

CYNGOR CAERDYDD

CARDIFF COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2023

**WELSH GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GUIDANCE: A
FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

Purpose of the Report

1. For Members to receive a brief overview of this issue ahead of a presentation on the Welsh Government School Improvement Guidance: A Framework for School Improvement being made at this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee by the Central South Education Consortium (CSC).

Background

2. In June 2022, the Welsh Government published its latest [School Improvement Guidance](#) which provides a new point of reference for schools, pupil referral units, local authorities, diocesan authorities, regional consortia and Estyn. It outlines Welsh Government's expectations of these partners in contributing to school improvement, in the context of their wider legal duties.
3. The presentation (attached at **Appendix A**), which has already been delivered to CSC staff, regional council members and to Cardiff chairs of governors aims to summarise the implications and major changes to evaluation, improvement and accountability detailed in the guidance and outline the timeline for implementation and planned CSC support in relation to it.

Way Forward

4. The attached presentation will be made at this meeting by the following CSC officers:
 - Geraint Lewis, Principal Improvement Partner for Cardiff Secondary and Special Schools; supported by Kate Rowlands.

5. In addition, the following witnesses will be in attendance to answer any questions on this issue:
 - Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education;
 - Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning;
 - Mike Tate, Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning;

6. Members will be able to agree any comments, concerns or recommendations that they wish to pass on to the CSC, Cabinet Member and Senior Officers during the Way Forward and decide whether they wish to receive further updates in the future.

Legal Implications

7. 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 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

8. 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 will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee considers this report, the attached Appendic and information provided at the meeting and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Central South Education Consortium, Cabinet Member and Senior Officers in Education & Lifelong Learning, as well and any future scrutiny Members may wish to undertake on this issue.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

9 January 2023