

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT

27TH MAY 2021

CENTRAL SOUTH 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 recommend the following to the Joint Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the distribution of grants as detailed in section 5 of this report (and Annex A).
- 2.2 Accept the extension granted by Welsh Government (WG) for both the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) and Pupil Development Grant (PDG) that allows funding to be used by the 31st August 2021.

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 Consortium Joint Education Service. This will ensure appropriate and effective use of grant funding to target school improvement equitably across each of the five local authority 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

5.1 Grant approval letters have been received detailing grant levels for the Central South Consortium. The Directors 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.

5.2 Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant – Revised Award of Grant Funding

5.2.1 The revised award of funding is £226,500 (Appendix A), taking the total award of grant funding for the financial year 2020/21 to £43,501,335.

5.2.2 The aim of the additional funding is to further support the following:

- i) Support for schools - assessment and centre determined grades (CDG) - £214,000
- ii) Design and Delivery Advisory Group - £14,000
- iii) NEIR - The National Evaluation and Improvement Resource – (£1,500)

5.2.3 Members will note that of the revised award of funding (£226,500), £228,000 is retained initially for future delegation to schools / business plan priorities and (£1,500) retained to manage the programme on behalf of the five local authorities.

5.2.4 The original grant award letter (dated 7th July 2020) stated that the funding relates to the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 and must

be claimed in full by 31st March 2021 otherwise any unclaimed part of the Funding will cease to be available. Due to the current circumstances, Welsh Government are allowing an extension for the RCSIG funding to be used by the 31st August 2021.

5.3 Pupil Development Grant – Revised Award of Grant Funding

5.3.1 The revised award of funding dated 17th March 2021 varies the funding agreement for the Pupil Development Grant 2020/2021.

5.3.2 The original grant award letter (dated 20th July 2020) stated that the funding relates to the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 and must be claimed in full by 31st March 2021 otherwise any unclaimed part of the Funding will cease to be available. Due to the current circumstances, Welsh Government are allowing an extension for the PDG funding to be used by the 31st August 2021.

Annex A

	Delegated to schools	Retained Initially for future delegation to schools	Retained by CSC for Specific Circumstances	Central Salaries	Total	Areas to include	Provisional Apportionment
	£	£	£	£	£		
Support for schools - assessment and centre determined grades (CDG)		214,000			214,000	Ensure schools are aware of key messages around the assessment process for awarding centre determined grades.	Plans currently being developed with WG - further updates to follow.
Design and Delivery Advisory Group		14,000			14,000	Ensure leadership and professional input is available to support the co-construction and implementation of assessment arrangements for qualifications in 2021.	Allocations as below for schools involved in the areas of work: £3.8k - Cardinal Newman RCHS £4.6k – Ysgol Garth Olwg £3.8k – Fitzalan HS £1.8k – YGG Bro Edern
National Evaluation and Improvement Resource (NEIR)			(1,500)		(1,500)	Support the National Evaluation and Improvement Resource (NEIR) develop a resource to support school self-evaluation and improvement.	Recovery of £1.5k funding allocations per school - award of funding included in RCSIG Variation letter dated 11 th February 2021.
TOTAL	0	228,000	(1,500)	0	226,500		