

APPENDIX 8

SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

QUALITY OF EDUCATION SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR MR HUW FOSTER EVANS, GwE's CHIEF OFFICER

Purpose of the Meeting

To interview Huw Foster Evans, GwE's Chief Officer, to understand GwE's function and vision, and the implications of the change from CYNNAL's service.

Brief prepared by Siân Gwenllïan

- (i) Why did polarisation occur in the KS4 performance of schools?
 - (ii) Achievement standards in Mathematics and the impact of this on the TL2+ indicator (a child must gain 5 A*-C grades including language and mathematics) - an indicator that the Minister for Education insists that must improve over the next three years.
 - (iii) Why is the KS3 standards and provision generally robust across all the authority's schools?
 - (iv) Nurture a fuller understanding of the performance of pupils receiving free school meals and the degree the achievement of the groups of learners has an impact on KS4
 - (v) The relevance of the free school meals indicator to identify rural deprivation
1. Explain GwE's function and structure. How is GwE different to CYNNAL?
 2. What is your vision for GwE?
 3. What is the rationale for abolishing CYNNAL and establishing GwE?
 4. What will GwE do that is different and better than CYNNAL?
 5. How do GwE's resources and staffing levels compare to CYNNAL's?
 6. Does GwE have sufficient resources and capacity to be able to assist schools to improve as well as to monitor and challenge?
 7. As GwE will operate across North Wales, while CYNNAL was restricted to North West Wales, will this mean that Gwynedd's schools are less central to the service?
 8. What is the relationship between GwE and the North Wales Consortium?
 9. A recent ESTYN inspection (March 2013), on Gwynedd's education service, recommended:
 - Raising Key Stage 4 standards by more robust targeting of underperforming departments in secondary schools that have poor performance levels.
 - Monitor and challenge each school and use all the powers available to the authority to improve performance and management in underperforming schools.

What contribution will GwE make to the achievement of the above?

10. How will GwE ensure the continuity of a cross-curricular Welsh language service bearing in mind that not all officers within GwE speak Welsh?

11. What constitutes good education?

12. How can education in Gwynedd and North Wales be improved?