

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT

14TH SEPTEMBER 2020

CENTRAL SOUTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM GRANTS

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium in 2020/21, 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 5 of this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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.

4.0 METHOD OF APPORTIONMENT

- 4.1 The method of apportionment of each grant will vary depending on its nature, its intended recipients, its purposes and the associated terms and conditions.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 This report presents details of 2020/21 grants to the Joint Committee.

5.0 2020/21 GRANTS

Grant approval letter has 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 2020/21 – award dated 7th July 2020

The total of this award of funding is £42,631,988 over the period 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021.

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 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.

The total award of funding includes £2,224,249 for National Professional Learning for schools. In 2019/20 this funding line was allocated to schools via individual local authorities. For 2020/21 a £5M reduction to the all Wales budget has been applied by Welsh Government.

Grant Distribution

A detailed breakdown of the apportionment of the funding, in line with the approved CSC 2020/2021 Business Plan, can be found table 1 below.

Table 1 – Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant 2020/2021

Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant	2020 - 2021 Budget	
	£	%
Centrally retained funding		
Centrally retained funding including literacy and numeracy support, Welsh in Education and Foundation Phase provision	3,201,194	7.0%
Business Plan Activity	2,675,424	5.9%
	5,876,618	12.9%
Delegated funding to LAs & Schools		
Central South Wales Challenge Model	846,300	1.9%
Specific WG Priority Areas	492,009	1.1%
CSC Cluster Funding	875,000	1.9%
EIG Element for Schools / PRUs	34,916,488	76.5%
Professional Learning funding to schools	2,224,249	4.9%
Non Maintained settings - Foundation Phase	323,325	0.7%
Local authorities - administration of grant	67,021	0.1%
	39,744,392	87.1%
TOTAL GRANT (INCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	45,621,010	
LA MATCH FUNDING	2,989,022	
TOTAL GRANT (EXCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	42,631,988	

5.2 Pupil Development Grant t Grant 2020/21 – award dated 20th July 2020

The total award of funding for the Pupil Development Grant for the financial year 2020/2021 is £34,093,962 (£31,731,651 in 2019/2020).

From April 2020, the PDG has been allocated to support:-

- Learners who are eligible for free school meals (PLASC January 2019) and who are educated in maintained schools;
- Eligible learners who are singly-registered in pupil referral units (PRU's) and education other than at school (EOTAS);
- Eligible learners in early years settings where the Foundation Phase is delivered;
- Children Looked after (CLA), and former CLA who have been adopted from care or who are subject to a special guardianship or residence order aged 3-15
- Employment of PDG Strategic Adviser.

The total award of funding includes £255,262 for PDG Consortia Led Funding. On the 3rd July 2020 Directors of Education approved that the PDG Consortia Led funding should be delegated to local authorities to provide targeted support / fund activity at a local level.

The funding is weighted according to category and age of pupils, details of which can be found in the table below:-

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

For 2020/21 the apportionment of funding is as follows:-

	PDG CLA	PDG Strategic Adviser	Delegated Directly to Schools	Centrally Retained LA Level for EOTAS, Non maintained settings & Consortia Led Funding	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Bridgend	344,240	0	4,766,750	102,750	5,213,740
Cardiff	545,768	0	12,710,950	366,449	13,623,167
Merthyr Tydfil	131,687	0	2,081,500	49,096	2,262,283
RCT	466,010	0	8,723,900	167,803	9,357,713
Vale of Glam	275,538	0	3,067,050	37,214	3,379,802
CSC	122,757	100,000	0	0	222,757
Outside of Wales	34,500	0	0	0	34,500
TOTAL	1,920,500	100,000	31,350,150	723,312	34,093,962