



**Minutes** of the Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held at the offices of The Valleys Innovation Centre, Abercynon, CF45 4SN on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 10.00 a.m

## **PRESENT**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)  
Councillor C. Smith (Bridgend County Borough Council)  
Councillor J. Rosser (Rhondda Cynon Taf Council)

### **Council Officers in Attendance**

Mr. C. Bradshaw – Lead Chief Executive (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)  
Mr L Harvey – Director of Education Bridgend County Borough Council  
Ms Gaynor Davies – Director of Education and Inclusion Services (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)  
Mr P. Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

### **Also in Attendance**

Ms L. Blatchford – Acting Managing Director (Central South Consortium)  
Mr A. Williams- Acting Assistant Director & Senior Lead (Central South Consortium)  
Ms D Lewis, Senior Lead Learning & Teaching Experiences (Central South Consortium)  
Ms L Muteham - Assistant Headteacher of Whitchurch Primary School, Cardiff

## **34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor L. Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council), Councillor Penrose (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council), Ms P. Ham – Director of Learning & Skills

(Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council), Ms S. Walker – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) and Mr N. Batchelar – Director of Education (Cardiff City Council).

**35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**36. 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.

**37. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.

**38. TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:-**

**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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 12 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely, information relating to a particular individual. Transparency in the conduct of Local Authority business is desirable; however personal data relating to the conduct and capabilities of individuals will be discussed and considered. Consequently, it is considered the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information.

**39. TEACH FIRST CYMRU**

The Joint Committee received an oral update from Hannah Burch, Programme Delivery Lead, in respect of activity undertaken by Teach First Cymru and its partners.

Following the update Members of the Joint Committee asked a number of questions which were duly answered.

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.

**40. NATIONAL PRIORITIES/CURRICULUM REFORM**

The Joint Committee received a report from Debbie Lewis, Senior Lead Learning & Teaching Experiences, in respect of National Priorities and

Curriculum Reform, Schools as Learning Organisations and Professional Learning.

The Senior Lead provided an overview of each area and set out how the business plan for the Central South Consortium (CSC) aligns with this work. Following the update by the Senior Lead, Members of the Committee raised a number of questions.

A Member requested further clarification on the success measures in relation to CSC Staff and Pupil Surveys and queried the findings in relation to pupils feeling less likely to identify themselves as ambitious and capable learners as they progress through the Key Stages. The Senior Lead Learning & Teaching Experiences advised the Joint Committee that when learners undertook the survey, they were asked how they felt, specifically whether they felt they could identify as ambitious and capable learners. The Senior Lead went on to indicate that the results showed that the older they got, the less likely they were to think of themselves as ethical learners. The Senior Lead Learning & Teaching Experiences added that this will be an ongoing challenge.

A Member questioned how the term 'Well-being' is defined. The Committee were informed that local authorities are working closely with CSC on this issue and that schools are learning from each other in terms of supporting improvement on 'well-being' issues.

A Member commented on the term 'professional standards' and felt that this is an anomaly as it focuses on regulating the management of schools and dismisses any reference to the maintenance of school buildings.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** to note the update in relation to National Priorities and Curriculum Reform.

#### **41. CURRICULUM REFORM - SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE**

Members of the Joint Committee received a presentation from Louise Muteham, Assistant Headteacher of Whitchurch Primary School, Cardiff.

The Assistant Headteacher advised the Committee that the School's vision was to raise school standards and the School had to consider what they wanted to achieve and how they could make that happen. The Assistant Headteacher indicated that the first step was to go back to basics and to engage with parents.

The Assistant Headteacher further indicated that the School decided to promote four core values (Respect, Achieve, Care and Inspire) and considered with the children what these core values meant and also took a pupils' vote on the School's vision.

The Assistant Headteacher went on to inform the Committee that since adopting the new Curriculum, the cultural shift in the School has been huge, in particular, staff have been more engaged with the School's decision-making

process. In parallel, the Committee were informed that the School critically appraised learning experiences and indicated that whilst the new curriculum will be different, the teaching and learning would not be any different. The aim will still be to ensure the pupils are engaging with the learning process.

Following a detailed presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member commented that it was a very detailed presentation and praised the Assistant Headteacher.

A Member stressed how important the learner's voice was to the education system and emphasised the importance of staff well-being. The Member queried how the School intends to continue moving forward with the current model. The Assistant Headteacher advised the Committee that it is important to ensure that pupils and staff are engaged with the process. Members were advised that this helps the School to develop a culture of honesty and openness, and it was emphasised that this model will allow the School to continue working on all aspects of curriculum reform.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Headteacher for giving such a detailed presentation and emphasised that the School's new model fits in well with Cardiff Council's aim of creating a friendly City that includes ethically informed citizens.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the Curriculum Reform and noted that it had been successfully applied by Whitchurch Primary School.

#### **42. DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN PROPOSALS 2019-2020**

The Acting Managing Director presented her report in respect of the draft business plan proposals for 2019-2020, 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 2019.

The Acting Managing Director provided a summary of the latest education performance information for the region, the proposed priority areas for development in 2019/20 based on the outcomes of the self-evaluation as well as information on the proposed budget to underpin its activity and priorities for 2019/20. 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 Acting Managing Director reminded the Joint Committee of the current set up of the Consortium in terms of revenue funding, in that around 97% of activities are funded by Welsh Government grants. The Acting Managing Director went on to indicate that at present there is uncertainty around grant funding levels for the 2019/20 financial year with dialogue on-going with Welsh

Government and a further update on funding levels will be provided to the Joint Committee later in the year.

The Acting Managing Director also made Members aware that the recommendations resulting from the ISOS review had not been reflected within the current planning proposals.

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;
2. To note the uncertainty about grant funding levels for the 2019/20 financial year and beyond as the Welsh Government has yet to confirm the grant position and requirements of Consortia.
3. To note the proposed changes to the development of the operational plans and subsequent monitoring of progress and impact; and
4. To note that recommendations resulting from the ISOS review will not be reflected within the current planning proposals.

#### **43. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement, presented the projected revenue outturn position for 2018/19, a summary of 2018/19 grant funding and he sought the Joint Committee's approval of the 2019/20 revenue budget.

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement informed Members that the projected outturn position was a £2.2k underspend and set out the main variances in coming to this forecasted position. The Service Director also provided Members with an update on: approved grant funding for 2018/19 that totalled £76,783k; a further grant funding award that was to be considered as a separate item on the meeting agenda; and that a fuller picture of grant funding levels will be known following consideration of Welsh Government's final Local Government Settlement that was due to be announced on 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2018.

The Service Director went on to set out the draft 2019/20 revenue budget for the CSC and Members were informed that the draft budget had been constructed based upon the recommendations made by the Joint Committee at its 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 meeting.

The Service Director also informed the Joint Committee that under the CSC's Legal Agreement, a formal review of the basis for apportionment of contributions from constituent local authorities is required to be undertaken on a 3 yearly basis, with the next review scheduled for the 2019/20 financial year. The Service Director added that in light of the independent review of regional delivery arrangements currently being undertaken together with review work

around the level and allocation of resources, it is considered more appropriate for the basis of apportionment of local authority contributions to be built into this work rather than undertaken as a stand-alone exercise.

Following consideration of the report and recommendations, it was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) To note the projected revenue outturn position for 2018/19;
- (2) To note the current grant position for 2018/19;
- (3) Note and approve the budget for 2019/20 in order for home Councils to approve, as appropriate, and to confirm back to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.
- (4) To agree for the review of the basis of appointment of local authority contribution levels to be incorporated into the current programmes of work.

#### **44. PROGRESS WITH ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement presented the report in respect of the 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement.

Members were reminded that the CSC's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) relating to the 2017/18 financial year was reported to and approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The document described the governance arrangements in place, challenged their effectiveness and set out proposals for improvement.

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement advised Members that the AGS made eight proposals for improvement and noted that the Consortium's Senior Management Team had accepted these and was committed to their implementation during 2018/19. The Service Director went on to provide a position statement of progress made in the year to date in implementing the proposals for improvement where 4 had been completed, 3 were on target / on-going and a revised date had been set for 1 proposal for improvement.

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

#### **45. AWARD OF FUNDING (VARIATION FUNDING)**

The Acting Managing Director presented Members of the Joint Committee with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium for the 2018/19 financial year, for which notifications had been received, and the methods of allocation of each.

The Acting Managing Director advised the Committee that a grant approval letter had been received that provided notification of a revised award of funding for the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant of £3,707,110. The Acting Managing Director went on to indicate that Directors had agreed to maintain the Local Authority disaggregation of the funding and to apply a common formula for the delegation of the Local Authority funding to schools.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to approve the distribution of the grant.

**46. TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 12 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely, information relating to a particular individual. Transparency in the conduct of Local Authority business is desirable; however personal data relating to the conduct and capabilities of individuals will be discussed and considered. Consequently, it is considered the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information

**47. ISOS REVIEW**

The Lead Chief Executive presented Members of the Consortium with the interim report.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the report.

**48. THE CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Before closing the meeting, the Chair wished to place on record her personal thanks to Louise Blatchford and Andrew Williams for the hard work that they put in during the last academic term and to wish all Members of the Consortium a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**SARAH MERRY  
(CHAIR)**

The meeting terminated at 11.30am.