

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT

14TH JUNE 2018

CENTRAL SOUTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM GRANTS

REPORT FOR THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION

Author: Louise Blatchford, Senior Lead Business and Operations

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium in 2017/18 and 2018/19, for which notifications have been received, and the methods of allocation of each.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Directors to recommend the following to the Joint Committee;

- 2.1 Approve the distribution of grants as detailed in section 4&5 of this report.

BACKGROUND

- 2.2 As host authority Rhondda Cynon Taf will act as 'banker authority', and under the terms of the grant agreements will be responsible for accepting the terms and conditions of grant and putting in place arrangements to distribute the funding, as determined by the Joint Committee, within the Consortium.

3. METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT

- 3.1 The method of apportionment of each grant will vary depending on its nature, its intended recipients, its purposes and the associated terms and conditions.
- 3.2 For each grant the following process shall be adopted:

- The Consortium shall prepare a proposed method of distribution taking into account all relevant criteria.
 - The Director of Education (or equivalent) of each authority shall approve the basis of apportionment at the Executive Board of the Central South Joint Education Service. This will ensure appropriate and effective use of grant funding to target school improvement equitably across each of the five authorities areas
 - A report detailing the basis and reasons for the method adopted shall be presented to the Joint Committee for approval.
- 3.3 This report presents details of 2017/18 and 2018/19 grants to the Joint Committee.

4. 2017/18 GRANTS

Grant approval letters have been received detailing the grants coming into the Consortium. The Directors have agreed to maintain the LA disaggregation of the funding and to apply a common formula for the delegation of the LA funding to schools.

4.1 Contract for the Delivery of the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)

The total of the contract award of funding is £150,000 and covers the Academic year 2017/18.

4.1.1 The objectives of the contract are to:

- Deliver the NPQH programme for 2017/18 including the application process, mentoring, rolling update of the ILR, assessment centre and 4 development days;
- Ensure that appropriate resources, including staff resources, are put in place and made available to fully and adequately deliver the NPQH in accordance with agreed timelines;
- Ensure that the consortium contract manager attends all meetings with the Welsh Government as appropriate;
- Ensure that any emergent risks or issues are reported to the Welsh Government in a timely manner including details of changes to cohort numbers or proposed changes to the programme;
- Meet the requirements of Welsh Government confidentiality policy/agreements as applicable;
- Consortia to retain all documentation, information and evidence for all activities relating to the NPQH delivery;
- Provide Welsh Government with documents, information and reports which may reasonably be required from time to time;

4.2 Revised Award of Funding Raising School Standards 2017/18

The total of this award of funding is £517,201, taking the total grant in 2017/18 to £2,879,411.

The increase in funding forms part of the regional school improvement element and is to support (i) Future Leadership programme (£479,701) and (ii) Mentoring & Network Support Programme (£37,500)

4.2.1 The purpose of the funding is to enable CSC to:-

Future Leadership

- To develop the next generation of head teachers and ensure that they are supported and well prepared for the crucial role of headship, are offered a sustained professional development programme to support them in post;
- Develop further the skills, expertise and knowledge of the regions existing cadre of successful leaders to enable them to offer wider system leadership as we move towards a school-led system and new school organisation models such as federations;
- Provide a coherent development along the professional learning pathway from ITE to executive head teacher; including developing coaches and mentors;
- The leadership pathway will help to ensure that all practitioners will have access to development opportunities throughout their career.

Mentoring and Network Support Programme

- Development of coaching and mentoring support for newly appointed and acting head teachers; and
- Support the development of networks to support and develop newly appointed and acting head teachers.

The table below identifies the apportionment of funding for 2017/18.

	Delegated £	Retained £	Total £	Comments
Future Leadership		479,701	479,701	CSC Leadership Programme, Staff Salaries to include Senior Lead Strategy, Leadership & Workforce Reform, APL's, Project Support Leadership & Governance and Governor Support
Mentoring & Network Support	37,500		37,500	To be delegated to schools at a rate of £1,000 per new Headteacher and Acting Headteacher in their first year of a substantive role
Total	37,500	479,701	517,201	

4.3 Revised award of funding Pupil Development Grant 2017/18

The total of this award of funding is £50,000, taking the total grant in 2017/18 to £30,517,400.

In March the Cabinet Secretary for Education set out new grant arrangements, and asked that the Education Directorate explore strengthening the expertise in Consortia and the levels of support available to schools to help meet the needs of these learners, ensuring a dedicated resource within each consortium with specific responsibility for supporting e-FSM learners in schools.

The regional e-FSM strategic leads should have a strategic impact, providing robust, constructive challenge and high quality support to enable head teachers and governing bodies to improve the attainment of these learners. Specific responsibilities would include:

- providing a strategic approach to improve attainment for disadvantaged learners ensuring effective collaboration across education services;
- taking lead responsibility within the consortia to support the needs of head teachers;
- working as part of a wider team sharing expertise; generating ideas; and developing innovative approaches;
- raising awareness of and actively engaging in research;

- assisting head teachers within the consortia, providing challenge; external perspective and support to raise attainment of disadvantaged learners;
- supporting head teachers in their work to review and evaluate the impact of the support provided to disadvantaged learners. Including encouraging school-to-school and cluster reviews, and
- leading the management arrangements to support secondary schools in delivering an aspirational target of at least 60% of PDG being invested at Key Stage 3, to address barriers to learning as they are identified.

4.6 Revised award of funding Pioneer Schools Network, Professional Learning & Curriculum and Design 2017/18 – email dated 20th March 2018

An email from Welsh Government dated 20th March, indicated an extension to the award of funding letter of £19,464.80, bringing the total grant available to £2,080,714.80. CSC have been requested to accept the email as official notification due to the timescales involved and therefore no separate award will be issued by Welsh Government.

The grant funding has been earmarked for identified schools within CSC to fund increased capacity in AoLE Groups for the period September 17 – March 18.

Regional consortia Successful Futures leads, in discussion with the Welsh Government, agreed which schools were to provide additional capacity when required by specific AoLEs. The following funding options were available:

Full engagement

£5,000 for the spring term (2018). This will enable the additional practitioner to fully participate in the work of the AoLE .

Workshop only

£2,500 for the spring term 2018 (this includes T&S) for those practitioners who only attend the AoLE workshops and undertake some pre reading work.

The table below identifies the schools to receive the additional funding and the area of the curriculum that the AoLE will support.

Additional capacity January – March 2018				
Name of school	Region	AoLE	Funding arrangement Jan – March 18	Total
Cardinal Newman RC Comp	CSC	Science	Full	£5,000
Cardiff High School	CSC	Science	Workshop only	£2,500
Tai Centre	CSC	Humanities	Full	£5,000
Y Pant	CSC	Humanities	Full	£5,000
Total Funding				£17,500
Additional capacity Autumn term 2017				
Name of school	Region	AoLE	Funding arrangement Jan – March 18	Total
Cardinal Newman RC Comp	CSC	Science	Release and expenses costs	£572.80
Cardiff High School	CSC	Science	Release and expenses costs	£1,392
Total Funding				£1,965

5. 2018/19 GRANTS

Grant approval letters have been received detailing the grants coming into the Consortium. The Directors have agreed to maintain the LA disaggregation of the funding and to apply a common formula for the delegation of the LA funding to schools.

5.1 Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant 2018/19 – award dated 12th March 2018

The total of this award of funding is £42,193,278 over the period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019. A subsequent variation of this award will be made in August 2018 for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st August 2019.

The award incorporates a number of previously stand alone grants namely Raising Schools Standards, Pioneer Schools Network Development and LiDW, together with an allocation for in year flexibilities for individual regional projects agreed with Welsh Government and to be utilised during the Summer Term 2018.

The Core element of the grant is subject to Local Authority match funding of £2,989,022, which represents a cut of 2.35% on the 2017/18 level and requires and assurance by consortia to maintain a minimum delegation rate of 80%.

The Purpose of this funding is to support the regional consortium and the related authorities within the consortium in delivering Welsh Government aspirations and priorities for schools and education outlined within Ambitious and Learning from the national strategy, Prosperity for All, and the plan of action for education, Education in Wales:

Funding will support the CSC to deliver against Welsh Government national priorities for education, at the centre of which is a transformational curriculum and a focus on four key enabling objectives which will support;

- Developing and delivering a high quality education profession;
- Inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards;
- Strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being;
- Robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self-improving system.

The outcomes will be supported by a range of measures and key performance indicators, as outlined in the consortium business plan (the Application). The application will form part of the Draft Education Outcomes Framework at Annex 1A, which both parties will agree.

The Funding will be organised around the following pre-requisites and requirements:

Policy requirements and expectations

The expectations for each policy area will be agreed at the first regular meeting with Welsh Government and will be subject to review on a regular cycle thereafter on a mutually agreed reporting format with frequency of the cycle to be agreed.

Sustainability and citizen-focused

Initiatives supported by the grant must be sustainable, learner focused, and in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

National Model for Regional Working

The expectations set out in the National Model for Regional Working guidance remain the same and should continue to be followed. The national model governance structures will also be used to monitor progress, including wherever appropriate to evidence the Funding requirements.

Joint consortia working

In line with the expectations set out in the National Model for Regional Working there is a requirement to work with regional consortia across Wales to maximise opportunities for sharing good practice and learning across all Education in Wales objectives, and especially those newer in development, such as wellbeing.

Supporting a self-improving system

Where appropriate, Consortia will facilitate, schools, Foundation Phase providers and PRUs' consideration of cluster models, and collaboration across the four consortia regions when determining the most effective use of the Funding to support the delivery of improved outcomes for learners

Equity of approach

Consortia must be able to demonstrate equity of approach across the consortium and its related authorities in delegating the Funding to schools.

Cluster working

Where appropriate consideration should be given to the facilitation of cluster models for schools, Foundation Phase providers and PRUs when determining the most effective use of funding in the support and delivery of improved outcomes for learners.

Challenge Advisers and School Development Plans

Consortia challenge advisers will provide support and challenge to schools to ensure their school development plans appropriately reflect their improvement journey and local priorities.

Grant Distribution

A detailed breakdown of the apportionment of the funding will be reported at a later date subject to Welsh Government acceptance and approval of the CSC Business Plan. The proposals for the core element of the EIG contained within the Business Plan 2018/19 are detailed in the table below.

Education Improvement Grant	Proposed Budget 2018 - 2019 £
Centrally retained funding including literacy and numeracy support, Welsh in Education and Foundation Phase provision	2,792,919
Funding held to support vulnerable schools	273,729
School improvement groups	404,625
Funding for specific school improvement initiatives (according to need)	556,032
Delegated to local authorities for non maintained settings	342,214
Delegated to local authorities for administration of grant	67,024
Delegated to schools	34,158,263
TOTAL GRANT (INCLUDING MATCH FUNDING)	38,594,797

5.2 Pupil Development Grant – Invitation Letter

For information purposes an invitation letter for funding to the value of £31,405,050 has been received for the period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019. As part of the terms and conditions CSC will submit a support plan to Welsh Government for approval, upon which an award of funding will be issued and reported to Directors and Joint Committee at a later date.

From April 2018, the PDG will continue to be allocated to support;

- learners who are eligible for free school meals and who are educated in maintained schools;
- eligible learners who are singly-registered in pupil referral units (PRUs) and education other than at school (EOTAS);
- eligible learners in early years settings where the Foundation Phase is delivered ; and
- children looked after (CLA), and former LAC who have been adopted from care or who are subject to a special guardianship or residence order aged 3-15;
- Regional Strategic Adviser for PDG;

In addition the PDG will:

- be increased for the Early Years (EY) PDG from £600 to £700;
- provide a minimum allocation for all schools equivalent to one learner (£1,150);
- be based on a simplified EYPDG formula for schools;
- have an expanded definition – to provide schools with the
- flexibility to support learners who have been e-FSM in the previous two years;
- have guaranteed allocation levels for the next two financial years; and
- use 2016 school census data for allocating funding.

It should be noted that the data set applied by Welsh Government in the calculation of the 2018/19 PDG grant is PLASC 2016 data. The PLASC data from 2017 showed a drop in the overall percentage of eFSM learners and therefore Welsh Government considered there to be an overall benefit to the education system in using PLASC data from 2016 as opposed to the latest verified data available.

In addition, Welsh Government recognised there would be a number of small schools that would not have had any eFSM learners in 2016 and therefore all schools will receive a minimum allocation equivalent to one learner (£1,150)

To support schools in achieving the aims of the national mission and to support the most disadvantaged learners, the definition for eligible expenditure has been revised providing flexibility to support identified

learners and provide a more formal foundation for those leaders already adopting this approach.

The expanded definition is:

‘The PDG should be used to support the needs of all children who are or have been eFSM in the previous two years or are looked after. The PDG is intended to provide support to disadvantaged learners to overcome the additional barriers that prevent those from disadvantaged backgrounds achieving their full potential.’

In light of Welsh Government assurances provided previously by the Cabinet Secretary, PDG will remain for the duration of the Assembly term and allocation levels have been guaranteed for 2018-19 and 2019-20. This commitment will enable schools to continue to make sustainable, long-term decisions on investment that help identify and address barriers to learning.

The table below provides details of the revised funding levels according to category and age of pupils:-

Category/Age Range	Level of funding per pupil
	£
PDG Pupils aged 5-15	1,150
EYPDG Pupils aged 3-4	700
EOTAS Pupils aged 5-15	1,150
EOTAS Pupils aged 3-4 to include Non maintained settings	700
PDG LAC Pupils aged 3-15	1,150

Allocations

CSC’s allocation based on PLASC data for 2016 for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 to support these learners will be:

	Number of eligible learners	Allocation £
Learners eligible for free school meals (e-FSM)	22,422	25,785,300
Learners in early years settings (EYPDG)	5,173	3,621,100
Learners eligible for FSM in PRUs and EOTAS	194	223,100
Looked after children aged 3-15	1,457	1,675,550
	29,246	31,305,050

For 2018/19 the apportionment of funding is as follows:-

	PDG CLA Regional Strategic Adviser PDG	Delegated Directly to Schools	Centrally Retained LA Level for EOTAS and Non maintained settings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Bridgend		4,291,250	7,700	4,298,950
Cardiff		11,693,900	169,500	11,863,400
Merthyr Tydfil		1,978,600	26,100	2,004,700
RCT		8,469,700	57,650	8,527,350
Vale of Glam.		2,911,050	24,050	2,935,100
CSC	100,000			100,000
To be Allocated	1,675,550*			1,675,550
TOTAL	1,775,550	29,344,500	285,000	31,405,050

*The distribution of the £1150 per LAC pupil will be determined at a later date.

New Schools

The Welsh Government acknowledges new schools will come on stream after the data collection period. There is an expectation on the Consortium to continue to manage funding of schools that are closing; amalgamating or new in a strategic and planned manner.

Having undertaken strategic planning if, in exceptional circumstances, CSC identifies a shortfall a business case may be submitted to Welsh Government requesting additional support for previously unidentified eFSM learners. In accordance with the terms and conditions, this will be submitted as part of the support plan submission each year in readiness for the new academic year.

The short business case will outline the:

context and specific details of the identified shortfall;

consideration undertaken by the consortia of other options to address any shortfall, including but not limited to the redistribution of allocations no longer required by schools that are due to or have closed;

amount of additional funding requested and the rationale for this (including number of eFSM learners and data source); and

risks associated with the requested additional funding not being approved.

This page intentionally blank