



Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at the offices of Cardiff City Council, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff on Wednesday, 23 March 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

In the Chair:

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

Members of the Committee

Councillor H.David (Bridgend County Borough Council)

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)

Councillor (Mrs) E. Hanagan (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

Mr P. Orders – Chief Executive (Cardiff City Council)

Mr.N.Batchelar – Director of Education (Cardiff City Council)

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

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

Ms.D.McMillan - Director of Education & Transformation (Bridgend County Borough Council)

Mrs.E.Thomas – Temporary Director of Education & Lifelong Learning (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Mr.B.Whittingham – Head of School Achievement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Also in Attendance

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

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

Mr. R. Hopkins – Head of School Improvement (Central South Consortium)

Ms.M.Coles (Central South Consortium)

Ms.H.Thomas (Schools Challenge Cymru)

Ms.C.Jones (Welsh Government)

50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor H.Jones (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council), Mr. G. Chapman (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) and Mr.K.Napieralla (Welsh Government).

51 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

52 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held on 12 February 2016.

53 SUPPORTING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

The Committee received a presentation from Ms.Martine Coles (Central South Consortium) during which she provided information on the following in relation to supporting looked after children;

- Achievements at the end of Key Stage 2
- Achievements at the end of Key Stage 4
- Lessons Learnt from 2015-16
- Demonstrating compliance in terms of Pupil Deprivation Grants for Looked After Children (PDGLAC)

Ms.Coles reported that the regional ambition for looked after children was for them to make better than expected progress and it was necessary to provide appropriate support and challenge to ensure that this ambition was met.

Ms.Coles explained how the Central South Consortium planned to deliver the regional PDGLAC Plan and how it could be aligned with the regional ambition. The Central South Consortium currently provides:

- Data Analysis – Improvement information systems to analyse performance date
- Target Setting – Clarification of expectations with schools and other stakeholders
- Regional training programme for schools, carers and local authorities
- Greater opportunities to build capacity at a school and local authority level across the CSC and EAS
- A framework for building on existing good practice in schools

- Support for targeting Interventions to improvement classroom practice
- Facilitated bespoke provision (KS4) – subject to robust QA processes
- Greater consistency across the regional
- Processes for impact evaluation on a term basis.

Following a discussion, the Chairman thanked Ms. Coles for her presentation which had been very informative.

54 SCHOOLS CHALLENGE CYMRU

The Committee received a presentation from Ms. Helina Thomas, Schools Challenge Cymru Advisor, on progress made to date in improving performance at Penydre High School, Merthyr Tydfil along with plans for the future improvements to be made.

During her presentation, Ms. Thomas highlighted her work at Penydre High School which had focused on improvements to the following:-

- Leadership at all levels – Building Resilience
- Teaching and Learning
- The Pupil – All can Achieve and Rising Aspirations
- The Community – Effective Engagement

A discussion ensued on moving forward with the lessons learnt from the good work undertaken to date at the School through the Schools Challenge Cymru programme. Members welcomed similar moves into other Schools, including Primary Schools, in the future.

It was agreed to include in the Consortium's Forward Business Plan, reference to the lessons learnt from Schools Challenge Cymru and the way forward and the Chair thanked Ms. Thomas for her presentation and her enthusiasm in achieving improvements at Penydre High School.

55 ESTYN INSPECTION

The Director of Central South Consortium provided the Committee with an oral feedback from the recent Estyn Inspection under the following headings:

- Standards
- School Improvement Service
- Leadership
- Improving Quality
- Strategic Partnerships
- Use of resources and value for money

and highlighted the likely draft recommendations arising.

The Director informed the Committee that the official Report on the Inspection and recommendations would not be published until June 2016 and Estyn would be returning in a year's time to evaluate progress against those recommendations.

Members noted the comments in respect of Lead Roles, i.e. Chief Executive, Director and the Chair, in that all were viewed as having clear vision and worked well together. It was viewed that there was strong strategic leadership, management and clear governance of a jointly provided service. In this regard, the Director, Hannah Woodhouse, was commended for all her hard work and commitment in managing the service and in response, she thanked the Committee Members for their comments but pointed out that there was still a lot to do in moving forward to the future. She also wished to place on record her thanks to all staff involved and in particular, Robert Hopkins for all his hard work and support during the inspection process.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the feedback report.

56 CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN 2016-17

The Committee was presented with the final Business Plan for 2016-17 and asked by the Director of the Consortium to formally approve the document. Once approved, each of the five local authorities would receive its own version of the Plan.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Central South Consortium Business Plan 2016-17.

57 2015/16 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE

The Committee considered the Treasurer's report which provided an update of the projected outturn for the Consortium for 2015/16 and a summary of the grant funding received in 2015/16.

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

- (1) To note the current outturn position for 2015/16 and approve an additional £47k to be set up as an earmark reserve at year end (as set out in Section 3 of the report).
- (2) To note the current grant position for 2015/16.

58 CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM EDUCATION GRANTS

The Business Manager for the Central South Consortium presented the report of the Directors of Education in respect of the grants to be

received by the Consortium for 2015/16 for which notifications had been received and the methods of allocation of each.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the distribution of grants as detailed in Section 4 of the report.

59 PROGRESS REPORT – WALES AUDIT OFFICE AND ESTYN RECOMMENDATIONS FROM JUNE 2015

The Director of the Central South Consortium provided the Committee with a progress report against the Wales Audit Office and Estyn Recommendations arising from their reports published in July 2015.

The Director informed the Committee that if agreeable, the report could be presented to Scrutiny/Audit Committees in order to provide an update on what had been done as a result of the recommendations made last year.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the progress report and agree to submit the same to the five local authorities for consideration by their Scrutiny/Audit Committees.

60 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.

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

61 RISKS AND PROGRESS – CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN

The Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register as at March 2016 together with a summary of progress to date and it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

62 OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) Following a query on how the Consortium deals with home-schooled children, it was **RESOLVED** to request a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Joint Committee on this matter including the mechanisms in place to monitor home-schooled children.

- (2) County Borough Councillor H.David wished to place on record his best wishes to the Chairman, County Borough Councillor C.Elmore, who was standing in the May 2016 Election of a new MP for the Ogmore Parliamentary Constituency. If successful, this would be the last meeting of the Consortium that Councillor Elmore would attend and chair.

Councillor Elmore thanked Councillor David for his kind comments and stated that he had enjoyed working with the Consortium over the last four years.

**C.ELMORE
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 12.10 p.m.