

Scrutiny Report



Part 1

Date: September 2024

Subject Schools' Estyn Inspection Outcomes Annual Report 2023-24

Author Scrutiny Advisor

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Cllr Deborah Davies	Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years
Sarah Morgan	Head of Education
Sarah Davies	Deputy Head of Education
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director for Transformation and Corporate

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Acknowledge the recommendations and comments made in the Estyn Inspection report.
2. Question and challenge the Officers and Cabinet Member on the action and improvement plans in place to remedy the areas highlighted in the recommendations.
3. Decide if it wishes to make any comments and recommendations to the Cabinet Member.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1. Estyn are a Crown body, who were established under the Education Act 1992. They are independent of the Welsh Parliament but funded by the Welsh Government (under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998).

- 2.2. Estyn inspect quality and standards in a wide range of providers, including non-maintained nursery, settings, who receive funding from local authorities, all schools including independent schools, pupil referral units, further education, independent specialist colleges, adult learning in the community, local government education services, teacher education and training, Welsh for adults, work-based learning and learning in the justice sector.
- 2.3. As well as inspecting Estyn advise and guide Welsh government on quality and standards of education and training.
- 2.4. Legislation sets out the power of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training for Wales. This includes what the Chief Inspector may or may not inspect and report on, how often schools and other providers must be inspected and details for publishing inspection reports.
- 2.5. Under the Education Act 2005 the Chief Inspector has a duty to keep the Welsh parliament informed about the quality of the education in schools. He may also advise on matters connected with schools, or a particular school.
- 2.6. The main primary legislation governing Estyn inspections of schools is the Education Act 2005 (non-maintained nursery settings, maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units).
- 2.7. The legislation contains extra requirements for some sectors of education and training, particularly maintained schools. It includes provision for additional inspectors and Registered Inspectors, and for placing schools in categories of concern, such as special measures or significant improvement.
- 2.8. The legislation also sets out that all non-maintained nursery settings, maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units must be inspected within the six -year period. between September 2016 and August 2024.
- 2.9. The report covers all schools and PRUs in the City of Newport that have been inspected by Estyn, as part of their core inspection or follow-up activity between May 2022 and July 2024.

Previous Consideration of this item

- 2.10 This Committee previously discussed this report in September 2023.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at Appendix A is the Estyn Inspections Outcomes Report 23-24.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

- 4.1 **Role of the Committee**

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Discuss the recommendations with the Officers and Cabinet Members and establish whether adequate improvement/actions plans have been devised to sufficiently deal with the recommendations and comments;
- The Committee might wish to assess and make comment on the Education Departments action plans for the five recommendations individually:
 1. Improve the overall performance of secondary schools.
 2. Establish a coherent strategy across all relevant services to improve the outcomes of pupils eligible for free school meals.
 3. Ensure that self-evaluation activities focus on the impact the services have on outcomes and their value for money.
 4. Strengthen opportunities at a local authority level for children and young people to influence decisions that affect them.
 5. Deliver the strategic plans to develop Welsh medium education further.
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the performance of the Service Area?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the Cabinet?

4.2 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

The committee may wish to consider the following areas in their questioning:

- How robust are learners’ standards in Newport’s schools?
- How well do learners develop their skills in literacy, numeracy, and digital competence and are there any improvements to be made?
- How effective are the local authority’s arrangements in supporting school improvement?
- Are there any barriers to improving performance in schools?
- How quickly do outcomes improve in schools requiring follow-up after an inspection?
- How does the local authority inspection outcomes compare to that of similar local authorities and nationally?

4.3

Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p style="text-align: center;">Long-term</p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>What consideration have you given to the long term trends that could affect your proposal or; how could your proposal impact these trends?</p>
	<p>How will the needs of your service users potentially change in the future?</p>

<p>Prevention</p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this proposal?
	How are you addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
	How have the decisions, so far, come about? What alternatives were considered?
<p>Integration</p> <p>Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
	Have you consulted with the health board, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?
	What practical steps will you take to integrate your project with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?
<p>Collaboration</p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in finding out more about this problem and potential solutions?
	How are you co-working with other sectors?
	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
<p>Involvement</p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	How have you involved the people who are being impacted by this decision?
	How have you taken into account the diverse communities in your decision making?
	How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?
	How will you communicate the outcome of your decision?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
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Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.
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5.1 This report has strong links with the following Newport City Council Wellbeing Objectives

- Wellbeing Objective 1: Economy, Education and Skills : Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.
- Wellbeing Objective 3: Quality Social Care and Community services. Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.

8. Background Papers

- [The Essentials – Well-being of Future Generation \(Wales\) Act](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-2027](#)
- [Estyn Inspection Explained](#)
- [Estyn Non-Maintained Inspection Explained](#)
- [Inspection | Estyn \(gov.wales\)](#)
- [Education Act 2015](#)

Report Completed: September 2024