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EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2015/17  
and CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN 2015/16

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**Reason for the Report**

1. To enable Members to gain an overview of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate (which falls within the responsibilities of this Committee) and its contributions to the Council's Corporate Plan, its key achievements during the previous year and an outline of the future challenges facing the Directorate. A copy of the Central South Consortium's business plan 2015/16 is also included to enable Members to identify the linkage between the two organisations in driving forward improvements in Education in Cardiff.

**Issues**

2. To assist Members to gaining an overview of the Directorate's responsibilities for Education and the Youth Service, a copy of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate Delivery Plan 2015 - 17 is attached at **Appendix A** and includes:
  - Contribution to Corporate Plan – Page 3;
  - Previous Years achievements – Page 7;
  - Key Aspirations for the coming year – Page 8.
3. The key priorities facing the service area as set out in the Corporate Plan, Cardiff Partnership and Education development Board for the coming year are detailed in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of **Appendix A** and include:

Part 1 - Corporate Plan and Cardiff Partnership Priorities (page 12)

Part 2 –Directorate / Service Priorities (Core Business) (page 23)

Part 3 – Planning for the Future (page 47).

## Central South Consortium

4. The Consortium is committed to developing a world class system of education in the region. They want to raise the aspirations of all young people and their parents and give them confidence in education. They also express the ambition for “*the region to be known as the place to teach and to lead schools in Wales where professional development is central to all that we do*”. They want to work across the communities and authorities of the region to give all children and young people the opportunities to match their talents and enable them to succeed in further learning and in life.
  
5. The *Central South Wales Challenge- A Self-Improving School System* was launched in January 2014. This strategy is led by head teachers from all schools across the region. It is based on six underlying principles which are commonly found in successful school systems:
  - Schools are communities where collaborative inquiry is used to foster improvements in practice;
  - Groupings of schools engage in joint practice development;
  - Where necessary more intensive partnerships are organised to provide support for schools facing difficulties;
  - Families and community organisations support the work of schools;
  - Coordination of the system is provided by school leaders;
  - Local Authorities work together to act as the conscience of the system.
  
6. The business plan, copy attached at **Appendix B**, sets how the Consortium will build on progress made so far. It sets out the approach, long term vision, how progress is measured and what is planned for the year ahead. It also includes how the Consortium intends to use its resources and its governance model. The Consortium’s aims for the 2015/16 year and beyond are:
  - **To improve standards for all children and young people in all schools,** and for the most vulnerable fastest, so that every child achieves their full

potential and every school is a good school with at least good leadership of teaching and learning.

- **To improve capacity in the school system**, within and across schools so that schools increasingly are professional learning communities and work together to support each other with a commitment to developing staff and evaluating and learning from each other.
- **To develop robust and enabling partnership working** with local authorities and the Consortium which get behind the efforts of schools to improve, provide the necessary challenge and support, and intervene only where necessary.

7. The performance framework outlines the challenges faced by schools and local authorities in the Consortium. It provides a detailed analysis of pupils' performance in 2014 and establishes the case for each priority in the plan, which include:

- Roles and responsibilities of schools, local authority , the consortium and welsh Government (page 21)
- Membership of Joint Committee's CSC advisory board, the Director's strategic group, service operational group and steering groups (page 21)
- Reporting arrangements, covering annual reporting, self-evaluation reports, new business plan priorities, budget and termly progress reports (page 22).

### **Previous Scrutiny**

8. Last year the Consortium's managing director Hannah Woodhouse briefed the Committee on appointments which had been made to the new structures in the Consortium. Members were assured that the emphasis on system leadership being drawn from current practitioners would not leach out talent from schools. Any appointments of serving heads to future roles within the Consortium are made in consultation with the respective Local Authority Director. Informal roles, such as School Improvement Group Co-ordinators similarly are supported only against an assessment of capacity in the relevant school.

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

9. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to gain an understanding of the operation of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate and its key priorities for this year. It will also enable Members to enquire as to:
- i. How these key priorities, and resultant strategies were identified and what criteria were used?
  - ii. How was it judged that the associated key tasks will help either improve or make services for pupils more effective?
  - iii. How the Consortium's business plan supports and complements the Education Directorate Business Plan in achieving its objectives.
10. The governance arrangements set out in the Business Plan state that the Managing Director of the Consortium will be expected to provide a termly progress reporting to scrutiny committees and to local authorities' directors on progress against the agreed priorities in each local authority's annexe to the business plan.

### **Way Forward**

11. At the meeting, Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) will be in attendance to explain the Directorate's Delivery Plan, and to provide further details of the key challenges facing the service area during the coming year. Hannah Woodhouse (Managing Director of the Consortium) will also be in attendance to present the Consortium's Business Plan and explain how the Consortium will contribute to the successful implementation the Council's Education Business Plan.
12. Members are invited to review the information set out in the report, extracts from the Directorate Business Plan, Consortium Business Plan and presentations from officers and consider any issues for inclusion it the future work programme.

### **Legal Implications**

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes

to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. consider the information provided in the report, appendices and presentation;
- II. consider whether they have any observations, comments or recommendations they wish to make; and
- III. consider if any issues should be included in the Committee's work programme.

**MARIE ROSENTHAL**

**County Clerk and Monitoring Officer**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015**