



Minutes of the Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre Merthyr Tydfil on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 10:00am

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

Ms P Ham - Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Ms S Walker – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)
Mrs E Thomas – Director of Education and Lifelong Learning (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr C. Bradshaw – Lead Chief Executive (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Taf)
Mr P Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr L Harvey - Bridgend County Borough Council

Also in Attendance

Ms. L. Blatchford – Business Manager (Central South Consortium)
Ms A, Brychan – Policy and Strategy Officer (Central South Consortium)
Mr A. Williams – Senior Lead for Standards and Improvement Planning
(Central South Consortium)
Mr A Clark – (Central South Consortium)
Mr G Voyle – (Central South Consortium)
Mr O Evans – Director of Teach First Cymru

43 . APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Orders (Cardiff City Council)

44. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

45. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Central South Joint Education Committee Service held on the 15th March 2018 at 10:00am

46. BUSINESS PLAN 2018-19

The Senior Lead for Standards and Improvement Planning presented Members with the Final Business Plan for 2018 – 19 with aid of a power point presentation. Members of the Committee were inform of the aims of the Consortium along with the progress that has been made towards 2020.

Members were informed of the 4 objectives set out in the plan.

- Objective 1 – Developing a high quality education profession
- Objective 2 – To develop inspirational leaders and facilitate their working collaboratively to raise standards
- Objective 3 – To develop strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equality and wellbeing
- Objective 4 – To develop robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self- improving system.

After a robust discussion and consideration of the plan Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Central South Business Plan for 2018-19

47. MOVING FORWARD

The Senior Leader for Leadership, Strategy & Workforce Reform explained to Members of the Committee the background of the report, it was explained that the discussion paper was originally designed to be used with Central South Consortium staff to check engagement with vision, barriers to achieving that vision and to identify what needs to be changed to secure that vision.

The Senior Leader for Leadership, Strategy & Workforce Reform went on to explain that it was evident that as the school improvement service of five local authorities our vision has to come from the vision of the schools and local authorities themselves. Therefore this paper has become a wider consultation tool. Member were taken through the Moving Forward paper in detail and put their questions and observations forward after in-depth discussion and consideration it was **RESOLVED** to note the content of the Moving Forward Report .

48. CSC DIGITAL STRATEGY REPORT

Members of the Committee were presented with the CSC Digital Strategy Report. The report sets out an ambitious roadmap focusing on an approach to work smarter and faster in allowing technology to act as an enabler in achieving our vision of a school led self improving system.

It was explained that this strategy has been developed with a core consideration of the Central South Consortium's ambition and priorities, communication strategy and RCT CBC digital strategy. It was also explained that to achieve the ambition of the CSC by 2020 we will need to develop a first class infrastructure and invest time and energy into developing a digital workforce.

Members were presented with an overview of the 4 key element:

- Creating a first class digital infrastructure
- Developing a digital workforce
- Effective data and information management
- Developing business intelligence

Members of the Committee were taken through the rest of report by the Operational Manager. He informed Member that by 2020 the following strategy outcomes will be achieved:

1. Run a series of termly perception surveys with system user focusing on a consistent set of themes. This will support the generation of a feedback wheel which will support further development of the system.
2. Develop a communication strategy to support the sharing of feedback and resulting activity.
3. Focus on improving system perception and enhancing analysis
4. Focus on communication of change and ensuring key messages are received and understood.
5. Develop a tailored training programme for CSC customers to support engaging with change in relation to the digital toolkits
6. Creation of a digital operational plan to create a clear and transparent road map to achieving outcomes, impact and report on progress
7. Draw up an effective cloud migration plan to support the achievement of a more agile approach to information management.
8. Fully adopt the new GDPR regulations in line with RCT CBC and CSC policies and procedures.

Members commented that it is a very good report and put forward their questions and observation. After further consideration Members **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report and receive further reports at a later date

49. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – 2017/18 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE AND MEDIUM TERM FINACIAL FORECAST (2018/19 – 2020/21)

The Committee received an updating report of the projected revenue outturn position for 2017/18 , summary of 2018/19 grant funding and medium term financial forecast covering the period 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Following consideration of the Report it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the projected revenue outturn position for 2017/18 and approve an earmark reserve at yearend to support the remodelling of the service over the medium term (paragraph 3.3)
- Note the current grant position for 2017/18
- Note the medium term financial forecast covering financial years 2018/1 to 2020/21
- Approve the proposed approach for funding redundancy costs and instruct the Host Authority's Chief Finance Officer to liaise with local authorities to agree this approach. (paragraphs 5.10 and 5.11 of the report)

50. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS 2017/18

The Senior Lead Business and Operations presented Members with the Internal Audit Reports issued by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Internal Audit Service to the Central South Consortium during 2017/18.

Members were informed that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Internal Audit Service undertook four audit reviews of core financial systems during 2017/18 and the Joint Committee is requested to determine whether there are any matters of governance or internal control nature that require further action or attention.

After great consideration Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Internal Audit Reports for 2017/18

51. GRANT FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR 2018-19

Members were presented the report of the Senior Lead Business and Operations updating them on the current position of grant funding to the consortia for 2018/19.

Members of the Committee were informed that Welsh Government has written to Lead Directors and Lead Section 151 officers, outlining changes to the grant funding of Consortia and LA's.

The Senior Lead Business and Operations explained that with the launch of the national strategy 'Education for Wales: Our National Mission', there has been a streamlining of the grant funding process. From 2018/19 there will only be two grants received by Consortia:

- Pupil Development Grant (PDG)
- Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)

After further debate and consideration of the report Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Acknowledge the content of the report
- Approve the principles of delegation outlined in the paper proposed by the Directors.

52 GRANTS AWARD OF FUNDING APPROVAL REPORT

The Senior Lead Business and Operations present Members with an update with regards to the award of funding from Welsh Government for the 2017/18 financial year.

Following consideration of the report Members **RESOLVED** to

1. Note the award of grant funding
2. Approve the use and distribution of grant funding in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award
3. Recommend that the Lead Chief Executive and S151 Officer approve the receipt of grant funding.

53 VALUE FOR MONEY REPORT

Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee were provided with the Central South Consortium Value for Money Report. The report addresses whether maximum benefit has been achieved from goods and services acquired and provided within resource available.

Members went on to consider the report in depth and **RESOLVED** to approve the following recommendations:

- Priority 'Drive Teams within the business plan should continue to outline bids for funding detailing the overall purpose of the initiative as well as identifying the risks, outcomes measurers and means of verification to ensure an ongoing focus upon value for money. The impact reports can then inform future strategy development.
- Consideration may be given to the processes for capturing value for money within the monitoring dashboard for both areas identified foe strand evaluation in 2017/18 as well as the impact of the business plan.
- Progress has been made to ensure when additional funding/ resource is provided to school in need that expected outcomes are identified to ensure good value for money at the planning stages. This is achieved by the development of the school support plan. Further refinement is required however on the effective brokering of the support for schools from the available Central South Wales Strategy models.
- Continue the work of the Research and Evaluation Board to provide evidence of impact on key areas of strategy within the Central South Wales Challenge (in line with Objective 4 of the CSC Business Plan 2017/18).
- Critically evaluate the impact of all CSWC strategies to ascertain maximum impact. This will include the development of online evaluation processes to inform strategic planning and ensure reporting is more focused on impact. It would then be possible to monitor aims objectives over time and provide evidence of impact in both the school providing support as well as the school/ individuals receiving support .

- There is a need to take a longer term view of the hub model and its impact. A review of the funding methodology for the hub programme should be undertaken and consideration given to the removal of the expectation that all hubs provide support for red and amber schools. Savings realised may then be used to broker effective support from across the region rather than from a narrower number of hub schools.
- Consider the reduction of seed funding for school improvement groups as these networks are now established and effective. This would release capacity to fund clusters to work collaboratively on the Curriculum for Wales with Pioneer schools.
- Explore other types of peer enquiry models, building upon the success of the current peer enquiry model. This may involve specific enquires based on different sectors , such as the Special School Sector or Welsh Medium Sector as well as the exploration of thematic peer enquiries.
- Strand evaluations for 2017/18 should continue for all areas except peer enquiry where robust evaluation processes are now in place.

54. TEACH FIRST CYMRU REPORT

Mr Owen Evans Director Teach First Cymru presented Members with the Quarter 1 Report, which provides Members of the committee with activities and progress made by Teach First Cymru against the contract for the Teach First Leadership Development Programme delivered in the Central South Consortium Region.

After receiving the report Member of the Committee asked a number of questions and the Director of Teach First Cymru duly responded.

Meeting Closed at 11.55am

**Cllr S Merry
Chair**

