Item 3.3

Briefing Note to: Senior Management Team, 26th November 2013

Estyn Monitoring Visit 2014

Current Position: Visit Details

I now have details of the monitoring visit by Estyn:

- The dates of the visit are 10-14 February 2014.
- The base room will be County Hall.
- The inspection Team comprises:
  - Reporting Inspector (RI): Mark Campion
  - Team Inspector: John Thomas
  - Team Inspector: Jane Taylor
  - Team Inspector: Farrukh Khan
- Access to the Virtual Inspection Room (VIR) has now been given to Richard Griffiths, who is co-ordinating the visit.
- The Council has been asked to upload all key and supporting documentation, including that identified for other Council Services, by 24 December 2013.

Current Position: Planning

This is not a full inspection but a monitoring visit. The purpose of a monitoring visit is to follow up actions taken against previous recommendations and to review evidence of the impact this has had.

Since the last full inspection of Cardiff authority in January 2011 the context in Cardiff, and the methodology of Estyn inspection, has significantly changed. The 6 Recommendations from that report must still be clearly addressed. In addition, the June 2012 monitoring visit clearly identified 3 further aspects requiring improvement.

However these nine aspects no longer cover the totality of areas requiring focused improvement. If attention is focused on these areas exclusively, or at the expense of other areas, there is a significant risk of distorting self-evaluation and improvement planning which would only hinder ongoing improvement and would limit capacity to improve.

It is been agreed with the Education Development Board that:

a) The nine specific Recommendations should be addressed in the context of an overarching improvement plan, the Education Development Plan, which derives from the Council’s self-evaluation.

b) In view of the need to frame such self-evaluation around the three ‘Key Questions’:
  - How good are outcomes?
  - How good is provision?
  - How good are leadership and management?
The Education Development Plan will be structured around these three areas:

- Improving outcomes
- Improving provision
- Improving leadership and management

The nine Recommendations will clearly be included within this overall structure, linked to other key actions to provide a coherent strategy for driving improvement up to, and beyond, the re-visit of Estyn to Cardiff in February 2014.

In addition the educational priorities in the Cardiff Council Corporate Plan and actions in response to the Peer Review would be similarly located within the Improvement Plan for education.

Both the Self Evaluation Review and the Education Development Plan will be finalised and published in December 2013.

Thank you all for your continuing support with this.
Appendix A

Estyn Recommendations

Full inspection in January 2011

R1 improve the strategic leadership of joint working between the authority and the Children’s and Young People’s Partnership;
R2 improve the effectiveness of partnership planning for outcomes in priority areas;
R3 improve the scrutiny of partnership working;
R4 continue to raise standards at key stage 4, improve attendance, reduce exclusions and reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training;
R5 improve performance management processes to ensure a consistent approach in delivering objectives; and
R6 improve the information, advice and support for all parents of learners requiring the statutory assessment of pupils’ special educational needs.

Follow-up Monitoring Visit June 2012

R7 since the last inspection, a higher than average proportion of Cardiff schools have been identified as needing follow-up after their inspection. …The quality of reports to Estyn by local authority officers prior to school inspections is improving but a minority still do not identify accurately enough the strengths and areas of improvement in schools.
R8 the quality of support provided to headteachers by the authority’s human resources officers is inconsistent and does not always help schools to deal with poorly performing staff.
R9 the authority’s improvement planning for pupils with additional learning needs is not always strategic enough.