

APPENDIX 1

SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

EDUCATION QUALITY INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED TO THE HEADTEACHERS

The Headteachers of six secondary schools were questioned as part of the investigation. Here is a list of the main questions asked:

Questions

1. Can you give a brief presentation on the background of the school and your experience as a Headteacher? What is your vision for the school?
2. The school has performed well / disappointingly over the past few years? What are the reasons for this and how can standards be maintained?
3. Can you elaborate on the good practice – what has worked and what has not worked as well?
4. How do you share good practice in the school? Is there collaboration with other schools?
5. What steps are taken to ensure attendance?
6. What is being done to develop literacy and numeracy across the school?
7. What assistance have you obtained from the Local Authority?
8. Does the fact that there is no sixth form in the school have any influence?
9. What information do you obtain about the performance of pupils – how is this tracked / monitored? Who developed the tracking system? Has the tracking system led to improvement?
10. What finance management systems are in place in the school?
11. Does the demography, the local community, or location of the school have any impact on the achievement standards of the school?

12. Is there a problem regarding attracting and retaining staff?
13. Do any staff teach outside their expertise, and if so, why?
14. What problems are caused by staff teaching outside their expertise, and what assistance do they receive?
15. How are underperforming staff monitored?
16. What part do Governors have to play in improving performance in schools? Can you describe their role in the context of your school?
17. What part do parents play in the development of their children and improving performance in school?
18. What type of relationship exists between the school and parents?
19. How many children study vocational courses in KS4? What effect does this have on the school's GCSE results – i.e. are there any pupils who study vocational courses that do not sit GCSE exams?
20. What is your opinion on using FSM families to measure performance?
21. What effect does rural deprivation have on the school, and on results? Is there rural deprivation that is not reflected in the FSM figures? Does the FSM figure reflect the actual deprivation of the school catchment area?
22. There is a substantial difference between the performance of boys and girls in some subjects. Was there a reason for that? Is deprivation a factor?
23. What is the relationship between the secondary schools and primary schools in your catchment area? Does the standard of the education in the primary schools affect the performance of pupils in secondary school?
24. What is your opinion on the polarization and inconsistency between schools in Gwynedd? How, in your opinion, can education standards be improved in Gwynedd and the polarization and variety in the quality of education in the County reduced?
25. If you had to note three things that would lead to improving the quality of education, what would those three things be?