

## Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee Phased Inquiry – The Effectiveness of School Governing Bodies in Improving the Educational Attainment of their Pupils, 18 June 2015

### Officer Response to Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Response	Implementation
1	That the Cabinet and Central South Consortium work together to develop and implement a process whereby the effectiveness of Governing Bodies are reviewed at least annually. Members suggested that the Challenge Advisers would be best placed to undertake this task.	Agreed. During the course of their school visit annual cycle Challenge Advisers make a judgement about the quality of school leadership, this includes the effectiveness of governing bodies. The annual Challenge Adviser's School Improvement report includes a statement about governance.	Ongoing
2	That the Cabinet ensures that all school Governing Bodies are encouraged to undertake a skills audit of their members and a self evaluation exercise on the effectiveness of the body. Members suggested that the National Governors Association's skills audit and Merseyside and Cheshire Area Partnership's Self Evaluation Tool for school Governing Bodies could be used.	Agreed. The application process to become a school governor requires those applying to set out their skills and abilities. Local Authority governors are matched with schools where their skills are needed. Governing Bodies are encouraged to undertake a self evaluation exercise, currently the Governors Wales Bronze Award Quality Mark, and are supported by Governor Support Services with this. Feedback from Governing Bodies has indicated that although working towards the Bronze Award is a useful exercise, a more manageable approach to self-evaluation would be more helpful. An identified self evaluation tool kit could be recommended to Cardiff school governing bodies. We have recently received notification that the Welsh Government has	Autumn 2015

		tasked Governors Wales to lead on the construction of a national self evaluation template for Governing Bodies in Wales.	
3	That the Cabinet ensures that communication across all stakeholders is reviewed to ensure that the roles and responsibilities, advice and support provided by each stakeholder is clearly documented and understood by all school Governing Bodies.	Agreed. The Local Authority has revised the Service Level Agreement with schools that clearly outlines the service provided by Governor Support Services. Central South Consortium has also produced a document outlining their responsibilities towards school governors.	Summer 2015
4	That the Cabinet explores whether there would be benefits from the Governors Support Services being transferred fully to the Central South Consortium.	Not agreed. There are currently no plans to transfer Governor Support Services to the Central South Consortium. There is a Governor Support Lead Officer role in the Consortium and this had resulted in increasing alignment and cooperation between each Local Authority's Governor Support Services.	
5	That the Cabinet undertakes a review of the capacity, support and advice provided to Governing Bodies, by the Authority and Central South Consortium, to ensure that it meets the needs of Governing Bodies to undertake their responsibilities.	Agreed The role of the Local Authority Governor Support Services is to support schools to enable them to comply with law, minimise legal risks and operate effective governance processes. Schools sign up to a service level agreement which outlines the service they can expect from Governor Support Services.  Capacity within the Local Authority to support school governors will be increased by further recruitment to the Business Support Team.  The Local Authority will continue to work with the	Autumn 2015   Ongoing

		Central South Consortium to ensure that Governing Bodies are supported.	
6	That the Cabinet ensures that the Authority and Central South Consortium makes school Governing Bodies fully aware of the development and implementation of school improvement strategies and school improvement groups.	<p>Agreed. Senior Officers from the Education Directorate hold a briefing meeting for the Chairs of Governing Bodies each school term.</p> <p>The Central South Consortium Governor Steering Group are running a termly series of briefing sessions aimed at all governors across the consortium. The sessions will update governors on the latest developments and give them the opportunity to consider the implications for their roles.</p> <p>A governors' newsletter has been produced each school term. Following feedback from governors this will now move to a regular electronic communication.</p> <p>Robert Hill has been commissioned to carry out focused work in relation to school governors.</p> <p>Central South Consortium produce regular newsletters for Headteachers and the Local Authority will ensure that these are made available to governors.</p>	<p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p>
7	Members considered the minimum standards guide developed for Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School, could be a useful model to be used for Cardiff schools needing improvement. Best practice like this should be more effectively shared.	<p>Agreed. The Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School model has been shared with Chairs of Governors at their briefing in June and the presentation has been distributed to all Chairs of Governors.</p>	Summer 2015 – completed

		Central South Consortium has appointed consultant governors to transfer best practice across schools and will begin work in the autumn term.	Autumn 2015
8	That the Cabinet ensures that all Governing Bodies undertake the mandatory training and also develop, through a variety of training models, such as cluster training and whole school training, training to help school Governing Bodies to become fully effective.	<p>Agreed</p> <p>The Education Department recognises the vital role that governing bodies play in raising the standards of achievement in Cardiff schools and hence is committed to high quality support and training to Cardiff's school governors. A full range of training is provided to enable governors to meet mandatory training requirements and to discharge their duties effectively. Courses are of high quality and purpose designed, offered at a range of accessible venues and available at daytime and evening. Cluster training and whole Governing Body training is available.</p> <p>On-line training is also available from September 2015 and will cover the four mandatory training requirements.</p> <p>Attendance at mandatory training is monitored and supportive action is taken to ensure all governors are compliant.</p> <p>Where an improvement in governance is identified as a priority in red, amber or yellow schools, the Challenge Advise will broker support which could include a consultant governor, school to school governor links or support from the Challenge Adviser themselves.</p>	<p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
9	All school governor training and clerking training should be professionally quality assured and fit	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>All mandatory training meets the requirements of the</p>	

	for purpose.	<p>training programmes commissioned by the Welsh Government.</p> <p>Governors complete an evaluation following each training session. Trainers will be trained in delivering a consistent 'in-house' style of training in response to feedback governors who have attended training.</p> <p>Dip sampling to quality assure training will take place. An evaluation report will be produced termly..</p>	<p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p>
10	That the Cabinet and Central South Consortium ensures that the clerking of all school Governing Bodies is undertaken at the highest standard supported by effective training.	<p>Agreed Training for clerks is provided and will be quality assured as above.</p> <p>Ongoing support for clerks is available through Governor Support Services.</p> <p>The training programme for clerks has been refreshed and improved for the academic year 2015/2016.</p> <p>The self evaluation tool for clerks published in the mandatory clerk's training programme will be circulated to all clerks and chairs in the new academic year.</p>	<p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p> <p>Autumn 2015</p>