



Central South Consortium
Consortiwm Canolbarth y De

Joint Education Service
Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd

Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw on Tuesday, 17th December, 2013 at 4 p.m.

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee

Councillor M.Nott, Bridgend County Borough Council (Chairman)
Councillor H.David, Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor J.Magill, Cardiff City Council
Councillor H.Jones, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Councillor M.Forey, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Councillor C.Elmore, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
Councillor N.Moore, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

Mr.D.Mepham, Bridgend County Borough Council
Ms.D.McMillan, Bridgend County Borough Council
Mr.N.Batchelar, Cardiff City Council
Mr.G.Chapman, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Ms.L.Buck, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Mr.G.Isingrini, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Mr.C.Bradshaw, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mr.R.Evans, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mr.S.Merritt, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mr.M.Pennell, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Ms.J.Hill, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
Mr.R.Hopkins, Central South Consortium
Ms.S.Moss, Central South Consortium

Also in Attendance

Mr.K.Napieralla, Welsh Government
Ms.H.Woodhouse, ISOS Partnership

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E.Hanagan and Mr.K.Griffiths (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) and Ms.S.Davies (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council).

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 31st October, 2013 be approved as an accurate record.

63. LEADERSHIP OF THE CONSORTIUM

With reference to Minute No.59 of the meeting of the Committee held on the 31st October, 2013, Ms.J.Hill, Chief Learning and Skills Officer (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council) gave a verbal update on the new post of Managing Director within the Consortium.

She reported that five applications for the post had been received of which one had later been withdrawn. The Appointments Panel met on the 28th November, 2013 and following consideration of the applications, it was felt that there was only one suitable candidate that could potentially fill the role, in view of this it was agreed that the position of Managing Director be re-advertised during the latter part of January, 2014 and the Welsh Government were informed accordingly.

Ms.J.Hill further reported that interim arrangements had been put in place with the terms of agreement being amended with ISOS in order that Ms.H.Woodhouse could work as Acting Managing Director of the Consortium until the end of March, 2014.

It was also suggested to Members that to get the interest from the right calibre of candidates and as the post of Managing Director should be equivalent to the level of Chief Officer status, the specification and the salary be reviewed to reflect this.

RESOLVED –

1. To continue with the engagement of the recruitment consultant to assist with the appointment of the post of Managing Director on terms to be agreed and amended, if felt appropriate.
2. That Ms.H.Woodhouse take up the role of Acting Managing Director until the end of March, 2014.
3. That if felt appropriate the Appointments Panel review and amend the specification and salary of the post without the necessity of calling a meeting but through an exchange of emails.

64. THE NATIONAL MODEL FOR REGIONAL CONSORTIUM

Mr.K.Napieralla, Head of Local Authority Intervention & Support & Consortium within the Welsh Government verbally reported that Ministers had recently “signed off” the National Model and that the one area to be finalised is the National Characterisation Model but this would not hold things up. A meeting had been arranged with Ministers in January, 2014.

Ministers had also agreed to roll out events of each Consortium during the early part of next year and Officers within the Welsh Government were in the process of putting together a Business Template.

RESOLVED – to note the information.

65. A SCHOOL LED STRATEGY

Ms.H.Woodhouse, (ISOS Partnership) provided Members with two papers prepared by Professor Mel Ainscow which were considered in conjunction with each other and she gave her observations thereon:

- *A School to School Model*
- *The Central South Wales Educational Challenge (The Action Plan – December 2013 to July 2014) – prepared by Professor Mel Ainscow*

It was reported that the papers were based on evidence of the most successful school led systems being the most sustainable form of school improvement, which had taken place predominantly in England. However, the delivery and development of proposals, the behaviours and modelling of a school led approach and the corresponding implications for the role of the local authorities in Wales and the consortia, were significant and critical to the success of the model.

Ms.Woodhouse reported that since the meeting of this Committee in September, a small group of Heads as selected by Directors had worked with Professor Ainscow in developing this new approach and, to date, have met on three occasions. The paper “A School to School Model” highlighted the points raised by the group and it was intended that following discussion with Directors and schools a `soft launch` would be made in late January, 2014 at events to include all schools in the region.

Whilst the first paper highlighted the points raised by the group, the second paper “The Central South Wales Educational Challenge” concentrated more on the action plan developed by the Group and the five Directors for improving the quality of education for children and young people, in all schools in Central South Wales and would incorporate other activities such as the Improving and Outstanding Teaching programmes that are already underway and can be contributed to the achievement of this goal. The strategy aims, being to have a rapid impact, whilst at the same time creating a framework for longer term growth across the system and would require significant changes in the practices of many stakeholders, at the schools, local authority and consortium levels.

The plan identified the need for the introduction of School Improvement Groups (SIGs), whereby each SIG would involve schools from all five authorities, comprising primary sector groups, secondary sector groups and also special schools. Arrangements would also be made for Welsh medium schools. It was proposed that each SIG would include a mix of schools at different stages of development, whereby their varied strengths and weaknesses would offer possibilities for using differences as a resource to stimulate the sharing of expertise and joint efforts to innovate and in order to e.g. improve the performance of every school, reduce the gap between high and low performing groups of learners.

A discussion ensued when many questions/comments were raised as to how the schools would be selected and grouped and the measureable outcomes, to which Ms.Woodhouse reported that significant changes in behaviour should be seen during the next term and she also reported on the conference that was to be held on the 28th January, 2014, facilitated by the Welsh Government where this new model of working would be introduced.

RESOLVED - To agree the School to School Model in principle and that a progress report be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

66. A DRAFT BUSINESS CASE FOR THE CONSORTIUM

In conjunction with the reports, previously circulated to Members in respect of the future business plan framework for the consortium, Ms.Woodhouse circulated at the meeting PowerPoint slides outlining information under the following headings:

- Requirements of the National Model
- Vision and Strategy
 - Context in Central South Region
 - Challenges
 - The Long Term Vision – A Self Improving School System
 - The Need to Move to a School Led System Overtime
 - Simple Vision for the Region
- Governance and Commissioning
 - National Model on Governance and Commissioning
 - Proposed Governance and Commissioning Model
 - Governance and Commissioning Recommendations
- Consortium Model of Delivery
 - National Model on School Improvement Delivery
 - Proposals for Central South – One Organisation Working Together
 - Model of Operation Decisions –
 - Vision (1)
 - Challenge Advisors (2)
 - Commissioning, Support and Provision
- Conclusion and Next Steps

As reported earlier in the meeting (Minute No.64 above, refers) Mr.K.Napieralla, Head of Local Authority Intervention & Support & Consortium within the Welsh Government confirmed that Ministers had “signed off” the agreement but that it was the statutory duty of the Directors of the respective authorities who would have the ultimate responsibility in raising standards within the schools and would feed into the Executive Board. The Model would continue to be developed over the next few years.

With regard to the Governance arrangements, it was felt by Ms.J.Hill (Vale of Glamorgan) that there should be some room for flexibility e.g. for consistency and continuity purposes the Chair be not rotated on an annual basis, subject to the agreement of the Committee.

RESOLVED – to agree the Draft Business Case in principle and for the Final Draft Business Case to be presented to the Committee for consideration at the February 2014 meeting.

67. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

Ms.Woodhouse (ISOS Partnership) presented Members with an overview of national developments which focussed on the practical steps taken in the Central South Consortium (CSC) to respond to the need to build leadership

capacity in schools in the region. The report concluded by setting out the actions required to secure outstanding school leadership in the CSC.

In speaking to the report, Ms.Woodhouse stated that there was a lot more work to do in working with the five authorities in bringing together their respective policies and procedures relating to recruitment and dealing with underperformance to promote greater consistency.

RESOLVED –

1. To note the information.
2. That this matter be a standing item on each agenda of meetings of this Committee.

68. FINANCIAL REPORT – PROJECTED OUTTURNS FOR 2013/14

In his report, Mr.M.Pernnell, Group Accountant (Rhondda Cynon Taf) provided Members with details of the projected outturns for 2013/14 for the Central South Consortium School Improvement Service (SIS), Welsh in Education (WEG) and the Learning and Innovation Network for Schools (LINKS), and it was **RESOLVED –**

1. To note the projected outturn for the CSC SIS, WEG and LINKS.
2. To approve the retention of the 2012/13 reserves by the Consortium.

69. PROJECTED UPDATE

Members were provided with the projected plan which set out a number of areas of delivery under the following headings:

- Excellence in Teaching
- Excellence in Leadership
- Excellence in Challenge and Support

The Plan also gave details of the strategic work undertaken under the following three areas:

- Leadership
- Governance and Commissioning
- Improving the School Improvement Model

Progress and performance achieved in the above areas were identified in the report through use of the “traffic light” system i.e. red, amber, green.

Future aims for the Consortium were centred around six themes:-

1. School-led, Self Improving System
2. Data and Intelligence Function
3. Challenge Function
4. Commissioning Support Function
5. Service Capacity and Governance
6. Governance and Relationships

Following the observations made by Ms.Woodhouse and a discussion, it was

RESOLVED -

1. To note the information.
2. To note the verbal statement made at the meeting that the legal agreement has now been signed by all of the five authorities.

70. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Central South Consortium Joint Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 25th March, 2014 at 3 p.m. at Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw.

Note: The special meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee arranged for Tuesday, 13th January, 2014 to agree the Business Plan will not be held as the matter will be discussed at the meeting arranged for the 18th February 2014.

**M.NOTT
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 5.28 p.m.