

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015

**EDUCATION & LIFELONG
LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date: 28 January 2015

**REPORT OF:
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND
LIFELONG LEARNING**

Agenda Item No.4

**ESTYN INSPECTION REPORT
OUTCOMES IN RCT SCHOOLS IN
AUTUMN TERM 2014**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a detailed analysis of the Estyn Inspection Report outcomes during the Autumn Term 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report.
- 2.2 Scrutinise and comment on the information provided.
- 2.3 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained in the report.
- 2.4 Consider whether they wish to receive termly progress updates on schools in a follow-up and/or categorised by the consortium and needing support.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The main aim of the work of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate is to raise standards of achievement and attainment for all learners. The legislative basis for this responsibility is the 1998 Standards and Framework Act that requires LAs and schools to have raising standards as their overriding aim.
- 3.2 Until August 2014 all education settings across Wales were subject to an inspection by Estyn the Welsh Government inspectorate at least once during a six-year period.

3.3 Schools that are subject to follow-up after inspection need regular monitoring by challenge advisers to ensure progress is rapid and robust.

4. **EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

Outcomes of Estyn Inspections Autumn 2014

4.1 During Autumn 2014, 2 non-maintained settings, 7 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 1 special school were subject to and Estyn inspection. As previously reported, the inspection cycle is now open with no expected timescale, this open cycle has been apparent across all sectors. A further 6 primary schools and 1 secondary school have been subject to follow-up activities.

4.2 The outcomes for Autumn 2014 are as follows:-

Follow-up activities			
NB HTs and chairs of governors of schools in follow-up activities present their PIAP(post inspection action plan) to Cabinet member for education, the director and other senior officers			
School	Follow-up	Outcome	Activities undertaken by CSC/LA to support improvements –
YGG Bodringallt	Estyn monitoring	The school was judged to have made insufficient progress against recommendations and was placed in the category requiring 'significant improvement.'	Reason for change of category linked to leadership. Since Sept a new AHT in post, support for senior leaders, monthly PIAP meetings with gobs attended by challenge adviser
YGG Ynyswen	Estyn monitoring	Estyn have removed school from any follow-up	Monthly CA meetings, whole day review of progress
Cwmbach Primary	Estyn monitoring	Estyn have removed school from any follow-up	Monthly CA meetings, whole day review of progress
Coedpen-maen	Significant Improvement	The school was judged to have made reasonable progress against recommendations but was judged to need a further six months to embed progress so remains in the category requiring 'significant improvement.'	LA appointed 4 new governors from Sept to support GB (recommendation), monthly PIAP meetings with gobs to discuss progress; new HT/ DHT appts, support from experienced HT for a day a week for half-term.
Aberllechau	Special Measures	Progress made against the recommendations the school however remains in special measures.	Fortnightly support from LA Officer, Literacy/Numeracy support from CSC, monthly PIAP meetings with GB

			School closed 31st December 2014
Rhiwgarn	Special Measures	Due to decision by cabinet to close schools at end of Autumn Term Estyn agreed not to undertake a further visit during the Autumn Term	Fortnightly support from Challenge Advisor (CA), Targeted Foundation Phase/Literacy support from CSC, monthly PIAP meetings with GB School closed 31st December 2014
YG Gartholwg	Estyn Monitoring	Awaiting publication of results to confirm outcome	Monthly support from CA
Ty Gwyn	Significant Improvement	Removed from category – very good progress	New Management board in place, new arrangements for PRUs resulting in executive HT appt.

Autumn Term Estyn Inspections						
School	Current Prospects	Prospects for improvement	KQ1	KQ2	KQ3	Follow-up
Cylch Meithrin Ynyshir & Wattstown	Good	Good	N/A	Good	Good	None
University of South Wales Childcare Services	Good	Good	N/A	Good	Good	None
Cefn Primary	Good	Good	Good - 1.2 Adequate Attendance	Good	Good	LA Monitoring
Alaw Primary	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	None
Coedylan Primary	Good	Adequate	Good	Good	Adequate 3.1/3.2/3.4 Leadership Improving quality, value for money	LA Monitoring Please note many of the issues identified in inspection are related to building issues – response has been sent in by LA
Pengeulan Primary	Good	Good	Good - 1.2 Adequate Attendance	Good	Good	LA Monitoring
Cymmer Infants	Good	Good	Good - 1.2 Adequate Attendance	Good	Good	LA Monitoring
Maesgwyn Special	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good – 3.2 Adequate Improving Quality	LA Monitoring

YGG Pont Sion Norton	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Estyn Monitoring
St John Baptist CIW Secondary	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent case study
Treorchy Primary	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Adequate	Estyn Monitoring

4.3 At time of presentation of report, there is one secondary school inspection outcome outstanding from Autumn Term.

5. **CONCLUSION**

5.1 Whilst the Council continue to have a high number of schools placed in a follow-up activity following an Estyn inspection, this term more have been the lighter follow-up activity – local authority monitoring. This demonstrates the improvements in leadership across our schools and the confidence Estyn has in our headteachers to improve systems in their schools themselves. Where leadership has been judged adequate, there is a need to monitor progress more rigourously to ensure impact of activities is rapid and has impact.

5.2 To improve the current levels of performance:

- Headteachers need to ensure that all teaching across their school is at least good.
- Challenge Advisers need to challenge headteachers to demonstrate impact of activities on standards and ensure they have sight of the relevant evidence. Governors too, need to take ask questions of headteachers and senior leaders in relation to how standards can be raised in their schools.
- The consortium need to continue to develop leaders at all levels to ensure succession planning is robust and there is confidence that new leaders will have the skills to move schools forward.
- The local authority needs to continue to work with headteachers and governing bodies to challenge underperformance of staff and address weaknesses appropriately.