

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE.

Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service meeting held on Thursday, 28 March 2019 at 10.00 am at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN.

County Borough Councillors - Central South Consortium Joint Education Service - Members in attendance:-

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff Council)

Councillor J. Rosser (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Councillor C. Smith (Bridgend County Borough Council)

Councillor B. Penrose (Vale of Glamorgan)

Councillor L. Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil Council)

Council Officers in attendance:-

Mr C. Bradshaw (Lead Chief Executive, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Ms P. Ham (Director of Learning & Skills, Vale of Glamorgan)

Mr L. Harvey (Director of Education, Bridgend Council)

Ms G. Davies (Director of Education & Inclusion Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Mr P. Griffiths (Service Director, Finance and Improvement Services - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Others in attendance:-

Ms L. Blatchford (Acting Managing Director, Central South Consortium)

Ms E. Thomas (Temporary Assistant Managing Director, Central South Consortium)

Mr A. Williams (Senior Lead – Standards and Improvement Planning, Central South Consortium)

Ms L. Muteham (The Professional Learning Lead, Central South Consortium)

Mr R. George (Strategic Lead - Curriculum, Central South Consortium)

7 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda

8 Minutes

Resolved to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held on the 22nd January 2019.

9 Central South Consortium Business Plan 2019 - 2020

The Temporary Assistant Managing Director of the Central South Consortium informed Members of the Consortium's Business Plan 2019- 2020.

It was explained that the business plan is produced in a different format this year

making it a clearer document for a wider audience. Operational plans are being produced by officers which will provide information on how activities will be funded and more detail on how impact will be measured over time.

Members were also presented with an update of the business priorities for 2019/20. It was explained that the document will be translated and published after being approved by Welsh Government. A Member asked if officers could send copies to Assembly Members for information and it was explained that the document would need to be translated before this could be done.

Members thanked the officers for compiling a more user friendly plan and **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the business plan for 2019/20.

10 2018/19 Budget Monitoring Update

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services presented Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee with an update of the projected revenue outturn position for 2018/19 along with a summary of 2018/19 grant funding.

Following consideration of the Report, it was **RESOLVED**-

1. To note the projected revenue outturn position for 2018/19; and
2. To note the current grant position for 2018/19.

11 Grant Report

The Acting Managing Director (Central South Consortium) presented Members with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium in 2018/19 for which notifications have been received and the methods of allocation of each.

Members were informed that a revised award of funding dated 22nd November 2018 was approved by Joint Committee on the 19th December 2018 for the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG). However, since this time the RCSIG award of funding was withdrawn by Welsh Government and replaced by a revised award of funding dated 19th February 2019.

Members were also informed of the method of apportionment for 2018/19 grants and it was explained that approval letters have been received detailing grant levels. The Acting Managing Director went on to indicate that the Directors of Education have agreed to maintain the local authority dis-aggregation of the funding and to apply a common formula for the delegation of the local authority funding to schools.

Members put forward their questions and observations and **RESOLVED**:

- To approve the distribution of grants as detailed in section 4 of the report.

12 Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Central South Consortium (2017 - 18)

Members were presented with an overview of the report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Central South Consortium 2017-18.

The Temporary Assistant Managing Director explained that the approach taken by the Central South Consortium to evaluate the impact of its work has been

guided by the Research and Evaluation Board chaired by a professor from Cardiff University, with a policy logic model used as a tool across all strands to evaluate the effectiveness of the Central South Consortium. It was explained that the framework identifies a hierarchy to the value for money strands to evaluate the effectiveness of the Consortium.

Members were presented with the six main areas of work that were selected during 2017/18 for focused evaluation. These were:

- School Improvement Groups (SIGs);
- Pathfinders;
- Hubs;
- Peer Enquiry;
- Closing the Gap; and
- Work of the Challenge Advisors.

In concluding the report, the Temporary Assistant Managing Director explained that despite the reduced funding there were further improvements in many key performance indicators across schools in the region.

Members were also provided with information from the Annual Surveys from October 2018 along with areas of further work.

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

13 Evolving Central South Wales Challenge to meet reform

The Professional Learning Lead and the Strategic Lead - Curriculum presented Members with a detailed account in respect of the work carried out by the Consortium in relation to meeting the evolving Central South Wales Challenge Reform.

The Profession Learning Lead gave an overview in respect of the progress made within the region. Members were given an update from the Welsh Government Conference under the following headings:

- Improved Outcomes for Vulnerable Learner 2018;
- Key Messages from the Vulnerable Learner conference;
- Main Aims; and
- Challenge Adviser Support.

The Profession Learning Lead stated that feedback from schools regarding the proposed Model was positive. Further detail was presented around:

- School to school partnerships;
- School Improvement Groups (SIGs);
- Peer Review; and
- Hubs with Cluster group in them all together.

The Strategic Lead - Curriculum explained in detail the Professional Learning Alliance Hubs. Members were informed that there would be 10 Professional Learning Hubs which will support high quality teaching and learning across the region. The Officer explained they are seeking to appoint 4 Foundation Phase Hubs to facilitate professional learning opportunities in support of leadership and

pedagogy and consider how to transform practices for Curriculum for Wales. Finally, the Strategic Lead - Curriculum explained to Members that the Curriculum Lead Practitioner role will provide professional learning for specific subject areas in order that regionally identified areas of need can be developed and supported. Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information presented.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

15 Teach First

Members considered the report in respect of Teach First Cymru and following discussion **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the report.

16 Risk Register

The Joint Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register as at March 2019.

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

17 Urgent Business

The Cabinet Member for Education (Bridgend CBC) and the Director of Education (Bridgend CBC) thanked Officers and Member for the support that had been provided during their recent Estyn Inspection.

Members also highlighted possible topics for future discussion for consideration at future meetings.

The meeting closed at 11:45

**CLLR S. MERRY
CHAIR.**