

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 24th January, 2018 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S.Rees -Owen – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

J.Brencher A. Calvert J. Harries M. Powell

S. Powell S. Rees W. Lewis

In Attendance

County Borough Councillor J. Rosser – Cabinet Member for Education
And Lifelong Learning

Co-opted Members

Mr.D.Price – Representing UNISON

Officers in Attendance

Ms E Thomas – Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Mr.P.Nicholls – Head of Legal, Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community &
Children’s Services

Mr B. Whittingham – Head of Achievement Secondary

Mr M Glavin – Managing Director Central South Consortium

Ms S. Corcoran – Senior Challenge Adviser (Secondary), Central South Consortium

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor S.
Evans, H. Fychan and R. Smith

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Code of Conduct there were no
personal declarations of interest made at the meeting pertaining to the
agenda.

55 REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

The Managing Director Central South Consortium presented the report in respect of the Central South Consortium (CSC) contribution to raising standards in schools within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Managing Director (CSC) explained that CSC delivers challenge and support on behalf of the five local authorities. Members were informed that the Consortium's business plan for April 2016 to March 2017 had three main priorities to focus on they were as follows:

- Raising Standards particularly in literacy/ Welsh / English , numeracy/ mathematics and improving outcomes for vulnerable learners;
- Improving the capacity of the system to be self improving, particularly leadership and governance, teaching and learning and effective challenge and support;
- Develop the consortium to be a high performing organisation focusing on performance management, governance and effective use of resources.

Members were presented with graphs showing the outcomes against targets over the last five years.

Members were informed by the Managing Director of CSC that the Consortium's business plan for April 2017 to March 2018 has five priorities:

- Improve outcomes for vulnerable learners through partnership working
- Develop school to school working to deliver curriculum reform
- Develop leadership, governance and workforce reform
- Deliver rapid and sustainable intervention.
- Develop effectiveness and efficiency in Central South Consortium.

Members were given an overview of the performance in RCT Schools along with challenge and support provided by the Central South Consortium on behalf of Rhondda Cynon Taf. Members were also provided with information in respect of the contribution made by the consortium in respect of the preparation and development of Successful Futures in RCT.

Members also considered the performance of pupils at each key stage illustrated in the graphs within the report of the Managing Director of CSC.

Members thanked Officer for the report and after robust discussion and in-depth questioning Members **RESOLVED** -

- To receive information showing the correlation of outcomes between full time and part time nursery provision.
- Receive future reports from Central South Consortium

REPORTS OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

56. KEY STAGE 4 AND KEY STAGE 5 EXAMINATION RESULTS AND PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CATEGORISATION FOR 2018

The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning provided the Committee with the confirmed Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 examination results for 2016 -17 along with the Welsh Government Primary and Secondary School Categorisation for 2017 – 2018.

It was explained to Members that the outcomes for young people at the end of Key Stage 4 is externally verified via GCSE examinations and at the end of Key Stage 5 via GCE Advance Level examinations.

The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning explained that the Key Stage 4 curriculum had changed significantly in 2017, Members were given an overview of the changes.

Members were presented with a table showing the outcomes for Rhondda Cynon Taf along with the provisional Central South data to provide some comparative information and the 2016 data to illustrate the significant change in how performance measures are calculated.

When considering the data Members acknowledged that the performance indicators suggested a significant decrease in education performance in RCT and Central South Consortium. Officers explained that given this is the first year of the new Key Stage 4 curriculum and performance measures it is difficult to form a balanced judgement on the performance of each school.

In respect of Key Stage 5 the Director of Lifelong Learning explained to Members of the Committee that over the last three years there has also been substantial changes in the post 16 environment. Members were pleased to see that RCT had performed well against the National Level 3 threshold indicator.

In respect of Primary and Secondary Categorisation the report outlined Members were presented with the changes that have been made to the Categorisation model.

Members were pleased to see that sufficient progress is being made by a number of schools.

After a very robust discussion Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Acknowledge the action taken to date and the action planned to be taken by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning in partnership with the Central South Consortium to support those primary and secondary schools in Categories Amber and Red.

- Continue to Monitor the Outcomes of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 examination results and primary and secondary categorisation in future meetings.

S. Rees Owen
(Chair)