

Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw on Tuesday, 25th March, 2014 at 3.00p.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 N.Moore, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

Ms.L.Buck, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Mr.G.Isingrini, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Mr.R.Evans, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mr.M.Pennell, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Ms E. Thomas, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Ms.J.Hill, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
Ms D. McMillan, Bridgend County Borough Council
Mr R. Hopkins, Central South Consortium

Also in Attendance

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

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Elmore and Ms S. Davies (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council) Mr N. Batchelar and Mr P. Orders (Cardiff City Council) Mr Councillor M. Forey, Councillor (Mrs) E. Hanagan, S. Merritt and Mr C. Bradshaw (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) Mr G. Chapman (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) Mr D. Mephram (Bridgend County Borough Council) Councillor H. Jones and Councillor G. Lewis (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Mr S. Vincent (Welsh Government)

83. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

84. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 18th February 2014 be approved as an accurate record.

85. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 76 –Mr S. Merritt (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) has arranged a Section 151 meeting for the 4th April 2014.

86. BUSINESS PLAN

Ms Hannah Woodhouse, ISOS Partnership, highlighted the background to the Business Plan and reminded Members that at the previous meeting the Joint Committee agreed in principle the recommendations for the future model of operation, priorities and structures for the Central South Consortium subject to comments being passed on to the Welsh Government. The Joint Committee were asked for approval to submit the Business Plan. It was also suggested that a number of governance issues relating to the Joint Committee would need to be addressed before the next Committee together with the need for a new legal agreement to be drawn up.

A discussion ensued whereby comments were raised in relation to work going on regionally, within the constituent authorities which needs to be captured and what the business plan means for each local authority. Also, whether the business plan will reflect any guidance issued by the Welsh Government. It was pointed out that as the business plan is developmental it can be adjusted to incorporate any such guidance.

It was also noted that discussions would need to take place with Democratic Services in Rhondda Cynon Taf in order to establish robust governance agreements in respect of the three key lead roles of the Joint Education Service Joint Committee. Further consideration would also need to be given to drafting an updated legal agreement.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Formally approve the Business Plan which is to be presented to the Welsh Government
2. Arrange a meeting with Democratic Services, RCTCBC, to discuss the Governance arrangements for the Joint Committee in respect of the key lead roles which will be implemented at the subsequent meeting in June 2014.
3. Draft a new legal agreement

87. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

Ms Hannah Woodhouse, ISOS Partnership, updated the Joint Committee with progress to date regarding the key headings. Good progress is being made in respect of Central South Challenge with the development of the SIGs and pathfinder projects with system leaders completing reviews on all Category C and D Schools. It was announced that Alison Beer has been appointed as interim Head of Service when the LINKS service comes to an end in March 2014 and that a full time accountant is now in place to ensure robust financial management. Reference was made to the launch and consultation of the restructure which is ongoing whilst candidates for the Managing Director position have been shortlisted with interviews taking place on the 9th and 10th April 2014. Ms Woodhouse concluded her report by providing further information in respect of developments over the forthcoming months.

Concerns were raised in relation to focussing the work of the Consortium and directing the support where it is needed such as with the National models of Mathematics and English GCSE's. Ms Woodhouse confirmed that the Consortium is working with those affected schools with the support of Welsh Government and the WJEC.

Updates were provided in relation to the recruitment of new system leaders and Mr Robert Hopkins, CSC, provided further information on the process of recruiting the Challenge Advisors which would require a rigorous selection process with further consideration required in terms of salaries. Discussion also centred on the National Leadership Framework and progress in recruiting and training our next leaders.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the progress to date in respect of the issues addressed in progress report.

88. WELSH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Mr K.Napieralla, Welsh Government, provided the Joint Committee with updates on progress in respect of the following areas:-

The National Literacy & Numeracy Framework (LNF) Review –Nearing completion, schools have been visited across the region and have responded in an open and frank way.The information is being collated and will be reported back to Directors of Education and Heads in the first instance.

GCSE English – An excellent response from the schools involved. The Practitioner Panel workshop was held last week with the report being issued on Tuesday, 1st April 2014 together with a statement from the Minister for Education & Skills.

Schools Challenge Cymru (SCC) – Representatives of the Consortia and Welsh Government will be meeting shortly to ensure the selected schools are the most appropriate. The outcome will be reported back to the Directors of Education.

Recruitment to the Executive Boards – Praise was given to the Consortium for encouraging individuals to apply, the WLGA will approve the individuals nationally with the Consortium then able to choose from that approved list. There will follow a consultation with Consortia leads and Managing Directors and a training event planned for designated persons to follow.

There followed a discussion in relation to the SCC delivered through the National Model and the officer from the Welsh Government confirmed that discussions have taken place about fitting the two together.

It was agreed that members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service should be involved in the selection process for the Executive Board and that this procedure of forming a panel of representatives from the Joint Education Service should be facilitated by Ms Hannah Woodhouse.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the points addressed by Mr K. Napieralla and
2. That a panel of representatives from the Joint Education Service Joint Committee is formed to participate in the selection process for the Executive Board

**M.NOTT
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 3.50pm.