

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT

15TH JULY 2021

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 2021/22, 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 ynon 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 2021/22 grants to the Joint Committee.

5.0 2021/22 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 2021/22 – award dated 26th May 2021

The total of this award of funding is £47,205,079 over the period 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022.

The purpose of the RCSIG 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.

Where applicable 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:

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 (subject to the outcome of the consultation on 'School improvement guidance: framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability'). 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 and extending the depth of collaborative working

Where appropriate, consortia will facilitate schools', Foundation Phase providers' and PRUs' consideration and use of cluster models, and other forms of collaborative working, to deliver the funding purposes. This may include providing advice on federation where appropriate.

Consortia should work with providers to develop the support they offer in a spirit of co-construction. They should also collaborate across the four consortia regions if this represents the most effective use of the Funding to support the delivery of improved outcomes for learners. The consortia will continue to develop all schools as learning organisations to successfully realise the new curriculum.

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.

Policy requirements and expectations

These are set out in Schedule One and in Annex B of the funding letter dated 26th May 2021 (copy attached).

Welsh Government will continue to discuss and review the expectations for each policy area through joint regular meetings and will review this on a regular cycle thereafter on a mutually agreed reporting format with frequency of the cycle to be agreed.

Grant Distribution

A detailed breakdown of the apportionment of the funding, in line with the approved CSC 2021/2022 Business Plan, can be found table 1 below.

Table 1 – Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant 2021/2022

Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant	2021/2022 Budget	
	£	%
Centrally retained funding		
Centrally retained funding including literacy and numeracy support, Welsh in Education and Foundation Phase provision	3,325,526	6.6%
Business Plan Activity	2,111,436	4.2%
	5,436,962	10.8%
Delegated funding to LAs & Schools		
Central South Wales Challenge Model	551,500	1.1%
Collaboration Model	1,796,500	3.6%
Support to School Partnerships	152,000	0.3%
Curriculum & Assessment Reform	1,485,264	3.0%
Curriculum & Assessment Reform (Network / Guidance workstreams)	108,230	0.2%
Professional Learning - Pioneer Schools	189,508	0.4%
EIG Element for Schools / PRUs	35,015,280	69.8%
Professional Learning funding to schools	3,817,332	7.6%
Professional Learning to realise the curriculum	1,259,718	2.5%
Non Maintained settings - Foundation Phase	314,600	0.6%
Local authorities - administration of grant	67,207	0.1%
	44,757,139	89.2%
TOTAL GRANT (INCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	50,194,101	
LA MATCH FUNDING	2,989,022	
TOTAL GRANT (EXCLUDING LA MATCH FUNDING)	47,205,079	