



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	7 th October 2020
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Service Area	Learning
Committee Date	19 th October 2020

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Central South Consortium (CSC) Commitments to Raising Aspirations Raising Standards Strategy (RARS)

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report outlines the support CSC will provide to schools across Merthyr Tydfil to secure positive outcomes against the aims of the RARS strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The content of this report is discussed and noted.

2.2 Members consider if further information is needed to understand the support for the RARS strategy from CSC or other service areas.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 Since 2012 CSC has been the school improvement service for Merthyr Tydfil Schools.

3.2 CSC is a regional service for the five local authorities – Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

3.3 It provides both challenge and support for leadership through its Improvement Partners and also strategic curriculum support through strategic curriculum specialists.

3.4 As part of their work CSC provides bespoke work for local authorities where there is an identified need for improvement.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 4.1 It was recognised at a corporate level that improvements in school attainment have not been sustained over the last few years and that a fundamental re-think of strategy and intervention was needed to ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to the best possible learning experiences.

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 5.1 Education is a key priority in the Council's Improvement Plan with challenging targets for improvement being set.
- 5.2 The recently drafted RARS strategy is being presented to Council on 25th November 2020.
- 5.3 Actions from service areas across and beyond the Council to support the aims of the RARS strategy are being worked up.
- 5.4 The support from the CSC is outlined in Appendix 1 – it is important to note that the RARS strategy is a five-year plan so further detail will be provided to members throughout the lifetime of the strategy.

6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

- 6.1 By Autumn 2023, ensure at least 75% of reported outcomes are at, or above modelled outcomes for similar schools across Wales.
- 6.2 Leadership at all levels in our schools to be externally evaluated to be at least good.
- 6.3 Teaching and learning in all our schools to be externally evaluated to be at least good.

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 7.1 Ensure that schools leaders are given the opportunity to engage with the support.
- 7.2 Provide local authority officers with termly impact reports of outputs from support.
- 7.3 Produce an overview of support from all service areas against the priorities of the RARS strategy to share with schools and members.

8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The contents of this report relate to the following Wellbeing Objectives:

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

SUE WALKER
CHIEF OFFICER, LEARNING

COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON
PORTFOLIO LEAD

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		