

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM  
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE**

**18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE**

**CENTRAL SOUTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM GRANTS**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION (OR EQUIVALENT)**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium for 2013/14.
- 1.2 To present to the Joint Committee a recommendation from Directors to devolve the acceptance of terms and conditions for the various grants awarded to the Consortium to be approved by the Executive Board.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members

- 2.1 Approve the distribution of grants as detailed in section 4 of this report;
- 2.2 Approve the recommendation to devolve the acceptance of grant terms and conditions to the Executive Board in line with paragraph 6.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Prior to the formation of the education consortia in September 2012 the Welsh Government (WG) distributed education grants directly to the 22 local authorities. In line with the move towards regional structures, transitional arrangements are in place from 2013/14 to allocate these grants on a regional distribution model. As a result the grants for Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan are being distributed through the Central South Education Consortium.
- 3.2 As host authority Rhondda Cynon Taf will act as 'banker authority', and under the terms of the grant agreements will be responsible for accepting the terms and conditions of grant and putting in place arrangements to distribute the funding, as determined by the Joint Committee, within the Consortium. Below are the remaining grants notified to the Consortium for 13/14, the method of apportionment of each grant will vary depending on its nature, its intended recipients, its purposes and the associated terms and conditions.

### **4. 2013/14 GRANTS**

#### **4.1 National Professional Qualifications for Headship.**

- 4.1.1. The total grant funding is dependent on how many applications the Consortia receive from Headteachers applying for the qualification. The grant is paid at £2,500 per applicant.
- 4.1.2. The amount per local authority again is dependent on applications received.

#### **4.2 Band 4/5 schools**

- 4.2.1. The total grant in 2013/14 is £290,000
- 4.2.2. The aims of the grant are to give additional financial support to the schools in categories band 4/5. £10,000 for each school.
- 4.2.3. The basis of allocation is to those schools categorised by WG as band 4/5. There are 29 in Central South Consortium.

#### **4.3 Leading & Emerging Practitioner Schools.**

- 5.3.1 The total grant in 2013/2014 is £510,000
- 5.3.2 The aims of the grant are to give financial support to a lead practitioner school to support an emerging school to improve. The grant is awarded at £30,000 or £90,000.
- 5.3.3 The basis of allocation is dependent upon the location of the leading practitioner school.

#### 5.4 Newly Qualified Teacher CPD grant

- 5.4.1 The total grant has not been confirmed at this time as it is dependent upon how many newly qualified teachers start in our schools in September 2013.
- 5.4.2 The aims of the grant is to support the induction of newly qualified teachers in our schools.
- 5.4.3 The basis of allocation is dependent on the school employing the newly qualified teacher.

#### 5.5 Mentoring and Network Support for Head teachers

- 5.5.1 The total grant has not been confirmed at this time as it is dependent upon the number of head teachers in the Consortium. Each is entitled to £1,000. The funding will apply to any head teacher who commences in their first substantive headship post during the funding period.
- 5.5.2 The purpose of the funding is to support mentoring of all newly appointed head teachers in their first substantive headship post.
- 5.5.3 The basis of allocation is dependent on the number of newly appointed head teachers.

#### 5.6 Learning in Digital Wales Continuing Professional Development Programme

- 5.6.1 The total grant is £224,706.
- 5.6.2 The purpose of the funding is to support practitioners in schools to develop their confidence and competence in the use of digital technology for teaching and learning.
- 5.6.3 The basis of allocation will be dependent on schools engaging with the programme as support will be offered equitably to all school

## 6. GRANT 14/15 AND FUTURE YEARS

The Welsh Government established a 'Grants Centre of Excellence' within its organisation to streamline the terms and conditions of the various grants issued to Local Authorities and Consortia. The process involves WG issuing a grant offer letter stipulating the terms and conditions that must be adhered to and for the Section 151 officer of the host authority to accept these terms and conditions on behalf of the Consortium. The legal agreement requires the Consortium to report the grant offer letter to the Joint Committee for approval prior to the Section 151 formally accepting the terms and conditions.

This process has proven to be a challenge in 13/14 as the Joint Committee meeting cycle does not align with the timeline for acceptance of the various grants and has in 13/14 held up the distribution of grants to both the Consortium and schools in some instances. The Directors proposal is to devolve the responsibility for the acceptance of the terms and conditions to the Executive Board in order to respond to WG more promptly and distribute grant at the earliest opportunity to schools where the Joint Committee meeting cycle does not provide the opportunity for the normal approval process to be followed. In all instances grant acceptance and basis of apportionment will be reported to the next available meeting of the Joint Committee.

The various grants due to the Consortium on an annual basis are listed below;

6.1 Draft Guidance has been received for 14/15 and spending plans are currently being formulated for the following grants;

Welsh Government Grant	Length of grant	Welsh Government Grant	Local Authority Contribution	Total Funding
School Effectiveness Grant	2013/2015	£8,427,727	£2,425,249	£10,852,976
Pupil Deprivation Grant (inc. LAC)	2014/2015	£23,082,192	£0	£23,082,192
Band 4/5 Schools	2014/2015	<i>£10,000 to each school in a band 4 or 5 Category.</i>		
Foundation Phase	2014/2015	£28,864,938	£0	£28,864,938
Welsh in Education Grant	2014/2015	£1,426,868	£702,293	£2,129,161
Leading and Emerging Practitioner Schools	February 2014 to July 2015	£180,000	£0	£180,000

6.2 Further grants to be notified are:-

- 6.2.1 National Professional Qualification for Head teachers – Welsh Government, annual grant over academic year;
- 6.2.2 Higher Learning Teaching Assistants Grant – Welsh Government, annual grant over academic year;
- 6.2.3 Attendance Grant – Welsh Government, grant not confirmed post August 2014;
- 6.2.4 Newly Qualified Teachers – General Teaching Council Wales, annual grant over academic year;
- 6.2.5 PESS – Sports Council Wales, summer term only grant due to terminate.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SEPTEMBER 2012**

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

**List of background papers**

Self-standing report of Treasurer

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