
**DRAFT EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN
2016/18 and CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17**

Reason for the Report

1. This report and associated documents will enable Members to gain an overview of the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate Delivery Plan 2016 – 2018 (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 2016/17 is also included to enable Members to identify the linkage between the two organisations in driving forward improvements in education in Cardiff.

Context

2. As part of the Council's response to the Wales Audit Office's January 2016 Corporate Assessment Follow On report, a commitment was made in Cardiff's Statement of Action to ensure Directorate Delivery Plans are 'SMART' by the end of April. As such, the Council will be undertaking a peer review involving colleagues from across the Council's directorates to build on the Central Performance Team's own quality assurance process, ensuring this commitment is met. Although it would have been ideal for this work to have been completed ahead of consideration of Directorate Delivery Plans by the scrutiny committees, this was not possible due to timing of the scrutiny cycle. However, it should be noted that the focus of the peer review work will not be to make substantive changes to the commitments within plans, but to ensure they fully meet SMART criteria.

Issues

3. To assist Members to gaining an overview of the Directorate's responsibilities for Education and the Youth Service, a copy of the draft Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate Delivery Plan 2016 - 18 is attached at **Appendix A** and includes:

- Introduction and contribution to Corporate Plan – Page 3;
- Core Business – Pages 5 – 6;
- Previous Years achievements – Page 7;
- Context, Opportunities and Challenges – Page 8 & 9;
- Strategic Direction – Page 10;
- Key Aspirations for 2016 - 17 – Page 11;
- Resources – Pages 12 – 15.

4. The draft key priorities facing the service area as set out in the Corporate Plan and Cardiff Partnership 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 16 - 28);

Part 2 –Directorate / Service Priorities (Core Business) (page 29 - 36);

Part 3 – Planning for the Future (page 37 - 44):

- Priority 1 – To raise attainment, in particular at Key Stage 4, Level 1, Level 2 and capped point score (Page 38 – 40);
- Priority 2 – To improve the number of young people making a successful transition to education, employment or training after completing statutory schooling (page 41);
- Priority 3 – To improve outcomes for vulnerable learners and close the attainment gap (page 42);
- Priority 4 – Improve the availability of appropriate school places across the City (page 43);
- Priority 5 – To improve the quality and relevance of learning environments (Page 43); and

- Priority 6 – To improve performance and resource management (page 44).

Central South Consortium

5. The Consortium has set out the aim to Improve educational outcomes for all pupils in the region, and the outcomes of vulnerable learners fastest. The Consortium believes that the success of schools in this region is the key to the future economic and social success of Wales, that arrangements are improving but that more needs to be done. The Consortium's ambition as a region is that by 2018:

- Our learners achieve the best educational outcomes in Wales, rivalling similar parts of the United Kingdom;
- The poverty-related attainment gap is closing faster here than anywhere else in Wales; and
- That the region is know and recognised for its high-quality school-led professional learning.

6. The Consortium is committed to developing a world class system of education in the region. It wants to raise the aspirations of all young people and their parents and give them confidence in education. It also expresses 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*". The Consortium wants 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.

7. The *Central South Wales Challenge - A Self-Improving School System* was launched in January 2014. 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.

8. The business plan, copy attached at **Appendix B**, sets out 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 improvement priorities for the 2016/17 year and beyond are:

- To develop as a high performing organisation by:
 1. Raising standards in literacy / English /Welsh; numeracy and mathematics;
 2. Improving the outcomes achieved by specific groups of learners.
- To achieve improvements by further developing the capacity of the school system to be self-improving through the Central South Wales Challenge, in particular:
 1. To improve the quality of leadership and governance;
 2. To improve the quality of learning and teaching;
 3. To raise expectations further in a self-improving system.
- To develop as a high performing organisation, by:
 1. Improving performance management;
 2. Strengthening governance and accountability;
 3. Strengthening further the management of resources and improve efficiency.

9. The Consortium's business plan also sets out the core business which has been agreed with the five authorities. Alongside this business plan is an annual Local Authority annexe which sets out the support or dedicated work required in each local authority. This be developed later in the year and will be available in September.

Scope of Scrutiny

10. 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.

11. 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

12. 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. Robert Hopkins (South Central Consortium Head of School Improvement) 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.

13. 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 in the future work programme.

Legal 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 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

15. 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 2016/17 work programme.

DAVID MARR
Interim Monitoring Officer

13 April 2016