



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LAESCYP MEETING

MONDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor S Slater (In the Chair)

Councillors M Davies, G Lewis and C Tovey

Cooptees:

Claire Brown, Rosemary Lazell and Alan Rees

Officers:

Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education Officer) and Sarah Bowen (Inclusion and Wellbeing Manager)

Outside Bodies:

Councillor Huw David and Hannah Woodhouse (Central South Consortium)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer), Michelle Hemmings (Democratic Services Officer) and Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
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In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Councillor S Slater was elected as Chair for the meeting

721	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor L Mytton, Councillor S Williams and Anne Roberts (Co-optee).
722	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.

723	<p>Central South Consortium - Contribution to Raising Standards in Merthyr Tydfil Schools</p>	<p>Councillor Margaret Davies arrived at 4.10 pm.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Councillor Huw David, Chair, and Hannah Woodhouse, Managing Director of the Central South Consortium.</p> <p>Councillor Huw David and Hannah Woodhouse took the Committee through the discussion paper as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant improvement at every key stage in Merthyr Tydfil over a number of years. • Schools categorisation. • Performance across the Central South region in 2016. • Meeting the next phase of improvement. • Delivery of the new curriculum. • The self evaluation report. • Central South Consortium's Business Plan for the forthcoming year. • Outcomes in Merthyr Tydfil. • Challenge and support provided by the Consortium. • Specific issues to make faster progress within Merthyr Tydfil. <p>Hannah Woodhouse, Councillor Huw David and Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on the Capita One Information Data System. • Reduction in funding to the Central South Consortium - will this reduction impact on the services you provide to Local Authorities? • In relation to performance, are there any Merthyr Tydfil Secondary Schools that require "more intense levels of support"? • Clarification on the development and funding of the Cronfa System. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee notes the contents outlined in the discussion paper provided by the Central South Consortium. <p>The Chair thanked Councillor Huw David and Hannah Woodhouse for their attendance.</p>
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724	HR Policy for Schools Safer Recruitment	<p>Sarah Bowen took the Committee through the report in relation to the HR Policy for Schools Safer Recruitment and advised members of the importance of robust recruitment protocols for schools to minimise the risk of employing individuals who do not share this commitment.</p> <p>Sarah Bowen provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this service provided under a Service Level Agreement? • Explanation on why School Governors are no longer required to have vetting and barring checks. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
725	Self-Evaluation of improving the quality of self-evaluation	<p>Dorothy Haines took the Committee through the report in relation to the Self Evaluation of improving the quality of self evaluation. She highlighted the need to focus on improving the processes of self evaluation in order to improve outcomes for learners.</p> <p>Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following question from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoughts on how we can improve on listening to learners? <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted by the Committee.</p>
726	Self-Evaluation of the impact of leadership	<p>Dorothy Haines referred to the report on the Self Evaluation of the Impact of leadership and highlighted the need to focus on the self evaluation and improvement planning, partnership working, managing resources and impact of leadership</p> <p>Dorothy Haines provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the 5 priorities for improvement, are you confident that you have sufficient resources in terms of budget and staffing to address them? • Is the Local Authority required to look at collaboration more than before? <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contents of the report be noted by the Committee. <p>Alan Rees left the meeting at 4.50 pm.</p>

727	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>Howard Jones referred to the referral from the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee in relation to the “Kerbcraft” road safety training to primary schools. The reason for this referral is to see if there are any plans from Education’s side for the scheme to be extended to all primary schools.</p> <p>Dorothy Haines advised the Committee that she is aware of the programme and will correspond with the Schools on this and report back to a future Committee.</p>
728	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the meeting.</p>
729	Scrutiny Work programme	<p>Discussion ensued on the Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>Howard Jones reminded members of the visit that has been arranged at Troedyrhiw Community Primary School for Friday, 17th March 2017 at 10.30 am.</p>
730	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>