



Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit Newsletter

Note from the Chair

It is all change at the Vale Council following the elections in May and may I congratulate VSGA member Councillor Chris Elmore on his new position as Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health (Children) and Schools. I am sure he will put his experience at VSGA to good use.

Commiserations to others who were not re-elected, previous Cabinet Member Tony Hampton and former Leader Gordon Kemp. Both have been very supportive of School Governors in the Vale over the years and I wish to thank them formally on behalf of the Association. I am pleased that Gordon is continuing his long-standing membership of VSGA and we will continue to benefit from his wise contributions.

Summer is here and, in the rain, the Welsh Government's mind turns to Governor Training. The recent Education (Wales) Measure 2011 allows for mandatory Governor training, and the Welsh Government has just consulted on the following.

So, should new Governors have to attend training within a couple of terms of appointment and be removed if they do not? Should Chairs of Governors be made to attend training? What about Clerks? How much training should everybody have? What sort of training has been most useful to you as a Governor? The consultation focussed on the use of School Performance Data so that Governors can challenge their schools and hence improve standards. It will be interesting to see the final proposals during the next academic year following this consultation exercise.

Let's hope that the weather improves when schools finish. In any case may I wish you all a reviving break among the showers?

Martin Price
Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School, Barry

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Special points of interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives

VSGA was set up to:

- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations

In association with the Vale of Glamorgan Council

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Provincial House, Kendrick Road, Barry CF62 8BF

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VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on.
It's VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

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Governor Support Unit
Learning & Development Dept.
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Provincial House, Kendrick Road
Barry CF62 8BF

Vale Youth Service Annual Presentation evening

The Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service has recently celebrated its annual presentation evening. This event is an opportunity to recognise young people aged 11 – 25 years, volunteers and staff members who have achieved informal accreditation opportunities with the service and recognises the participation of young people through a range of achievement awards.

Over the past year there have been 133 individuals who have participated in Vale youth service training and development opportunities such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, The Mayor's Award and a range of YMCA Community College and Agored Cymru training courses, in areas such as Induction to Young People's Participation Level 2, Junior Leadership and the Level 2 in Youth Work.

The event was attended by young people, volunteers, staff, Councillors, parents and partnership organisations. Those in attendance enjoyed an evening of food, music, the presentation of awards and a magnificent chocolate fountain display.

The Vale youth service is committed to recognising the participation and achievements of young people and volunteers through delivering a range of informal accredited and non accredited opportunities in its youth provisions and projects. The service is also dedicated to the development of its workforce through its ongoing and accessible training programme.

For more information on the opportunities that are on offer for young people and staff please visit our website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk and search for youth service. Alternatively contact the curriculum development officer on 01446 792141.

Kimberley Wagstaff
School Promotion Co-ordinator



Tina Simmons, Inclusion Development Officer for the Vale Youth Service, Councillor Richard Bertin, Rhodri George who hosted the event and and Young people from various Youth Clubs

Peer Support

“Peer Support begins with the natural willingness of most young people to act in a co-operative, friendly way towards one another. Peer Support systems build on this intrinsic quality and create structures which facilitate the young person’s potential for responsibility, sensitivity and empathic caring”

Cowie and Sharp 1996

Peer Support is a scheme which builds on a natural willingness to help one another, enhancing the common purpose of the group between those of a similar age and background. Those who participate follow a structure developing interpersonal skills with safe boundaries. The Solution Focused thinking techniques developed through the training empower pupils to solve difficulties, thus learning valuable life skills.

Six schools in the Vale of Glamorgan have successfully adopted the Peer Support Scheme. The training involves one full day of group activities consisting of role play, circle time, a quiz and problem solving techniques. The schools’ commitment to the scheme is to provide 3 members of staff each to participate in the training activities and be responsible for overseeing the daily running

of the scheme. The schools receive a training manual that includes information that helps them to measure the impact, which is analysed by the Pupil Support Service. The children are given a Peer Support pocket-sized script to follow as a prompt card. They also are involved in choosing a fleece or cap as a means of identification on the playground.

Research undertaken so far suggests that the culture of the school has changed in a positive way. There is less pressure on class teachers to deal with issues and a more positive relationship between children.

We are hoping that this scheme will be adopted by all primary and secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, as research evidence suggests the whole school and the wider community benefit.

Hilary Drew & Siân Winckle

Vale Catering Services announce...

It’s here! It’s Legislation! It’s Appetite for Life - the Vale of Glamorgan School Meals Department are fully compliant!

Appetite for Life a Welsh Government strategy sets out the standards to improve food and drink provided in schools in Wales. This means that in September 2012 the food and drink provided throughout the whole school day regardless of the provider in all maintained primary schools in Wales is legally obliged to fully comply with the Appetite for Life nutrient and food based standards (which includes breakfast and after school clubs). Similarly, in September 2013 all maintained secondary, special schools and pupil referral units in Wales will be legally obliged to fully comply with the same standards.

With the support of all Catering Staff, Headteachers, Teachers, Administrative Staff and the Pupils in the Vale, many recipes have been discussed at School Nutrition Action Groups (SNAG), tried and tested in kitchens and presented to pupils for their feedback. Some have made it others haven’t!

From Sept 2012 it is expected that Estyn Inspectors will carefully examine the food and drink on offer in schools in line with legislation. Vale Catering Services are in the process of developing a valuable pack to provide Headteachers and the Catering team helpful information to support them during their inspection period. The pack will show the menu, recipes and full nutrition of the meals on offer. For further information please contact Carole Tyley, Catering Manager on 029 20673037 or 07773 353580 ctyley@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Menus can be found at:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or www.myschoollunch.co.uk/glamorgan

Other projects Catering are involved in are:

[Online/telephone payments for school meals and music](#)

[Changes to free school meal claims](#)

[Sims dinner money module](#)

[Electronic primary school meals record forms for schools](#)

Briefing for School Governors: Equality Act 2010

General and Specific Duties

The Equality Act 2010 and the specific duties for Wales brought in challenging responsibilities for school governors.

We have produced a briefing note to help you understand both the general and specific duties, and the various requirements listed in the specific duties that you and your school will need to meet, including information on Strategic Equality Plans.

The [briefing note](#) provides an overview of responsibilities and also provides links to more detailed information provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Welsh Local Government Association. You can also obtain further advice from the Equalities Team at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Nicola Hinton, Vice Chair of Romilly Primary School

Central South Consortium (CSC) Update

Joint Education Service

As part of the overall design of the new Central South Consortium Joint Education Service, a Functional Working Design Group for School Improvement Services has been established. The purpose of this Working Group is to map out the Challenge, Monitor and Intervention, as well as Strategic and National Priorities for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service, allowing for common processes to be jointly used across the Central South Consortium.

The Functional Design Working Group meets weekly and is a collaborative process between all five Local Authorities that form the Central South Consortium, with representatives present from Bridgend County Borough Council, Cardiff Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council.

Currently, Bridgend County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council access School Improvement Services via the joint Education and School Improvement Service (ESIS). Cardiff Council and Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council presently operate their own Local Authority based School Improvement Services.

Recognising that the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service wants to improve the quality and rigour of challenge and intervention and in order to support schools more effectively, the five Local Authorities that form the Central South Consortium are working

to bring together existing practice in each of their functional areas of School Improvement Services to determine an approach to employing leading practice.

The timescales set by Welsh Government are ambitious, but we have already made strong progress to ensure that the Functional Design of System Leadership and how System Leaders will interact with Headteachers, Governors and the Local Authority should be ready to begin shaping a more consistent and robust form of educational support from September 2012.

Representative Stakeholder Groups have also been established and the Central South Consortium is consulting with Headteacher representatives from each of the member Local Authorities that form the Central South Consortium in order to brief them on the progress made to date regarding the Functional Design of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service and to allow for an opportunity to feed back on progress made.

To date, the overall process for System Leaders' annual Challenge and Monitoring has been developed and agreed by Heads of Service from each Local Authority and shared with the Representative Stakeholder Group of Headteachers. Work to develop the new Support Framework Model for use across the Central South Consortium is also in progress. Further detail and the processes sitting behind these functions will be refined by the Functional Design Working Group over the coming weeks.

The continued input of representatives, including Headteachers, who are contributing their expertise and advice, is essential to ensuring we deliver a higher quality of challenge and support services for the proposed statutory functions that will come into effect in September 2012.

Lynette Jones
*Chair of the Functional Design Working Group,
Central South Consortium*

Traded Service

March has been a busy month for the ongoing development of the Central South Consortium Traded Service. Following a clear steer from the Central South Consortium Traded Service Headteacher Consultative Group, members of the Central South Consortium Traded Service Working Group began to engage with Headteachers across the Central South Consortium through Local Authority Headteacher Groups.

The outcome of these meetings is that we now have a good indication of the level of intended sign up for the new Central South Consortium Traded Service. The response from Headteachers has been generally very positive, with a number of schools indicating that they would like to become Co-Founders. In essence this means that they are ready to commit to the Central South Consortium Traded Service now and support the underpinning aims and principles shared with them during the meetings.

The primary aim of the Central South Consortium Traded Service will be to work with schools and Local Authorities to ensure the Central South Consortium becomes an outstanding place for teaching, school leadership and student achievement.

The Central South Consortium Traded Service will build upon effective practice that has already been developed by schools and Local Authorities within the Central South Consortium, supplemented by interventions and programmes that have been seen to be successful elsewhere.

This will be realised by a full bilingual network that:

- Will be run 'by schools for schools', facilitated and brokered by the Central South Consortium Traded Service;
- Moves innovative and effective knowledge around schools; and
- Provides services and interventions designed to improve the quality of practice and of student achievement and which will be monitored and evaluated on that basis.

The programme on offer to schools will focus on:

- The national priorities of Welsh Government in improving literacy, numeracy and reducing the impact of poverty on achievement;
- Innovative approaches to learning and teaching focused on developing learning skills that fully exploit the use of new technologies; and
- Developing outstanding leadership at all levels of the system.

The new Central South Consortium Traded Service will offer a brokered Service that will be bespoke to the needs of single schools and also schools working in clusters. Schools will be able to individually and collectively access the services they want and which reflect what is known to work in similar schools.

In order to develop and build this ambitious new Service, colleagues from across the Central South Consortium have begun to shape the components of the offer to schools. The Central South Consortium Traded Service Working Group will be engaging Headteachers and practitioners over the next few weeks to ensure the outcomes of the process reflect one of the key principles of the Service in that it is created 'by schools for schools'. The offer will also be scrutinised by the Central South Consortium Traded Service Headteacher Consultative Group as part of the quality assurance process. Although timescales are tight, we are aiming for the prospectus to be with schools prior to half term in order to ascertain levels of final sign up by the start of June.

This is an exciting opportunity to build a Service that places schools and Local Authorities in the Central South Consortium at the leading edge of achievement and innovation, not only in Wales but more widely. Many people are working hard to achieve this in a short period of time but we are confident that in partnership with our schools it is possible to create a high quality support system for schools.

Jayne Edwards,
*Head of Traded Service,
Central South Consortium*

Adult and Community Learning in the Vale of Glamorgan

Summer School at Cowbridge Community College

Fun workshops to entertain the kids during the school holidays organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Adult and Community Learning Team.

Jewellery Making

Wednesday 8th August 1.30-2.30pm

Learn how to design and make a sparkling bracelet. All the beads will be provided.

Cost: £5 per child. (If mum wants to make a bracelet there will be an additional charge of £5.)

Clay Handprint Tiles

Thursday 9th August 1.30-2.30pm

Create keep sake clay hand Prints. All materials provided just bring an apron.

Cost: £5 per child.

These courses are suitable for children 8 years+. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Discover your own hidden talents in our summer school 9th – 20th July at Cowbridge Community College. There are a variety of one day courses from cupcakes to computers, crochet, art, jewellery, textiles and photography. All courses are presented in a friendly and relaxed way for a list of the full programme please goes to:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/adultlearning

For further information and to book your place please contact Cowbridge Community College on 01446 773831

Management Committee Membership 2010-12

The Management Committee is comprised of 15 elected governors plus each Parent Governor Representative of the Primary & Secondary sector.

| No. | Title | Initial | Surname | School |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|--|
| 1 | Dr | C | Brown | Wick & Marcross C/W Primary |
| 2 | Mr | N | Craggs | Gwenfo C/W Primary |
| 3 | Cllr Mr | C | Elmore | Holton Primary |
| 4 | Mrs | M | Gibbs | Cadoxton Nursery & Llantwit Major School |
| 5 | Mrs | S | Hodges | Ysgol Sant Baruc & Ysgol Gwaun y Nant |
| 6 | Mr | K | Ingram | Ashgrove School & Albert Primary |
| 7 | Mr | G | Kemp | Cowbridge Comprehensive & Rhws Primary |
| 8 | Mrs | A | Males | Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comprehensive |
| 9 | Mr | M | Mason | Llanilltud Fawr Primary |
| 10 | Dr | M | Price | St Richard Gwyn R/C School |
| 11 | Mr | P | Sampson | Cadoxton Primary |
| 12 | Mr | D | Treharne | Ysgol Gwaun y Nant |
| 13 | Cllr Mr | M | Wilson | Victoria Primary |
| 14 | VACANCY | | | |
| 15 | VACANCY | | | |
| PGR | Mr | P | Lewis | Cowbridge Comprehensive |
| PGR | Mr | S | Williams | Rhws Primary |
| Observer | Mrs | G | Evans | Ysgol Iolo Morganwg |
| Observer | Mr | G | Scott | High Street Primary |