



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at the offices of Bridgend County Borough Council, Angel Street, Bridgend on Tuesday, 28th June 2016 at 10 a.m.

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor H. David (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)
Councillor E. Hanagan (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Councillor L. Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

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)
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)
Mr. M. Glavin – Assistant Director (Central South Consortium)
Ms. L. Blatchford – Business Manager (Central South Consortium)
Ms. C. Jones (Welsh Government)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor H. Jones (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council).

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members had not 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 Huw David as Chairman of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee for the 2016-17 municipal year.

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

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Sarah Merry as Vice-Chairman of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee for the 2016-17 municipal year.

5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Eudine Hanagan as Chairman of the Advisory Board for the 2016-17 municipal year.

6 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service held on 23rd March 2016.

7 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2016-17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED to agree the following Calendar of Meetings of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee for the 2016-17 municipal year (venues to be arranged):

- Thursday, 29th September 2016 at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, 8th December 2016 at 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, 14th March 2017 at 10 a.m.

and note that the Chairman of the Joint Committee has the power to call special meetings if a matter requires urgent consideration.

8 SCHOOLS CHALLENGE CYMRU

The Committee received a presentation from Huw Cripps, Head Teacher at Pontypridd High School on the achievements and improvements made at the School since becoming a Schools Challenge Cymru School in 2008.

During his presentation Mr. Cripps spoke about how funding received from Schools Challenge Cymru had been utilised to introduce new in-house leadership and training models and he outlined the positive impact new ways of working had on both staff and pupils.

Following the findings of the 2015 Estyn Inspection at the School, Mr. Cripps outlined what was being done to:

- Improve standards in key stage 4 and particularly the performance of boys
- Reduce the rate of fixed-term exclusions
- Increase attendance rates and reduce the percentage of persistent absences

Mr. Cripps informed the Committee that providing the right learning experiences for pupils was essential. He stated that his School now offered a broad and balanced curriculum that met the needs of all pupils. There was a suitable range of options at key stage 4, involving a number of vocational choices including effective provision in construction and catering. Provision and support for pupils who are at risk of disengagement were extensive and well organised.

Mr. Cripps spoke about current attendance figures and pointed out that whilst in line with set targets, current figures could be better and work would be undertaken next year to improve the current situation.

Mr. Cripps also informed the Committee of work undertaken to date to embrace the use of new technology at the School by both staff and pupils.

Following the presentation, Members welcomed the moves to improve leadership and training skills and the use of new technology at Pontypridd High School and commended the achievements to date.

It was agreed that research should now be undertaken to establish how many other Secondary Schools were following similar models to those undertaken at Pontypridd High School with an outcome report being presented back to the Committee in the future.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Cripps for his informative presentation and complimented the achievements made by him and his staff to date. Mr. Cripps then left the meeting.

(Note: The following item of business was brought forward for consideration at this point in the proceedings)

9 DEVELOPING A SELF-IMPROVING SYSTEM FOUNDATION PHASE ALLIANCE SCHOOLS

The Committee received Liz Riley, Challenge Adviser - Central South Consortium and Vanessa McCarthy, the Head Teacher at Brynnau Primary School - a Foundation Phase Alliance School.

Ms. Riley spoke about the Foundation Phase Alliance (FPA) which offers a diverse marketplace of knowledge and experience in the Foundation Phase by working collaboratively with school leaders and teams to empower them to deliver the highest quality provision and standards in their schools.

Members were informed of the number of FPA Schools established in May 2015 and stated that FPA Leaders are Head Teachers or senior leaders of schools who had sustained high standard and high quality provision. The Leaders were proactive and fully committed to a school led self improving system. They were skilled to influence, manage, coach and champion change for the better.

Ms. Riley spoke about the success of the FPA to date which included:

- Hosting joint practice development events that had met regional need
- Collating case studies to demonstrate the impact of joint practice development
- Providing bespoke support to 'red' and 'amber' schools
- Conference Workshops
- Formal 'Open Days'
- Challenge adviser CPD
- Working in partnership with each other, Welsh Government and other consortia to address the Foundation Phase agenda

Ms. Riley also highlighted evidence to date showing that the FPA was making a difference which included:

- Case studies
- Estyn statements linked to quality of provision
- Direct feedback from CAs, HTs and practitioners
- Local Authority progress meetings – narrative from red/amber schools

and stated that from September 2016, responsibility for evaluation and measuring the impact of FPA programmes and support would be placed with:

- Individual practitioners
- FPA Schools
- CSC Strategic Team

Ms. McCarthy then provided the Committee with an overview of the positive impact on her School since becoming a Foundation Alliance School.

Following the presentation, Members were encouraged to learn that schools were picking up the challenge and self improving.

The Chairman then thanked Ms. Riley and Ms. McCarthy for their presentation and they left the meeting.

10 ESTYN INSPECTION OUTCOMES FOR CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

The Managing Director of the Central South Consortium presented her report in respect of the Estyn Inspection held in March 2016 and Members were

informed that the Central South Consortium was the first Consortium to be inspected under a new Consortia Inspection framework.

The Managing Director informed Members that the Estyn Report was mostly positive recognising the scale of improvement across schools within the Central South region since the Consortium began in 2012. It gave 'good' judgments for leadership, self evaluation and improvement planning and partnerships.

Members noted that judgements for support for school improvement and resource management remained 'adequate' which in Estyn terms meant 'strengths outweigh areas for improvement'.

Members also noted that there were four recommendations for the Consortium to take on board ahead of a likely revisit by Estyn in the Autumn of 2017.

The Managing Director highlighted the fact that since 2012, the Central South Consortium region had seen the fastest improvement of any in Wales. Results in all key stages had risen to or above the national average and the pace of improvement at key stage four had been more than double that seen nationally.

The Managing Director then referred to the four recommendations contained within the Estyn report which were to:

1. ensure that school improvement services address the variability of performance across schools and local authorities, particularly at key stage 4;
2. improve the accuracy of the evaluations of schools by challenge advisers in order to ensure a greater focus on improving teaching and leadership;
3. strengthen the procedures for monitoring and evaluation the impact of school improvement work; and
4. evaluate progress against the regional consortium's operational plans more effectively;

and informed Members that the Consortium has reviewed action plans against the above recommendations and added to them where necessary. A summary of each of the recommendations with actions and impact against them was attached to the report.

During the presentation by the Managing Director, Members noted from the Secondary School Inspection profile that eight out of the ten schools inspected by Estyn were categorised 'Red' and 'Amber' schools and they considered that an explanation of the inspection framework used should be sought from Estyn.

Following a discussion, when the Chairman placed on record the Committee's thanks to all involved in the Estyn Inspection process, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the inspection report and recommendations.
- (2) To receive further more detailed information on the actions being taken to address the recommendations.
- (3) That the Managing Director makes the necessary arrangements with individual member authorities to report on progress to their respective Cabinets and Scrutiny Committees.
- (4) To request the Managing Director to write to Estyn seeking an explanation of the inspection framework used within the region in respect of Secondary Schools.

11 2016/17 YEAR END POSITION

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) outlined the Treasurer's Report which sought the Joint Committee's approval for the funding of redundancy costs incurred during 2015/16 and provided the draft outturn position for the Central South Consortium along with the draft Statement of Accounts for 2015/16.

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

- (1) To note and approve the recommended basis of funding redundancy costs incurred in 2015/16 as identified in Section 4 of the report.
- (2) To note the draft outturn position and the draft Statement of Accounts for the Joint Committee for the year ending 31st March 2016 attached to the report as Appendix 1.

12 CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM - 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 and 2016/17, for which notifications have 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.

13 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

14 RISK REGISTER – JUNE 2016

The Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register as at June 2016.

After receiving the views of the Managing Director Central South Consortium, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

15 ORAL UPDATE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

The Managing Director of the Central South Consortium provided the Committee with an oral update on the planned programme for the Consortium over the coming months and following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to note the information provided and request the Managing Director to write to the new Welsh Government Minister to discuss the future of the pupil deprivation grant.

16 ORAL UPDATE IN RESPECT OF LEAD ROLES FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Chairman provided the Committee with an oral update in respect of Lead Roles for the 2016/17 municipal year and it was **RESOLVED** to note that:

(1) Rob Thomas (Managing Director - Vale of Glamorgan Council) will replace Paul Orders (Cardiff City Council) as Lead Chief Executive Officer of the Consortium for the 2016/17 municipal year.

(2) Debra McMillan (Bridgend County Borough Council) will continue to be the Lead Director of the Consortium in 2016/17.

17 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Before formally closing the meeting, the Chairman informed Members that Zelda Maisey (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council), who provides administrative support to the Joint Committee, was soon to retire and this would be her last meeting. The Chairman, on behalf of the Consortium, thanked Zelda for her service to the Joint Committee and wished her all the very best for the future.

**HUW DAVID
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 12.35 p.m.

These minutes are subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of the Joint Committee