30 – 4.00	Chamber	Home to Transport – including Post 16 (pre-Cabinet scrutiny)
Wed 25 th Oct 10.00 – 12.00	Cttee Rm B	WESP (pre-Cabinet scrutiny)
Friday 27 th Oct 10.30 for 11.00 – 1.00	Cttee Rm B	Standards data – verified for FP, KS2 and KS3 – unverified for KS4 and KS5 Attendance Exclusions Inspection outcomes
Monday 13 th Nov 2.00 – 4.00	Cttee Rm A	School Scrutiny Panel – update on schools previously brought to Panel and discussion re potential schools to come to Panel
Tuesday 14 th Nov 10.00 – 1.30	Chamber	School Budgets (re report to Cabinet in autumn term from Cabinet 7.11.17) Medium Term Financial Plan
Mon 4 th Dec 10.00 - 12.30	Cttee Rm B	Collaborative Working Policy
2018		
January		Education Service Self Evaluation ALN/Behaviour support Policy (pre-Cabinet scrutiny)
February		Secondary School Standards, attendance and exclusions (verified) School categorisation Service Improvement Plan priorities
Spring Term		School Scrutiny Panel 1

Spring Term		School Scrutiny Panel 2
March		Workforce Planning
April		Governor Training
June		ERW performance School Budgets
Summer Term		School Scrutiny Panel 3
Summer Term		School Scrutiny Panel 4
Oct		Standards data – verified for FP, KS2 and KS3 – unverified for KS4 and KS5 Attendance Exclusions
Nov		School Budgets
Autumn Term		School Scrutiny Panel 5
Autumn Term		School Scrutiny Panel 6

To be scrutinised by the Joint Audit/ESG scrutiny group

Financial Viability of Schools - Summer 2017

Funding Formula Review (pre-Cabinet scrutiny) – Autumn 2018

Also:-

ERW – 29th September (Lead Member plus one from Education Scrutiny Group)

Change of age of admission monitoring

Ceredigion 2017/18

Learning Communities

6 July	To consider Forward Work Programme	
28 September	<p>Pupil performance – Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3, National Tests for reading and numeracy</p> <p>GCSE and A level provisional data</p> <p>Theatr Felinfach Annual Report</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Assessment</p> <p>Flying Start & Integrated Children Centres</p>	<p>Meinir Ebsworth</p> <p>Meinir Ebsworth</p> <p>Dwynwen Lloyd Llywelyn</p> <p>Cathryn Morgan</p> <p>Rhian Rees</p>
9 November	<p>Partnership agreement 2018-2021</p> <p>Pupil performance – GCSE and A level (final) including benchmarked performance</p>	
2018 1 February	2018/19 Budget preparation	
7 February		
26 April		
Future meetings	<p>Report on 14-19 education/HCT & working with Coleg Ceredigion</p> <p>Public Service Board Executive Group Children and Young People (annually)</p> <p>Interventions Programmes Support in Schools</p> <p>Developing leaders of the future within schools</p> <p>School meal prices (referred from Cabinet 6/6/17)</p> <p>SACRE</p> <p>Cashless catering system update</p> <p>Elective Home Education</p>	<p>Diana Davies</p> <p>Meinir Ebsworth</p>

	<p>The future of Education in the Aeron Valley (early in the work programme)</p> <p>Review of the Beulah, Trewen, Cenarth federation of schools (early in the work programme)</p> <p>21st Century Schools Band B update</p> <p>Welsh in Education Strategic Plan update</p> <p>The future of Education in Dyffryn Ystwyth</p> <p>Other proposals for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of progress towards Successful Futures • ERW update and National Model II • Meetings with individual Schools (following last year's arrangements) 	
Workstreams	Standards and Schools	Meinir Ebbsworth
	ALN, Inclusion & Wellbeing	Gillian Evans
	Youth Engagement & Continuing Education	Elen James
	Modernising the Infrastructure	Mathew Brown

Pembrokeshire: Schools and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2017-18
June 2017

Topics	Purpose	Committee meeting				
		June 15th	Sept 21st	Nov 23rd	Jan 18th	Mar 22nd
'One-off' committee items						
Development of work programme	To develop the Committee's work programme for 2017-18	X				
Schools Scrutiny Panel Review	To receive the Panel's review of the Scrutiny of School visits process	X				
School Performance for 2017 – invalidated data	To scrutinise school performance in Pembrokeshire		X			
Budget proposals for 17-18	To scrutinise future budget proposals and to consider impact of possible service changes		X			
ERW (Managing Director to attend)	To scrutinise the work of ERW in relation to the support and challenge offered to Pembrokeshire's schools				X	
Safeguarding in Education	To have oversight of the Director of Schools and Learning's statutory duties in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in schools				X	
School Categorisation	To scrutinise school categorisation outcomes for Pembrokeshire's schools					X
School staff absence data	To scrutinise absence data in Pembrokeshire		X		X	
School behaviour and exclusions	To scrutinise and analyse data			X		
Presentation from Governors Support Services to include role of governors and safeguarding reporting	To receive a presentation on role of the governor and have oversight of safeguarding reporting mechanism.		X			
Estyn outcomes and self evaluation	To track inspections outcomes			X		
HR capacity to support schools	To ensure there is adequate resources					X

Performance data on KS2 & KS3 identifying any gaps	To scrutinise school performance in Pembrokeshire			X		
Transition KS2 & KS3				X		
Effectiveness of 3 – 16/19 schools	To scrutinise school performance in Pembrokeshire					X
Standing Items / Recurring Items						
Schools Scrutiny Panel	To receive the outcomes of school visits undertaken by the panel		X	X	X	X
Feedback from Chairman	To receive an update from Chairman on his role in attending meetings etc on behalf of the Committee		X	X	X	X
Safeguarding in Schools update reporting (for information)	To receive data on a regular basis to have an oversight of safeguarding monitoring		X	X	X	X
Work programme	To ensure ongoing review of the committee's work programme	X	X	X	X	X
Task and Finish						
School funding formulas	To undertake an in-depth review of a particular topic as part of policy development					
Scrutiny panel visits						
Matrix for school selection criteria	To undertake a programme of visiting individual schools	September 21st				
Feedback from school visit		November 23rd				
Feedback from school visit		January 18th				
Feedback from school visit		March 22nd				

The **Neath Port Talbot Work Programme** is still in development. Up to date copies will be brought to the meeting.