



**Minutes** of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 at 10.00am

**PRESENT:**

**Members of the Committee**

Councillor H.David, Bridgend County Borough Council  
Councillor J.Magill, Cardiff City Council  
Councillor C. Elmore, Vale of Glamorgan Council Borough Council  
Councillor M. Forey, Rhondda-Cynon-Taf County Borough Council  
Councillor (Mrs) E. Hanagan, Rhondda-Cynon-Taf County Borough Council  
Councillor H. Jones, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

**Officers in Attendance**

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  
Mr C. Bradshaw, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
Ms.J.Hill, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council  
Ms D. McMillan, Bridgend County Borough Council  
Mr N. Batchelar, Cardiff City Council  
Mr R. Hopkins, Central South Consortium

**Also in Attendance**

Ms.H.Woodhouse, ISOS Partnership  
Professor M. Ainscow, CSW Challenge Wales Adviser

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P. Orders (Cardiff City Council), 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 M. Nott (Bridgend County Borough Council) and Ms Lorraine Buck, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

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

**RESOLVED** to elect County Borough Councillor C. Elmore (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council) as Chair for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** to appoint County Borough Councillor H. David (Bridgend County Borough Council) as Vice-Chairman for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

5. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Special Meetings held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and those of the Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be approved as an accurate record.

6. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/2015**

**RESOLVED** to approve the calendar of meetings for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/2015 as set out in the report to be held in Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw.

7. **CHALLENGE SOUTH WALES PROJECT UPDATE**

Professor Mel Ainscow provided the Joint Committee with an oral update in relation to the Challenge South Wales Project.

Handouts were provided outlining the recent Strategy Group meeting which had recently taken place, involving 17 Head Teachers from Primary and Secondary Schools. The purpose of the meeting was to move towards the idea of a self improving school system across the Central South Wales region.

To outline what the self-improving system might look like Professor Ainscow referred to the following six indicators:-

Indicator 1

Increasingly the focus is on teaching and learning on a more regional basis with the option of creating a series of 'Improvement Hubs' over

the next 12 months that will have the capacity to support the development activities of other schools across the five local authorities.

#### Indicator 2

There are groupings of schools (such as Welsh medium schools and special schools) that engage in joint practice development, orchestrated by the expertise of the Consortium. Professor Ainscow reminded the Joint Committee that each SIG nominates one Covenor and at the recent Covenor meeting it was evident that leadership is forthcoming and progress with the SIGs has been outstanding. However, the role of the Challenge Advisers is to work with those schools under pressure.

#### Indicator 3

Partnerships between over 30 schools of differing strengths can assist all involved but there is work for the Challenge Advisers here to guide and support progress. Professor Ainscow added that the results of Key Stages 2 and 4 would give a better indication of development.

#### Indicator 4

How can the role of the family, community organisations and local businesses support the work of schools and how can this be drawn on? How can we launch a Community wide Strategy?

#### Indicator 5

Coordination of the system is provided by school leaders –how head teachers and senior colleagues can become System Leaders and take responsibility for their own schools and lead not only the staff and students but the whole system which requires a new way of thinking.

#### Indicator 6

Local Authorities to work collectively and take on a new role of enabling and facilitating which will require structural and cultural changes with the Consortium having a crucial role to play over the coming years.

A discussion ensued following Professor Ainscow's presentation examining issues such as how schools analyse their own performances, addressing the practical issues such as schools using one flexible framework and how Central South Wales Challenge can be promoted and publicised. The Joint Committee discussed the role of Local Authorities in relation to the programme and the need to refine and establish a shared understanding of the role of each local authority. Progress of the SIGs was raised with the intention of bringing the Challenge Advisers and the SIGs together in the near future. The issue of Post 16 Education and Citizen Centre Services was discussed

and Professor Ainscow reminded Members how schools are measured in terms of selection for the improvement hubs.

## **8. GOVERNANCE & LEGAL AGREEMENT**

The Interim Managing Director presented to the Joint Committee a paper outlining the Governance Model for the Consortium and the legal agreement between the five Cabinets which needs adjustment to reflect the changes to the Joint Committee following the publication of the Government's national model.

Members were reminded of the reduced membership of the Joint Committee and of the nominated representatives which would attend the Committees on a termly basis, namely the Leader of each local authority or their nominated representative, normally the Cabinet Member for Education.

Members **RESOLVED** to elect County Borough Councillor J. Magill as the nominated Cabinet Member from the Joint Committee to sit on the Executive Board. It was confirmed that the five external experts to the Executive Board will be interviewed on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 by an appropriate panel of local authority Member representatives. The Executive Board will meet every half term and will be guided by three steering groups.

The three lead roles of the Joint Committee were discussed and it was agreed that the Interim Managing Director liaise with the current Lead Chief Executive to agree the next steps in terms of nominating the subsequent lead Chief Executive (which will revolve annually) and that of the Lead Director role.

Further discussion ensued in relation to the Legal Agreement which it is anticipated will be agreed by all five local authorities with approval sought at the Joint Committee in September 2014. It was agreed that a submission will be taken to all five authorities in June/July 2014 or latest September with a view to the new model being agreed by each Cabinet ideally ahead or in line with the Joint Committee in September and latest by the start of the Estyn remit in November.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the report and the actions required to implement the governance model

## **9. ORAL REPORT IN RESPECT OF PROGRESS AGAINST PROJECT PLAN**

The Interim Manager provided Members with an oral update in respect of progress against the project plan and reminded Members that since the last meeting the Business Plan has been submitted. As a result a number of points such as the need for a clear plan around supporting

deprived areas and policy areas will be addressed and recently the policy work has been picked up and agreed with Directors.

Concerns were raised in relation to the difficulties around recruiting Head Teachers with a view to replacing those due to retire in the future. The Interim Manager referred to the Teaching Hubs, work around leadership and how to develop more peer review action. Reference was also made to the Minister's announcement regarding Headship programmes. It was agreed that 'Strategic Group' would feature as an agenda item at the subsequent meeting of the Joint Committee.

Members were provided with an update in respect of Schools Challenge Cymru which is making good progress, the schools involved have been announced and the advisors will be announced shortly. The next steps are for the Advisers to meet with those schools and report nationally.

At this stage Mr Robert Hopkins, Central South Consortium, updated members of the Joint Committee with progress this term:-

- To revisit schools categories in order to identify which schools we will work with this autumn.
- The National Model for Categorisation is imminent
- Category C & D will remain a high priority
- Category A & B need to continue to develop their capacity to improve with a view to outstanding
- Peer Review – To look at ways of offering opportunities to those in Category A & B to progress and how to access support in a straightforward way
- Alison Beer working to identify ways of sources of support, the cost and how we source and resource it
- Consideration for Directors – a consistent approach is needed for schools to progress throughout the year
- Emphasise the role of Head teacher and Governor
- Challenge Advisers – good response from serving Head teachers but more work is needed to encourage their colleagues in particular in the Welsh Medium sector
- WG – to devote two days at the end of this term to challenge adviser training and one in September

It was confirmed that work has been completed in respect of C and D categories and that discussions will take place with Directors in respect of the outcomes as part of the review of category taking place by the end of term.

10. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER IN RESPECT OF THE DRAFT FINANCIAL OUTTURN TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014 AND REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15**

In his report, Mr M. Pennell, Group Accountant (Rhondda Cynon Taf) provided Members with details of the projected outturns for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March for the Central South Consortium Joint Committee and sought the Joint Committee's approval of the 2014/15 revenue budget.

Members discussed the value of Section 151 Officers having sight of the Treasurer's report in advance of the Joint Committee and it was agreed that this would be beneficial to the Members of the Joint Committee.

Members **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note the draft outturn for the Central South Consortium School Improvement Service (CSC SIS); Athrawon Bro and the Learning & Innovation Network for Schools (CSC LINKS)
2. Note and approve the budget for 2014/15 in order for home Councils to approve it as appropriate and to confirm back at the next meeting of the Joint Committee

11. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013/14**

In his report the Group Accountant provided Members with an overview and opinion on the governance arrangements in place at the Central South Consortium for the financial year 2013/14.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to recommend certification of the Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 by the Chair and the Interim Director in readiness for inclusion within the Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts.

12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of

any particular person (including the Authority currently holding that information). Transparency in the accountability for expenditure of public funds within the public sector is outweighed by the fact that the release of the information will prejudice the interests of the Joint Committee, consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information by virtue of which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public during its consideration.

### **13. PEOPLE PROCESS – EMPLOYMENT MATTERS –CHANGE MANAGEMENT PROCESS**

The Human Resources Manager, Rhondda-Cynon-Taf, presented his report on the outcome of the recent Change Management process within the Central South Consortium.

The Officer summarised the key points of the process which is now complete and provided Members of the Joint Committee with an update on the outcome arising from the change.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

### **14. URGENT ITEMS**

With the permission of the Chairman, the Committee considered the following matter:

#### **APPOINTMENT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Human Resources Manager reported orally at the meeting that he was seeking ratification of the recommendation of the Appointments Panel in respect of the appointment of the Managing Director, Central South Consortium.

The Officer recommended that the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee ratify the unanimous recommendation of the Appointments Panel that Ms Hannah Woodhouse be appointed to the post of Managing Director, Central South Consortium.

The Human Resources Manager confirmed that following the assessment and interview process the Appointments Panel determined that on the 5th June 2014 Ms Hannah Woodhouse would be appointed to the post of Managing Director, Central South Consortium as soon as the process of notices is given.

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the recommendation of the Appointments Panel that Ms Hannah Woodhouse be appointed to the post of Managing Director, Central South Consortium as soon as the process of notices is given.

**C. ELMORE  
CHAIRMAN**

**The meeting closed at 12.20pm.**