



Minutes of the Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at the offices of **Cardiff Council, Committee Room 2, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW, on Tuesday 5th December 2017 10.00 a.m**

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)
Councillor L. Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)
Councillor C. Smith (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Councillor B. Penrose (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

Ms P. Ham- Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Ms S. Walker – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)
Mrs E. Thomas –Director of Education & Lifelong Learning (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr. C. Bradshaw – Lead Chief Executive (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr P. Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Also in Attendance

Mr M. Glavin- Managing Director (Central South Consortium)
Ms L. Blatchford – Senior Lead Business & Operations (Central South Consortium)
Ms A. Brychan - Leadership, Strategy and Workforce Reform - Strategic Adviser (Central South Consortium)
Ms M. Godfrey – Welsh Government
Mr O. Evans – Director, Teach First Cymru
Ms E. Brian – Teach First Cymru

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor J. Rosser (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council).

32 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

33 AGENDA

The Chair advised that the agenda would be considered out of sequence and Teach First would be brought forward and considered at Agenda Item 3.

34 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service held on 15th September 2017.

35 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 26 – The Managing Director confirmed that following Estyn's monitoring visit the report demonstrated that the outcomes matched the predictions. Welsh Government congratulated the Central South Consortium on a successful outcome.

36 TEACH FIRST CYMRU

The Joint Committee received Mr Owen Evans, Director and Ms Elizabeth Brian who provided an oral update in respect of activity undertaken by Teach First Cymru and its partners. With the aid of handouts the second interim report to the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service provided additional information on the Teach First Programme for Wales.

The second handout provided an overview of the programme delivery. The Director confirmed that the original number of 2017 cohorts, 23 trainees, remain on the programme and he referred to the details of the recruitment for the 2018 cohort. Members of the Joint Committee were assured that a full report would be forthcoming in the New Year and would provide a breakdown of the programme delivery.

Following the update members of the Joint Committee asked a number of questions which were duly answered by the Director of Teach First Cymru.

The Joint Committee **RESOLVED** to note the update in respect of progress made by Teach First Cymru and to receive a further update in due course.

37 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN PROPOSALS 2018-2019

The Managing Director presented his report in respect of the draft business plan proposals for 2018-2019 which in line with the national model is required to be presented to the Joint Committee in December with the final business plan being presented to the Joint Committee in March 2018.

The Director provided a summary of the latest education performance information for the region, the proposed priority areas for development in 2018/19 based on the outcomes of the self-evaluation as well as information on the proposed budget to underpin its activity and priorities for 2018/19. The

Joint Committee was asked to consider the draft Business Plan and to form a view on the proposed priorities prior to a more detailed planning process taking place.

The Managing Director reminded the Joint Committee of the current set up of the Consortium in terms of revenue funding received from the local authorities and funding via grants by Welsh Government. He confirmed there is uncertainty surrounding grant funding mechanisms from Welsh Government at the present time resulting in the unavailability of grant funding levels for 2018/19. He assured the Joint Committee that the Consortium would continue to work with Welsh Government and would report back to the Joint Committee as appropriate.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To note the reduced budget in line with the proposed cuts to the Consortium's revenue contributions; and
2. To note the uncertainty about grant for the 2018/19 financial year and beyond as the Welsh Government has yet to confirm the grant position and requirements of Consortia.

38 2017/18 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE & 2018/19 BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement, presented the projected revenue outturn position for 2017/18, a summary of 2017/18 grant funding and he sought the Joint Committee's approval of the 2018/19 revenue budget.

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement referred members of the Joint Committee to the Projected Outturn Position for 2017/18 which was set out in Table one and showed the projected outturn position as a £1K underspend. He reminded Members that at the previous Joint Committee meeting held on 15th September 2017, the full year projected outturn position (projected as at July 2017) was a £99k overspend and indicated it was pleasing to report that the financial position had been brought back in line with the approved budget following a detailed review of all areas of income and expenditure.

Details of the grant allocations for 2017/18 from Welsh Government were provided and the Service Director confirmed that formal notification would be forthcoming from the Welsh Government in respect of additional funding to support school improvement activities. The Service Director added that the Joint Committee would be provided with a further update on this area at its next meeting.

The Service Director sought the agreement of the Joint Committee in respect of approving the draft 2018/19 revenue budget for the Consortium by the 31st December 2017 prior to submission to member authorities for their consideration and approval. The Service Director confirmed that the draft

budget reflected a 2% reduction in the local authority contribution levels as well as a plan to start to remodel the Service over the medium term.

The Managing Director and Senior Lead Business and Operations for the Central South Consortium provided some context around the Education Improvement Grant for Schools (EIG) for the benefit of the Joint Committee and it was agreed that this issue would require further discussion with Welsh Government. Following consideration of the report and recommendations, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the projected revenue outturn position for 2017/18;
- (2) To note the current grant position for 2017/18; and
- (3) Note and approve the budget for 2018/19.

39 CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM GRANTS

The Senior Lead Business and Operations for the Central South Consortium, presented her report which provided members of the Joint Committee with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium in 2017/18. Members were asked to approve the distribution of grants as detailed in Section 4 of the report.

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

40 2016/17 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Lead Business and Operations for the Central South Consortium presented the report of the Managing Director in respect of the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement Recommendations.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to note the progress that has been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement.

41 NfER REPORT

The Strategic Adviser for Leadership, Strategy and Workforce Reform, Central South Consortium presented the final report of the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).

It was **RESOLVED** to note the overarching conclusions in the final report of the NFER.

42 CO-ORDINATED SCRUTINY PLANS

The Strategic Adviser for Leadership, Strategy and Workforce Reform, Central South Consortium presented her report in respect of the proposed

arrangements for strengthening democratic accountability and scrutiny of the school Improvement function in the Central South Consortium.

The Joint Committee was informed that discussions have taken place between the group of Chairs of the Education Scrutiny Committees in each of the five local authorities and Consortium officers around developing a 'regional' element to scrutiny work in addition to their individual local authority scrutiny programmes. These discussions have included consideration of the Cardiff Business School study on co-ordinated scrutiny as well as the ERW model of co-ordinated scrutiny.

The Strategic Adviser for Leadership, Strategy and Workforce Reform sought Members' consideration and agreement of the recommendations, as set out in the report, which would enable the group to establish a formal Working Group to consider regional performance and share best practice and information. She also highlighted that Bridgend County Borough Council had suggested that the Working Group should consist of more than one Elected Member from each local authority and will therefore be a matter for consideration by the Working Group when formally agreeing its Terms of Reference.

Following consideration of the report, Members of the Joint Committee **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Agree the model (subject to each Local Authority taking the report through their respective processes);
2. Agree to receive recommendations from the collaborative scrutiny group and to respond to them as required; and
3. Agree that the Working Group should consist of more than one Elected Member from each local authority (as requested by Bridgend County Borough Council and to be a matter for consideration by the Working Group when formally agreeing its Terms of Reference).

42 **GCSE REPORT**

The Managing Director presented his report which outlined a summary of key changes to the curricula in respect of GCSE specifications which may have affected performance over the short term. Those changes included qualification changes, performance measure changes as well as a number of other factors. He reported on the extensive support provided by the Central South Consortium to the schools in view of the changes.

Members were referred to the table which showed a comparison between English and other 'English rich' subjects to understand if there had been similar dips as English (which had seen a drop of between 4.7 and 12.6 percentage points). The report also provided Welsh data commentary which included data commentary specific to the areas such as Mathematics and Science as well as additional data analysis, which helped to clarify the impact of the changes to the performance measures reported for the 2017 results.

The Managing Director relayed the measures in place to address the qualification changes and the effective ways of working across the region as well as a list of next steps which would be put in place to ensure the CSC can work effectively with schools to support them through the changes.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the GCSE report and to note the measures in place to address the changes to curricula, GCSE specifications and performance measures which may have affected pupil outcomes at GCSE.

**SARAH MERRY
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 12.15 p.m.