



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LGES MEETING

MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 2020

PRESENT: Councillors H R Jones (Chair)
S Jago (Vice-Chair)

Councillors H Barrett, B Carter, D Isaac and M Jones

Cooptees:

C Brown (Parent Governor-Primary), K Phelan (Diocesan Representative), F Whitefoot (Public Appointed) and C Gwynne (MTBWYF)

Other Councillors in Attendance:

L Mytton (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

S Walker (Chief Education Officer), C Hole (Head of Community Wellbeing), A Lewis (Head of School Planning Performance and Resource) and S Jablaoui (Performance Officer)

Outside Bodies:

Emma Willmott (Central South Consortium)

M Morgan* (Democratic Services Officer) and M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
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Welcome

The Chair welcomed the new Co-opted Members to their first Committee Meeting.

117	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received.
118	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
119	Central South Consortium (CSC) Commitments to Raising Aspirations Raising Standards Strategy (RARS)	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Central South Consortium (CSC) Commitments to Raising Aspirations Raising Standards Strategy (RARS)' Report and welcomed Emma Willmott to the Meeting.</p> <p>Sue Walker then introduced the report to the Committee.</p> <p>Emma Willmott gave an overview to the Committee in relation to 'Raising Aspirations, Raising Standards' – Working in Partnership with Central South Consortium and how the Consortium were supporting blended / hybrid learning and led the Committee in detail through the document attached at Appendix 1 of the report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by Emma Willmott and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the objectives in the plan Covid proof – Is the expectation timetable the same • Have the dates been signed off by the Headteachers or have they been set by the Consortium • What are the school years and how will it be rolled into schools • When will the Welcome Assessments be done • Appendix 1 -Our approach – 'Plans may need to adapt and change to deal with the high level of uncertainty which faces us due to Covid 19' – Has this been shared to date with the Headteachers • Objective 1 – Stakeholder buy in – Is this the response to the previous question • What we will deliver and when – Objective 1 – Leadership – Governance / Middle Management - Is the date of 2020 correct <p>(Emma Willmott advised that it was an error and should read 2021 and that it would be amended)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government Child development Fund – Will a bid be made for this money • How will blended learning be approached – Is there a pathway of evaluation or is it too early to evaluate • Paragraph 5.0 and 6.0 – To ensure that all Children have the best possible learning experience • The role of the Consortium in RARS • Judgement targets

		<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>(a) The content of the report be noted (b) Members consider if further information is needed to understand the support for the RARS Strategy from CSC or other service areas.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Emma Willmott for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
120	Corporate Self-Evaluation – Key Question 2 (Incorporating Inspection Area 2 of Estyn Framework)	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the ‘Corporate Self-Evaluation – Key Question 2 (Incorporating Inspection Area 2 of Estyn Framework)’ report.</p> <p>Sue Walker then led the Committee in detail through the report.</p> <p>A Member stated that there had been a lot of improvements but felt that adequate was a fair judgement.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The report be accepted.</p>
121	Forward Work Programme 2020/21	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Forward Work Programme 2020/2021.</p> <p>A Member then recommended that the Department’s response to Covid 19 be added to the schedule for the 15 March 2021 Committee Meeting as it would be a good opportunity to reflect on a year of the pandemic.</p> <p>This recommendation was agreed by the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <p>The Draft Forward Work Programme be approved.</p>
122	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Scrutiny Officer advised that there was no update on this item.</p>
123	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting</p>
124	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>