
**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM - ANNUAL CARDIFF LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPORT 2021-22**

Reason for the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work of the Central South Consortium (CSC) and to update Members with the contribution of the CSC, working in partnership with the local authority (LA) to raise standards in schools across Cardiff. The report (at **Appendix A**) details the work of the consortium for the academic year September 2021/2022 and the financial year April 2021 to April 2022.
2. In addition, the Consortium has provided a “Curriculum for Wales” update (at **Appendix B**), dated January 2023.

Background

3. Since 2012, CSC has delivered aspects of school improvement services on behalf of the five local authorities: Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan. This covers 385 schools, around 32% of Wales’s children. It is a growing region with a rapidly changing demographic, encompassing increasingly diverse communities across the economic sub region. It remains the region with the highest number of children living in poverty, with around 25% claiming free school meals.
4. The service delivers challenge and support on behalf of the five local authorities, governed through a Joint Committee of Cabinet Members for Education from each local authority. The Joint Committee meets quarterly and formally approves the

annual business plan and budget for the service, holding the service to account in terms of performance and budgetary control.

Issues

5. The Annual report for 2021/22 attached at **Appendix A** is set out as follows:

- Purpose of the Report
- Background
- Overview of Performance
- Support and Challenge
- Support for Schools
- Professional Learning and Support
- Equity
- CSC Contribution to Supporting LA Priorities (April 2022 – October 2022)
- Value for Money
- Sharing of Practice
- Conclusions
- Next Steps

6. The “Curriculum for Wales” paper attached at **Appendix B** is set out as follows:

- Context
 - CSC Professional Learning Opportunities
 - Primary Schools
 - PRU and Secondary Schools
 - Cluster collaborations
- School improvement guidance - contributory factors
 - ‘Enabling all learners, and in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to progress along their own learning pathway and raise their aspirations to achieve their full potential; allied to a range of assessment approaches to understand and support this progress.’
 - ‘Co-constructing a curriculum, in line with the Curriculum for Wales Framework, which promotes a broad range of knowledge, skills and

experiences (including social and interactional experiences) with a clear understanding of why these matter.'

- 'Supporting practitioners' understanding of what works in curriculum design by investing in the enquiry and pedagogic skills of all staff.'
- 'Enabling ambitious professional learning for all practitioners in a school dedicated to being a learning organisation.'
- 'Embedding reflection, self-evaluation and improvement within schools, with good school leadership as a pre-condition for that.'
- 'Being at the heart of their communities - building better relationships between schools and families, communities and employers, to support and promote educational achievement and excellent employment, next steps education and training.'
- 'Listening to children and young people as they engage with their learning and supporting them in achieving their aspirations.'

- Next Steps

Way Forward

7. At this meeting, the following Members and officers will be in attendance, for the following:

- **Cllr Sarah Merry** (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education) Statement
- **Melanie Godfrey** (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning) Statement
- **Clara Seery** (CSC Managing Director) Statement introducing the CSC Annual report.
- CSC Q&A with CYPSC Members on the CSC Annual Report
- **Kathryn Lewis** (CSC Principal Improvement Partner Curriculum Cohesion and Assessment) & **Suzanne Scarlett** (Operational Manager, Partnerships & Performance Education & Lifelong Learning) Statement on shared approach to curriculum support in Cardiff and introduce schools.

- **Gareth Evans** (Deputy Head Teacher Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Treganna) presentation. *Please note that this presentation will be conducted in Welsh, with translation services available.*
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Treganna Q&A with Members. *Members are requested that questions for the schools should be for clarity and not to hold those schools to account.*
- **Rhys Corcoran** (Assistant Head Teacher, Mary Immaculate High School presentation)
- Mary Immaculate High School Q&A with Members. *Members are requested that questions for the schools should be for clarity and not to hold those schools to account.*
- **Kathryn Lewis** (CSC Principal Improvement Partner Curriculum Cohesion and Assessment) Statement giving a brief overview of the CSC Curriculum for Wales Report
- CSC Q&A with Members on the CSC Curriculum for Wales Report

Legal 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 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

9. 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 presentations or statements;
- II. consider whether they have any observations, comments or recommendations they wish to make; and
- III. consider a way forward with regard to any future scrutiny of the issues raised.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

13 March 2023