



## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
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Service Area	Learning
Committee Date	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2019

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

### **Schools as Learning Organisations - meeting the challenge of the change agenda**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report provides an overview of the changes that are currently facing schools within Merthyr Tydfil and the support that will be given to schools by the Central South Consortium (CSC) to implement these changes and develop themselves as learning organisations.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 The report is discussed and noted.

#### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

3.1 Since 2012, the CSC has delivered aspects of school improvement services on behalf of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. Each school within Merthyr Tydfil receives challenge and support from the team at the CSC in line with the model that is advocated in the national framework. The CSC also supports schools to deliver the change agenda from Welsh Government and acts as the delivery arm for educational policy change.

#### **4.0 WHERE WE WERE**

4.1 CSC launched its Central South Wales Challenge in 2013 to support the self-improving schools agenda:

- Schools have engaged in cross Local Authority (LA) school improvement groups (SIGs) to support their specific priorities.
- Schools have engaged in pathfinder activities where one school supports another school to address identified areas for development.

- Schools have engaged in Peer enquiry activities to support self-evaluation.
- Schools have been identified as hubs of best practise and deliver professional learning programmes to other schools.

4.2 CSC developed a professional learning offer to meet the requirements from Welsh Government.

## **5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW**

5.1 Headteachers have received information on the changes and how they can manage these in their own schools and as part of the wider schools system.

5.2 The Central South Wales Challenge will be re-branded to meet the challenges from the forthcoming changes.

## **6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

6.1 Our ambition is for the outcomes of all learners in Merthyr Tydfil to be consistently higher than the Welsh average. We strive to ensure the children and young people of Merthyr Tydfil acquire the skills necessary to become ambitious and capable learners who are healthy confident individuals.

6.2 Our ambition is for all schools to be self-improving and not to require support from the CSC.

## **7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**

7.1 Continue to hold the CSC to account relating to the impact on school improvement for all schools.

7.2 Continue to support and challenge the leadership of all schools to ensure they engage with the change agenda.

7.3 Monitor the impact of change on the wellbeing and attainment of both our young people and teaching staff.

## **8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES**

8.1 There is a strong relationship between wellbeing and attainment. The improvement activities detailed in this report to help raise standards contribute directly to our wellbeing objective:

**Best start to life:** Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.

**SUE WALKER**  
**CHIEF OFFICER, LEARNING**

**COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No