

**SUBJECT: OUTCOMES FOLLOWING ESTYN'S FINAL MONITORING VISIT 23-27  
NOVEMBER 2015**

**MEETING: County Council**

**DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To provide Council with the outcomes of the Estyn monitoring visit 23 - 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Council receive Estyn's letter following the monitoring visit 23 -27<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- 2.2 That Council consider the progress the Authority has made against the six recommendations contained in the 2012 ESTYN Inspection Report.
- 2.3 That Council note that a School Improvement Group comprising of Members, Officers and external experts is set up to continue to ensure that the pace of improvement is continued and advise on issues where required.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that since the Estyn inspection in November 2012, the Authority's education services for children and young people has been in special measures.
- 3.2 In the final report, Estyn identified the following six main recommendations across Monmouthshire's education services.

Recommendation 1: Ensure that safeguarding procedures are robust and underpinned by a clear policy;

Recommendation 2: Improve standards of attainment for all groups of pupils, particularly in secondary schools;

Recommendation 3: Strengthen the level of challenge to schools and use the full range of available to the authority to improve leadership and management in underperforming schools;

Recommendation 4: Improve corporate planning to strengthen links between the local authority's priorities and service level targets;

Recommendation 5: Improve self-evaluation across all services and make better use of data to plan services strategically and target resources appropriately;

Recommendation 6: Ensure that performance management is effective and robust and allows elected members and senior officers to identify and address underperformance

- 3.3 In addition to the main recommendations Estyn also identified aspects of Additional Learning Needs, Inclusion and the Youth Service as unsatisfactory and areas for development.
- 3.4 Estyn carried out a series of three monitoring visits between February 2014 and March 2015 to review how well the local authority was improving. The final monitoring visit took place in November 2015.
- 3.5 Following the final visit, Estyn judged that the Authority has made strong progress in addressing two of the six recommendations and satisfactory progress in addressing the other four as detailed below:
- Recommendation 1 - strong progress
  - Recommendation 2 – satisfactory progress
  - Recommendation 3 – satisfactory progress
  - Recommendation 4 – strong progress
  - Recommendation 5 – satisfactory progress
  - Recommendation 6 – satisfactory progress
- 3.6 Estyn also noted that significant progress has been made in addressing shortcomings in Additional Learning Needs, Inclusion and the Youth Service.
- 3.7 As a result Estyn considers that the authority is no longer in need of special measures and is removing it from further follow up activity
- 3.8 Estyn identified the following areas for further improvement:
- The quality of self-evaluation within the CYP Directorate;
  - Addressing areas for improvement in the delivery of school improvement service for example performance in Welsh first language and notes of visits and meetings
- 3.9 Estyn further advised that the Authority should continue to work in partnership with other authorities in order to develop efficient ways of working to address common challenges in providing education services.
- 4. REASONS:**
- 4.1 To ensure that the authority embeds arrangements to continue secure continuous improvement to address areas for further improvement and maximise its contribution to delivering on the council's priority of education of children and young people.

**5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 Actions contained within the report are to be delivered within the existing resources. Any further proposals developed in response to this report and which have resource implications, will require a separate decision.

**6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 None – This report does not propose a change in policy or service delivery.

**7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications associated with this report

**8. CONSULTEES:**

- 8.1 CYP DMT  
Senior Leadership Team  
Cabinet

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

- 9.1 Estyn Inspection Report Monmouthshire County Council 2012  
9.2 Estyn letter – Monitoring Visit 23 – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

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