

Torfaen Councillor Annual Report 2014~2015

Name: David Yeowell

Ward: Panteg

Party: Labour



The following sets out my activities as a councillor during 2014/15.

SECTION 1: Role & Responsibilities

1. I served on the following council committees

Council Committees	Attendance
Cabinet	12 of 12
Council	10 of 10
Audit Committee	5 of 6

2. I served on the following outside bodies/committees

Body
PSJCC (Chair)
CYPIB (Chair)
Recovery Board
LSB

SECTION 2: Local Ward Activities

Frequent ward walkabouts and regular interaction with constituents. Surgeries are a monthly occurrence (2nd Saturday in every month).

Regular interaction with constituents on issues ranging from; street lighting re-commissioning and road markings rationalisation; weeding of walkways and missed refuse collections. Some constituents' issues with are of a more

personal nature and these matters are dealt with in the utmost confidence.

I am readily contactable: my home address, two telephone numbers and email address are all in the public domain.

SECTION 3: Initiatives and special activities

As executive member for education my role has been to provide a political steer to the education service through some difficult times. The authority was placed in special measures and as a result significant improvements were called for. I believe that the education service has made significant strides in responding to this challenge. We have been helped in this respect by a "Recovery Board" appointed for the purpose by WAG. They have been forthright and sometimes demanding but very supportive nevertheless.

Running parallel to the Recovery Board is its "sister" committee, the CYPIB. It is hoped that this committee will continue to perform a valuable function after the Recovery Board has left us.

My involvement in our response to these challenges have included the following:-

- Undertaken visits to all schools both secondary and primary, talking to heads and staff members as well as pupils.
- I have chaired meetings of the Primary and Secondary Schools Joint Consultative Committee (PSJCC)
- I also chair the Children and Young Peoples improvement Board (CYPIB)
- I am also a member of the Local Service Board (LSB)
- Frequent meetings of Corporate Performance Review, both collective and individual departmental
- I have attended Accelerated Improvement Boards (AIB) and intervention meetings with schools deemed to be giving cause for concern.
- I am also responsible for filling vacant LA governor appointments to our schools.
- Regular meetings of JEG (joint education committee) of the EAS.
- Meetings with WAG officers and occasional meetings with the Minister for Education.
- Occasional meetings with WLGA representatives.

- Attendance at WLGA conferences.

As well as the functions above, I have regular briefings with, the education team on a fortnightly basis and one to one meetings with the Head of Service and the Schools Improvement Officer on a weekly basis. I also meet periodically with EAS Challenge Advisors.

SECTION 4: Learning and Development

I frequently attend member seminars;
I have also attended school governor training sessions as well as 'in-house' training on Unacceptable Actions by Service Users;
I attended the 'Gwent-wide' scrutiny training – Gwent Scrutiny Challenge.

SECTION 5: Other activities and issues

I am a school governor at Griffithstown Primary School and I attend other social functions in the ward such as concerts; remembrance day ceremonies and presentations. Along with my ward colleagues I help to contribute to more than twenty local organisations and small community groups from our 'small schemes' allocation.