

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM (CSC) JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT

12th December 2023

Annual Governance Statement Recommendations 2022/23 Progress Update

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR:

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee (from hereon Joint Committee) with a progress update on the proposals for improvement made within the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members review the information contained within the report and:

- 2.1 Seek clarity and explanation where there are areas of concern.
- 2.2 Form an opinion on the extent of progress that has been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement reported (**Appendix 1**).

3. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

- 3.1 The Central South Consortium's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) relating to the 2022/23 financial year was reported to and approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on 7th November 2023. The document described the governance arrangements in place, challenged their effectiveness and set out proposals for improvement.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 made four proposals for improvement and noted that the Consortium's Senior Management Team had accepted these and was committed to their implementation during 2023/24. At

this time, the Executive Leadership Team also confirmed that an update on progress would be reported to the Joint Committee during the year to enable elected Members to review and scrutinise the extent of progress being made.

- 3.3 In line with the above, the Joint Committee is requested to review the progress update set out at Appendix 1 and form a view on the extent of progress that has been made to date in implementing the proposals for improvement.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A progress update on the four proposals for improvement made within the 2022-23 Annual Governance Statement is set out at Appendix 1. Progress has been made with all four recommendations.
- 4.2 The provision of this information will assist the Joint Committee is assessing the adequacy of the governance arrangements in place for the Central South Consortium.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT – PROGRESS UPDATE

Core Principle / Area	Paragraph No.	Issue Identified	Proposal for Improvement	Timescale for Implementation	Responsible Officer	Progress
Ensuring Openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	5.3.11	Communication with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the findings from the stakeholder survey and report on next steps to all Governance groups 	Summer Term 23	Managing Director	Partially completed – stakeholder survey has been completed. However due to low return rates (due to ASOS) it is not possible to analyse and provide conclusions and recommendations.
Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits	5.4.7	Financial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult upon a revision to the legal agreement following a national review of the middle tier by Welsh Government 	Spring Term 24	Managing Director	In progress – the outcomes of the middle tier review will not be published until March 2024. This recommendation will therefore be included for improvement in the financial year 2024/2025
Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	5.5.2	Business Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish an appendix to the Business Plan 2022/25 to provide an update on progress to date as well as to provide additional context for the year 	September 2023	Deputy Managing Director	In progress – Business Plan appendix has been developed and consulted upon with stakeholders.

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Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	5.7.2	Professional Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange a coaching and mentoring program for all staff, focussed on developing anti-racist practices in CSC in order for staff to learn more about anti-racism, increase staff confidence and become champions within the organisation on anti-racism. Also, to contribute towards the Welsh Government priorities related to anti-racist action plan. 	September 2023	Managing Director	In progress – An annual professional learning programme for staff has been developed to meet the strategic needs of the organisation.
