



Minutes of the Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at the Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 2.00pm

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)
Councillor J. Rosser (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Councillor R. Penrose (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Councillor C. Smith (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Councillor L Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

Mr D. R. Thomas – Managing Director (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Ms P Ham - Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Mr N. Batchelar – Director of Education (Cardiff City Council)
Ms. D. Haines – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)
Mr. P. Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Ms N. Echaris – (Bridgend County Borough Council)

Also in Attendance

Mr M. Glavin – Managing Director (Central South Consortium)
Ms. L. Blatchford – Business Manager (Central South Consortium)
Ms A, Brychan – Policy and Strategy Officer (Central South Consortium)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms E Thomas Director of Education (Rhondda, Cynon Taf County Borough Council) and Mr P Orders (Cardiff City Council)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members had no personal interests to declare in matters pertaining to the agenda.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Sarah Merry as Chairman of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee for the 2017 -18 municipal year.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE- CHARMAN OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Charles Smith as Vice- Chairman of the Central South Joint Education Committee for 2017 -18 municipal year.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Central South Joint Education Committee Service held on the 14th March 2017 at 10:30am and 2:00pm. Subject to it being noted that Mr C Smith is Councillor C, Smith of Bridgend County Borough Council.

6. CALENDAR OF MEETING FOR THE 2017 -18 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED to agree the following Calendar of Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee for the 2017-18 municipal year (venues to be arranged):

- Friday 15th September 2017
 - Tuesday , 5th December 2017
 - Thursday 15th March 2018
 - Thursday 28th June 2018
- (All Meetings will take place between 10am – 12pm)

7. MANAGING DIRECTOR – PRE BRIEFING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Managing Director of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service welcomed Members of the newly appointed Committee. Members were presented with an overview of the work of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service with aid of a Animation presentation.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Joy Rosser as Chairman of the Advisory Board for 2017 -18 municipal year.

9. INDICATIVE DATA – PERFORMANCE OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

The Committee received a verbal update from the Managing Director of Central

South Consortium outlining the data for Key Stage 4 as at July 2017. Members were advised as a result of a number of changes in respect of exams in relation to Welsh and English the Directors of Education across Wales is to be a reset year. Schools are telling officers that exams are very different this year.

Members of the Committee expressed concern relating to the coverage of summer exams performance because of reforms made this year. It was brought to Members attention that school previously praised may be schools that suffer due to down grading of vocational subjects. School improvement is a must and tracking performance is a must and we need to see what happens from now on.

10 HUB EVALUATIONS

The Managing Director Central South Consortium took Members through the report in detail, it was explained that the Central South Wales Challenge was launched in 2014 to support the development of a 'self improving school system'.

As part of the Central South Wales Challenge 'school hubs' were introduced. The role of the hub was to develop regional capacity by contributing to the region's professional learning offer. It was explained to Members that in just over three years the hub model has facilitated increasing proportions of the regions professional learning offer and supported purposeful, planned cross local authority working.

Members were informed that progress has been made during 2016-17 against the five strategic aims, however it is recognised that further refinements and improvements are required during 2017 – 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the hubs.

Members asked in terms of value for money what percentage of schools are involved in the hub system. It was explained to Members that Regional engagement with hub provision has increased and at 2016-17 almost 1900 days (62% of Schools)

After long consideration it was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

11. SUCCESSFUL FUTURES

Members were informed that in order to support schools across the region with the development of the new curriculum, it will be important to fund school-led structures to facilitate collaboration between schools in order to develop Successful Futures across all schools.

Members were informed of Professor Donaldson's Report 'Successful Futures' which posed 68 recommendations for the reform of the curriculum in Wales; all the recommendations within the report were accepted by Welsh Government.

The Managing Director Central South Consortium explained to Members that Central South Consortium Schools are managing the change to the new curriculum through:

- Engagement in SIG (School Improvement Groups) where schools take responsibility for identifying the area of focus. SIGs also provide opportunity to build leadership and system capacity in keeping with a Curriculum for Wales. The total SIG budget for this year is £650k
- In order to facilitate all schools engagement in the curriculum reform agenda during 2017/18 additional SIG funding of £278k is proposed. This equates approximately £6k per SIG, allocated pro rata for the number of schools.
- Professional learning delivered by the CSC Hubs. The programmes offered are enquiry based and many have a focus on developing school leaders as well as providing knowledge and skills in line with the pedagogical principle. For 2017/18 the programme offered are free to all schools, thus utilising the funding for engagement by focusing on workforce development, giving a high priority to leadership and pedagogy. The total hub budget for this year is £1.7m which is broken down as :

- (a) Professional Learning Hubs - £790k
- (b) Curriculum Hubs - £740k
- (c) Lead Practitioners - £ 193k

Budgets totals are uncertain from 2018, therefore it is felt the consortium would look to rationalise the funding for hubs in the development of the cluster –led model.

After in-depth discussion it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the Report and its content
2. Approve the Recommendation made in the report
3. Monitor the progress made at future meetings of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee.

12. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM – BUSINESS PLANNING 2017 – 18

The Managing Director Central South Consortium presented the Committee with the Consortium Business Plan for 2017 -18 and its monitoring arrangements.

The Joint Committee was informed that there were five priorities to focus on for improvement for 2017 – 18 which are:

- Improving outcomes for vulnerable learners through partnership working
- Developing school – to- school working to deliver curriculum reform
- Developing leadership governance and workforce reform
- Rapid and sustainable intervention
- Developing effectiveness and efficiency in Central South Consortium.

Following consideration of the plan it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Central South Consortium Business Plan 2017- 18.

13. PROGRESS AGAINST ESTYN RECOMMENDATIONS

In his report the Managing Director Central South Consortium informed Members that Estyn inspected the Central South Consortium in February/ March 2016 which identified a number of strengths and a number of areas for improvement.

Members were presented with an update in respect of the progress made against the four recommendations of the inspection report.

In respect of:

- **Recommendation 1: Ensure that school improvement services address the variability of performance across schools and local authorities, particularly at key stage 4.** Members were informed that progress is considered to be satisfactory / strong depending on the 2017 results.
- **Recommendation 2: Improve the accuracy of the evaluations of schools by challenge advisers in order to ensure a greater focus on improving teaching and leadership.** Progress against this recommendation is considered to be strong.
- **Recommendation 3: Strengthen the procedures for monitoring and evaluating the impact of school improvement work.** Member were informed that progress against this recommendation is considered strong with effective self- evaluation systems put in place to enable the consortium to measure the impact of its work. The procedures for evaluating peer enquiries are strong.
- **Recommendation 4: Evaluate progress against the regional consortium's operational plans more effectively.** Again the progress against the recommendation is strong as further improvements have been made to both the development of improvement planning and the monitoring of progress against success criteria. These processes are beginning to embed with very little significant work left to do.

After consideration of the report Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the progress made in addressing each of the recommendations.

14. RISK REGISTER

The Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register as at July 2017.

After considering the view of the Managing Director Central South Consortium it was **RESOLVED** to

1. Change Risk No:8 – Continue to quality assure challenge and strategic advisers direct work with schools. Provide professional development for senior challenge advisers, challenge advisors and strategic teams and share effective practice in report writing to improve the accuracy of pre-inspection briefing reports and in how reports evaluate teaching and leadership from Medium risk to Low risk

2. Change Risk No: 12 – Schools and Governors don't buy into the vision of a self improving system not releasing staff to build capacity within the system has been lowered from medium to low risk.
3. Continue to monitor the risk register at future meetings of the Joint Committee.

15. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – 2016/17 YEAR-END POSITION

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) outlined the Treasurer's Report which sought the Joint Committee's approval to set-up an earmark reserve as part of the 2016/17 year end closure of accounts process and allocate an in-year underspend to contribute to accelerating the repayment of redundancy costs, along with providing Members with the draft outturn position for Central South Consortium and draft Statement of accounts 2016/17.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To note and approve the earmark reserve as set out at 3.2;
2. To approve the allocation of an in-year underspend to contribute to accelerating the repayment of the redundancy costs as set out at 4.6 and 4.7 of the report
3. To note the draft outturn position and draft Statement of Accounts for the joint Committee for the year ending 31st March 2017.
4. To approve the annual Governance Statement 2016/17

16. CENRAL SOUTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM GRANTS

The Business Manager for the Central South Consortium presented the report of the Directors of Education in respect of the grants to be received by the Consortium for 2016/17 and 2017/18 for which notification have been received and the methods of allocation of each.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to approve the distribution of grants as detailed in Section 4 of the Report.

17. URGENT ITEM

The Managing Director of the Central South Consortium explained to Members that the staffing structure with in the Consortium has changed slightly and there have been two new posts within the Senior Leadership Team:

- Senior Lead , Standards and Improvement Planning
- Senior Lead , Teaching and Learning Experiences.

Meeting Closed at 11.55am

**Cllr S Merry
Chair**

CHAIRMAN

The meeting terminated at 3.15pm