



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting MONDAY, 20 MARCH 2023, 5.00 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

Correspondence following the Committee Meeting(Pages 3 - 16)

This page is intentionally left blank

Date: 3 April 2023

My Ref: CYP/YJS/Mar23



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Councillor Ash Lister
Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's)
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Ash,

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2023 –
YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE UPDATE**

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the Committee for attending the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to provide us with an update on the Youth Justice Service. Please also pass on our thanks to Angharad Thomas and Deborah Driffield.

The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward.

Graham Robb

Members noted your tribute to Graham Robb and his role in leading the improvements in the Youth Justice Service and chairing the Youth Justice Board. The Committee would also wish to pass its thanks and best wishes to Graham in his future endeavours. It has been a pleasure to work with him. His openness and honesty in all his dealings with the Committee has been very welcomed; and his role in managing the improvements cannot be underestimated. Please can you forward our appreciation and best wishes on to him accordingly.

In relation to issues discussed at the meeting, Members asked questions relating to when the next inspection was due and progress in relation to the 7 recommendations arising from the 2022 inspection. We asked questions relating to the Turnaround grant and how this money would be used (particularly around prevention services); KPIs; reoffending; the role of the speech and language therapist; and further

partnership working with education and schools, especially around school exclusions. We were satisfied with the responses given.

The Committee agreed that it would wish to receive further information in relation to the following at the next (and future) update(s), which is currently scheduled for June 2023 (date to be confirmed).

- Progress report on the Turnaround grant – how and where this money is being spent and what impact this is making (when the results start to emerge).
- Provide data on how many of the current YJS cohort have been excluded from school; and some narrative on how you and education/schools will mitigate these numbers over time.
- Provide examples of projects, programmes and initiatives you are working on with the links you have made with education and schools.
- Provide examples of projects, programmes and initiatives you are working on with the links you have made with the wider YJS partnership.
- In addition, Members of the Committee were interested in the pilot scheme at St Illtyd's in relation to Harmful Sexual Behaviour and would request that the next update include information on whether this pilot will be rolled out.

As we have requested the above information to be reported at the next update, there is no requirement to respond to this letter. In addition, there are no formal recommendations arising from this letter.

Once again, on behalf of the Committee, please pass my sincere thanks to all who attended Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', written over a light grey rectangular background.

COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN
Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: CYPSC Members
Graham Robb
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People and Communities
Deborah Driffield, Director of Children's Services
Angharad Thomas, Operational Manager, YJS
Liz Williams/Debra Willis, PA to the Corporate Director
Jennifer Goss, Cabinet Support Office
Kim Thorpe, PA to the Director of Children's Services
David Hugh Thomas – Chair Governance & Audit Committee

This page is intentionally left blank

Date: 3 April 2023

My Ref: CYP/CSC/March23



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah,

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2023 –
CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM - ANNUAL CARDIFF LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPORT 2021-22/ CURRICULUM FOR WALES UPDATE**

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the Committee for attending the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to provide us with the Central South Consortium's (CSC) Annual Report 2021/22 and Curriculum for Wales Update. Please also pass on our thanks to Mel Godfrey; Mike Tate; Suzanne Scarlett; Clara Seery; Kathryn Lewis; Geraint Lewis; Kate Rowlands; Gareth Evans; and Rhys Corcoran

The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward. For ease of reference, the sections on the Annual Report and Curriculum for Wales update are addressed together.

CSC Annual Report 2021/22

Members asked a number of questions relating to the following:

- How well-placed Cardiff schools were in relation to being compliant to the new curriculum.
- Challenges in relation to effective professional learning relating to data and intelligence and a shared understanding of "progression".
- The challenge of the still awaited social finance and eco data system.
- What challenges the CSC was facing in relation to the new curriculum and their role in working with the local authority.
- What influence and impact did CSC feel they had in discussions with Estyn

- Further updates on current position in relation to Cardiff schools following the publication of the Annual Report, including compliance and attainment.
- Impact of the absence of statistics in measuring performance and how policy is made.
- The impact of universal school meals on the take-up of the Pupil Development Grant .

Members noted the responses to these questions.

Curriculum for Wales Update

Members heard that the latest Welsh Government's Education in Wales Action Plan was due to be published and would **request** that a copy/link to this document is provided to this Scrutiny Committee as soon as it is released. Please send to alison.jones5@cardiff.gov.uk

During this section of the meeting, Members asked further questions about the roll-out of the new curriculum in secondary schools and were advised accordingly. We also asked about how CSC was supporting teachers in implementing the curriculum post-covid, particularly with regard to complex developmental issues (such as social and language skills). We also asked about ensuring attendance improved and getting children and young people back to school and were advised accordingly.

Members welcomed the detailed information which provided an insight into the implementation of the new curriculum and during the way forward, we **request** the following information from the Council and the Consortium. This is summarised as follows:

Cardiff Council:

Members agreed that they would wish to explore the potential of undertaking a number of visits to schools to chat to teachers about a number of issues including their well-being; the new curriculum; managing post-covid recovery; and workloads. These would be informal, semi-structured sessions, with a small group of CYPSC Members, within schools. We recognise that this would have to be carefully organised and managed, not to put any undue additional pressures on staff. Therefore, we **request** your support in us exploring this option with Education and schools' staff. We would, as a matter of course, keep you informed of any decisions to proceed, which schools we would visit, and when.

Members **request** that you provide feedback on how the Council provides parents with the information they need in relation to FSM allowance.

Central South Consortium:

During the session, Members got a flavour of the challenges and difficulties faced by the Consortium and have **requested** that, in a year's time, an analysis of Cardiff schools be provided. This should include:

- A section on how far schools have moved forward in relation to implementing the new curriculum requirements.
- Developments on how "progress" is likely to be assessed against the new requirements.

Members would also welcome the Consortium's views on how they ensure that schools that don't currently have the practices in place don't slip through the gaps. Members noted that, on page 13 of the Annual Report, it stated that 78% of schools were engaged in a SIG. Members would welcome further information on whether there has been any uplift in terms of take up in clusters and SIGs following the introduction of the new school curriculum? What support is being offered to those schools who are finding it difficult to coordinate and implement the new requirements?

We would also welcome some narrative on whether the Consortium has any concerns about non-involvement or non-engagement of a school, and what strategies do they have in place to engage and support this cohort and encourage better involvement?

Shared Approach to Curriculum Support

Members welcomed the information provided by Kathryn and Suzanne in relation to the CSC and Cardiff approach to curriculum support and a common vision of "equity and excellence". Members particularly welcomed the role that the Cardiff Commitment Team are playing in this shared approach and how this links with Council policies of Cardiff 2030; One Planet Cardiff; and links to STEM and the creative and digital industries. Members **request** that a session on the work, role and impact of the Cardiff Commitment Team be brought to a future meeting of this scrutiny committee. I have asked the scrutiny officer to liaise with Suzanne to arrange this and it be added to our work programme accordingly.

Members particularly welcomed the contributions made by Gareth and Rhys in their presentations on how their schools are making sense and working towards the curriculum for Wales. We commend the work undertaken to date. Their presentations highlighted the enormous amount of work required by each school in

doing this, and we hope that what Ysgol Treganna and Mary Immaculate learn and implement will be shared across schools to assist them in their work. We are very aware of the pressures schools continue to face post-covid and have already highlighted our concerns on staff well-being with you. We would call on any discussions with Welsh Government, Estyn, and at regional and local level to consider the health and wellbeing of staff across each school as paramount whilst they continue to face a raft of ongoing pressures.

To recap, we request:

- A copy/link to Welsh Government's Education in Wales Action Plan be provided to us as soon as it is released.
- Your support in us exploring the option of school visits with Education and schools' staff.
- Feedback on how the Council provide parents with the information they need in relation to FSM allowance.
- To ask **Consortium** colleagues to provide the following:
 - In 12 months' time, an analysis of Cardiff schools. This should include:
 - A section on how far schools have moved forward in relation to implementing the new curriculum requirements.
 - Developments on how "progress" is likely to be assessed against the new requirements.
 - Views on how they ensure that schools that don't currently have the practices in place don't slip through the gaps; further information on whether there has been any uplift in terms of take up in clusters and SIGs following the introduction of the school curriculum; and what support is being offered to those schools who are finding it difficult to coordinate and implement the new requirements?
 - Narrative on whether the Consortium has any concerns about non-involvement or non-engagement of a school, and what strategies do they have in place to engage this cohort and encourage better involvement.
- A session on the work, role and impact of the Cardiff Commitment Team be brought to a future meeting of this scrutiny committee.

There are no formal recommendations arising from this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', written over a light grey rectangular background.

COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN

Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: CYPSC Members

Mel Godfrey - Director of Education & Lifelong Learning

Mike Tate - Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning

Suzanne Scarlett - Operational Manager, Partnerships & Performance

Clara Seery – Managing Director of the Central South Education Consortium
(or CSC)

Kathryn Lewis - Principal Improvement Partner Curriculum Cohesion and
Assessment (CSC)

Geraint Lewis - Principal Improvement Partner for Cardiff Secondary and
Special Schools (CSC)

Kate Rowlands - Principal Improvement Partner for Cardiff Primary and
Special Schools (CSC)

Gareth Evans - Deputy Head Teacher, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Treganna;

Rhys Corcoran - Assistant Head Teacher, Mary Immaculate High School

David Hugh Thomas – Chair Governance & Audit Committee

This page is intentionally left blank

Date: 21 March 2023

My Ref: CYP/SOP_Admissions_Cathays/March23



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah,

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2023 –
SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING PROPOSALS**

I am writing to you following the consideration of proposals at the SOP Task & Finish Group meeting on the 14 March 2023; and sign off at formal CYP Scrutiny Committee on the 20 March 2023. These were:

- School Admission Arrangements and Coordinated Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2024/2025
- School Organisation Planning: Primary School Places to Serve Cathays and Parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd

We commend both reports to Cabinet for approval. Further comments made are as follows:

Admissions Arrangements 2024/25

Members of the Task Group noted the minor changes to the Admissions Arrangements Policy for 2024/25 and commended it to Cabinet for approval.

Primary School Places to Serve Cathays and Parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd

Members of the Task Group considered the content of the Cabinet report and its appendices with officers. They discussed issues relating to the site options; consultation; overcoming perceived perceptions of proposals and providing assurances to parents, staff, pupils and other stakeholders on the proposals; the need to increase Welsh medium places and meeting WESP targets; staffing; and the need to retain the speech and language resource base. Members were satisfied with the responses they received.

Members agreed that the report be commended to Cabinet for approval. They requested that the results of the consultation be submitted to a formal meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee when available, to ensure that Members have the opportunity to consider the proposals and responses to the consultation. This will be added to the Committee's work programme, as appropriate.

There are no formal recommendations arising from this letter. I do not require a response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN

Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: CYPSC Members

Mel Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning

Richard Portas, Director of School Organisation Planning

Michele Duddridge-Friedl, Operational Manager, School Organisation Programme Strategy

Brett Andrewartha, School Organisation Planning Manager

Mel Jackson, PA to the Deputy Leader

Helen Eager, PA to the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning

Paula Williams, PA to the Director of SOP

Jo Watkins, Cabinet Support Manager

Tim Gordon and Jeremy Rhys – Media and Comms

Cllr Adrian Robson – Group Leader

Cllr Rodney Berman – Group Leader

Cllr Andrea Gibson – Group Leader

David Hugh Thomas – Chair Governance & Audit Committee

This page is intentionally left blank