



Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw on Thursday, 25 June 2015 at 10 a.m.

PRESENT:

In the Chair:

Councillor C.Elmore (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Members of the Committee

Councillor H. Jones (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Councillor S.Merry (Cardiff City Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

Ms.D.Haines – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Ms.C.Jones – Assistant Director of Education (Cardiff City Council)

Ms.E.Thomas – Service Director for Schools & Community (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Mr.M.Pennell – Group Accountant (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Ms.J.Hill – Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Also in Attendance

Ms.H.Woodhouse - Managing Director (Central South Consortium)

Ms.L.Blatchford – Business Manager (Central South Consortium)

Mr.K.Napieralla (Welsh Government)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H.David and Ms.D.McMillan (Bridgend County Borough Council), Mr.N.Batchelor (Cardiff City Council), Mr.G.Chapman and Ms.L.Buck (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) and Councillor E.Hanagan and Mr.C.Bradshaw (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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 Chris Elmore as Chairman of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee for the 2015-16 municipal year.

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

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Eudine Hanagan as Vice-Chairman of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee for the 2015-16 municipal year.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held on 26 March 2015.

6 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2015-16

RESOLVED to receive the proposed calendar of meetings for the 2015-16 municipal year subject to change.

7 ORAL UPDATE IN RESPECT OF LEAD ROLES FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED to note that:

(1) Councillor Huw David (Bridgend County Borough Council) will replace Councillor Julia McGill (Cardiff City Council) on the Executive Board for the 2015/16 municipal year.

(2) Debra McMillan (Bridgend County Borough Council) will be the Lead Director of the Consortium in 2015/16 replacing Chris Bradshaw, who is soon to take up his new role of Acting Chief Executive of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

(3) Paul Orders will continue in his role as Lead Chief Executive Officer of the Consortium.

8 CENTRAL SOUTH WALES CHALLENGE – YEAR TWO AND THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM PEER ENQUIRY (PHASE 2)

The Director introduced to Angela Sattlerly (CSW Challenge Co-ordinator), Mandy Esseen (Learning & Teaching Projects Co-

ordinator), Mark Powell (Y Pant Comprehensive School) and Kelvin Law (Romilly Primary School) who were present at the meeting to provide information in respect of the Central South Wales Challenge – Year 2 and the Central South Consortium Peer Enquiry (Phase 2).

The Committee Members were provided with copies of the following documents - “The Central South Wales Challenge – Taking our Work into a Second Year” and “CSC Peer Enquiry (Phase 2) – A Model to Support School Improvement in Wales”.

Since January 2014, schools across the five Central South Wales local authorities had been collaborating in order to find more effective ways of improving the quality of education for all of their children and young people. The document entitled “The Central South Wales Challenge – Taking our Work into the Second Year” summarised what had been achieved so far and also provided suggestions as to what schools need to do in order to build on this success.

Ms.Satterly provided a brief overview of the current position regarding the Central South Wales Challenge and Ms.Esseen spoke about the impact of the Challenge and what had been learnt to date.

Peer Enquiry aimed to develop a systematic process by which senior leaders in different schools could support one another through peer review and Mr.Powell, who had led peer reviews, spoke about his experience of the process to date. Kelvin Law then spoke about the Peer Enquiry Model – a tested a proven model of self evaluation and improvement - which supports school improvement in Wales.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the need for the Consortium to provide training to school governors in order to provide information and enhance their understanding of peer reviews. The Director reported that such training was being considered.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for the information they provided and it was **RESOLVED** to receive an updated progress report in 6-12 months time.

9 WALES AUDIT OFFICE REPORT AND ESTYN ACTION PLAN

The Director reported that the Estyn and WAO undertook fieldwork in October 2014- January 2015 to review the progress of the implementation of regional consortia working since the consortia were established in September 2012. They specifically looked at the changes made in the implementation of the new national model for regional working which was finalised in April 2014 following Robert Hill’s review of Education Delivery in Wales.

The WAO were looking particularly at the effectiveness of governance arrangements and Estyn were also reporting on the progress being

made by consortia to provide school improvement services. Estyn were also keen to use the process to develop a framework through which consortia could be inspected. This was due out shortly and inspections of all four regional consortia would follow in the Spring/Summer of 2016.

The Director reported that the findings from the reports were useful in determining the further improvement of the Consortium in its work with schools and local authorities.

Following the fieldwork by Estyn and the WAO looking at the Central South region in November, a number of recommendations were made which recognised positive progress in establishing strategy and vision, engagement and relationships, self evaluation, governance and financial management and improving challenge adviser credibility. However, there were a number of areas where progress was still required which included clarification about accountability of joint roles, development of consistent scrutiny function, smarter operational planning, more effective use of local authority annexes effective use of the data team and clearer strategy for closing the gap.

In her report, the Director, listed the actions recommended to be taken by authorities and consortia along with details of the action that was in place or being taken, or where more needs to be done.

Consideration was given to the following listed issues headed 'not underway or in the Business Plan' and the responses of the Director in respect of the planned actions thereon:-

- Developing joint scrutiny arrangements of the overall consortia as well as scrutiny of performance by individual authorities which may involve establishment of a joint scrutiny committee or co-ordinated work by local authority scrutiny committees
- Recognise and address any potential conflicts of interest and where staff have more than one employer, regional consortia should ensure lines of accountability are clear and all staff are aware of the roles undertaken
- Improve performance management arrangements by capturing, sharing and using data (from pupil level up) efficiently and effectively

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and planned actions.

10 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM 2014/15

The Director provided the Committee with an overview and opinion on the governance arrangements in place at the Central South Consortium for the financial year 2014/15.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Government Statement for the Central South Consortium attached to the report as Appendix `A' and recommend its certification by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in readiness for inclusion within the Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts.

11 CENTRAL SOUTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM GRANTS

The Business Manager for the Consortium provided Members with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium for 2015/16 for which notifications had been received along with the methods of allocation for each.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To approve the distribution of grants as detailed in Section 4 of the report.
- (2) That the Director of the Consortium seeks clarification from Welsh Government on the allocation of Pupil Deprivation Grant for looked after children and how it is to be used in relation to adopted children.

12 2014/15 YEAR END POSITION

The Committee considered the report of the Treasurer seeking approval to set up a new earmarked reserve and to agree the basis of funding for redundancy costs incurred during 2014/15. The report also provided Members with the draft out-turn position for the Central South Consortium along with the draft Statement of Accounts for 2014/15.

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note and approve the additional earmarked reserve request of £60K for 2014/.15 as identified in Section 3 of the report.
- (2) To note and approve the recommended basis of funding of redundancy costs incurred in 2014/15 as identified in Section 4 of the report.
- (3) To note the draft out-turn position and the draft Statement of Accounts for the Joint Committee for the year ending 31 March 2015 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

13 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Committee received the Director's oral report on the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register – June 2015 and it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

14 OPERATIONAL PLAN/PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Director provided the Committee with information on the operational plan for the next period and performance indicators to date and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** -

(1) To note the information.

(2) To include a new performance indicator in relation to high performing students in the vulnerable groups category.

**C.ELMORE
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 12.10 p.m.