

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee**

8 September 2016

### **Report of the Head of Participation Chris Millis**

#### **Matter for Monitoring**

**Wards Affected:** All

#### **Service Report Card for the Challenge Adviser Team**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To present to members the Service Report Card developed by the Challenge Adviser team

#### **Executive Summary**

The attached Service Report Card summarises the functions of the Challenge Adviser team.

#### **Background**

The Challenge Adviser team works with all primary, secondary and special schools in Neath Port Talbot. We also work as part of the Eastern Hub (Swansea and Neath Port Talbot) within the region of ERW (6 Local Authorities in South West Wales). We challenge schools on their performance, standards, provision and leadership. We also provide a bespoke ladder of support for all schools depending on need. We use a national model to categorise schools.

There are seven Challenge Advisers in Neath Port Talbot. Five are full time and permanent and two are seconded Headteachers. The wider school improvement team also includes a literacy, numeracy and digital competency lead. The literacy and digital competency leads are permanent members of staff and the numeracy lead is a seconded teacher.

Challenge Advisers are funded centrally and the funding is ring-fenced by Welsh Government. For the 2016/17 Financial Year – the base budget for the Education Development service is £597,352. The bulk of this expenditure is used to fund the teacher development posts

Challenge Advisers undertake a wide range of activities to support schools, which include:

- Two core visits per year for each school which categorises each school and allocates a set amount of support. The support is provided from a regional menu and is provided either locally or regionally.
- Support with the appointment of senior leaders in schools
- Significant regional roles which include the development of leadership programmes, newly qualified teacher support, securing teacher assessment programmes, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), training programmes identified from the menu of support and support and advice for Foundation Phase
- Links with each area of the Education group (i.e. Minority Ethnic Achievement Service - MEAS, Looked After Children Education Service - LACES, Gypsy Traveller service, Music service, Data Unit, 14-19 service and Welsh language development service) as well as close links with Llan and Nash.
- Lead Challenge Adviser attends each School Standards Partnership Group and provides training for members when appropriate
- Governor training on a regular basis
- Collaboration with the wider Support for Learning team

- Support for schools preparing for Estyn inspections as well as writing Local Authority reports for Estyn when a school is inspected. Also most Challenge Advisers participate in Estyn inspections across Wales and are often members of the team when a school is revisited in Neath Port Talbot.
- Performance management for all Headteachers and members of the Education group (i.e. MEAS, LACES, Gypsy Traveller service, Music service, Data unit, 14-19 service and Welsh language development service).

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no equality impacts associated with this report

### **Workforce Impacts**

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

### **Legal Impacts**

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

### **Risk Management**

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

There is no requirement for consultation.

## **Recommendations**

Items for monitoring only

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

N/A

## **Implementation of Decision**

N/A

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Challenge Adviser Team Service Report Card

## **Officer Contact**

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