

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 14 October 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Governor Training Report for the 2020/21 Academic Year
Purpose of Report:	To report on governor training for the 2020/21 Academic Year
Report Owner:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Responsible Officer:	John Sparks, Head of Governor Support
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Consultation is not applicable
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for noting by the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report provides commentary and a statistical summary of the attendance and evaluations received for online governor training courses held during the 2020/21 academic year. • Despite Covid 19 and its restrictions, training opportunities for Vale governors were not adversely affected during the 2020/21 academic year. A record number of governors attended a record number of training sessions/courses. A summary of attendance over the last 6 years is provided in the report. • 51 virtual courses/sessions were held, and 682 Vale governors attended last academic year. This is an increase of an additional 12 courses and 117 more Vale governors trained during an academic year than the previous record. • A survey has been circulated to all Vale governors seeking their views on future governor training provision and suggestions for future courses. This feedback will inform governor training provision for the 2021/22 academic year. 	

Recommendations

1. That Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee consider the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. This report was previously requested by the Chairman of Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) and is now an annual item. It will be presented annually to report on governor training for the preceding academic year.

1. Background

- 1.1 There are approximately 850 governors managing 55 schools within the Vale of Glamorgan. Governors play a key role in school improvement. Welsh Government has made legislation that introduced mandatory training for school governors for certain elements from September 2013. The mandatory elements cover induction, data, chair and clerk training and as such are a major focus of our governor training programme.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Due to Covid 19 restrictions it was not possible to hold any physical governor training sessions during the 2020/21 academic year. However, from the second half of the 2020 Autumn Term through to the end of the 2021 Summer Term, 51 virtual courses/sessions were held and in total 682 Vale governors attended. That is 12 more courses than have ever been held previously and 117 more Vale governors trained during an academic year than the previous record, when 565 governors attended 39 courses during the 2017/18 academic year.
- 2.2 As well as the 51 courses/sessions provided there were also a number of drop-in sessions held throughout the year by the Central South Consortium (CSC) that attracted high numbers of governors. Unfortunately, although the numbers of attendees for these sessions were recorded, the names and local authorities these governors were from were not recorded so that information is not included within this report.
- 2.3 Although a record number of Vale governors attended training sessions during the 2020/21 academic year the completion of evaluation forms was significantly down on previous years at 49.5%. This is a pattern reflected with other virtual training courses run by both CSC (average 50%) and other local authorities across the region and despite the fact that the Vale virtual evaluation form at Appendix A is only a few questions and one page long. Although Appendix A appears as 2 pages that is due to the print layout, it is only 1 page online.

- 2.4** Another factor this year in the reduced number of evaluations received is that CSC significantly changed their evaluation form, which had previously mirrored the Vale’s evaluation form. Therefore, it is not possible to record responses from CSC and Vale run courses in a single analysis as has happened in previous years. The Vale’s evaluation form asks 3 questions whereas the revised CSC evaluation form asks 7 questions, none of which are compatible. We also did not circulate evaluation forms for the 2 Education Update & Briefing Sessions held in December 2020 and June 2021 where a total of 93 governors attended.
- 2.5** In terms of consistency with this report in previous years, 140 evaluations were received from 283 governors attending 16 Vale run courses during the 2020/21 academic year and a summary table of the data from these evaluations is included below. Whilst these percentages are lower than in previous years, they all still exceed 90% of governors saying the courses were either good or very good. The actual number of attendees per course is provided at Appendix B.

Question	% of good or very good evaluations
How well did the course meet its stated aims and objectives?	92.76
How useful was the course content to your needs?	90.45
How effective were the course providers?	93.20

- 2.6** In conclusion, despite Covid 19 and its restrictions, training opportunities for Vale governors were not adversely affected and in fact a record number of governors attended a record number of training sessions/courses during the 2020/21 academic year as previously referenced at paragraph 2.1.
- 2.7** Going forward, governor training opportunities will continue to be held virtually during at least the Autumn Term 2021 due to the current uncertainty and it will be reviewed accordingly. A survey has been circulated to all Vale governors seeking their views on future governor training provision, virtual, physical or a combination of both, preferred times (if virtual) and suggestions for future courses. This feedback will inform governor training provision for the 2021/22 academic year.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Courses held	Governors attended	Evaluations received
2014/15	97.20%	94.30%	95.80%	29	457	359 (78.6%)
2015/16	97.60%	96.30%	97.30%	31	490	437 (89.2%)
2016/17	98.50%	97.30%	98.60%	30	437	397 (90.8%)
2017/18	98.10%	97.60%	97.80%	39	565	484 (85.7%)
2018/19	96.30%	95.80%	97.80%	32	535	465 (86.9%)
2019/20	98.60%	96.90%	98.80%	15	289	251 (86.9%)
2020/21	92.76%	90.45%	91.49%	51	682	*140 (49.5%)

*This figure relates to 140 evaluations received from 283 governors attending 16 Vale courses which is considerably lower than in previous years but is attributable to far less governors completing virtual evaluations as explained at paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the 2015 Act”) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of ‘Working Together for a Brighter Future’. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:
- Objective 1 - To work with and for our communities
 - Objective 2 - To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
 - Objective 3 - To support people at home and in their community
 - Objective 4 - To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** Governor training is an essential component of the school improvement agenda and it is a statutory requirement that all Local Authorities provide it. It enables governors to fulfil their roles effectively by challenging schools to improve and contributes to the Council's Wellbeing Objective 2: To support learning, employment and sustainable growth by raising overall standards of achievement.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** All training was delivered by Council or Consortium employees online so there were no additional costs for delivery.

Employment

- 4.2** None.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3** All Local Authorities must provide training for governors in accordance with The Education Measure (Wales) 2011 to enable them to fulfil their roles. Mandatory elements for induction, data, chair and clerk training are required by The Government of Maintained Schools (Training Requirements for Governors) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
- 4.4** Governor training opportunities within the medium of Welsh will continue to be available during the 2021/22 academic year.

5. Background Papers

The Education Measure (Wales) 2011.

The Government of Maintained Schools (Training Requirements for Governors) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

Appendix A

Evaluation form of Safeguarding virtual governor training - Thu 8 Jul at 5.30pm

1. Name

2. School

3. How well did the course meet its stated aims and objectives?

- Very good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

8/2/2021

4. How useful was the course content to your needs?

- Very good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

5. How effective was/were the course provider(s)?

- Very good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

6. Additional comments?

Appendix B

Date	Course	No. attended	Evaluations rec'd (% completed)	Q1 good or very good	Q2 good or very good	Q3 good or very good
AUTUMN TERM 2020						
12 Nov	Safeguarding	29	6 (20.7%)	100%	83.3%	100%
18 Nov	Pupil Exclusions	26	6 (23.1%)	100%	100%	100%
Totals	2 courses	55	12			
			21.9%	100%	91.7%	100%
SPRING TERM 2021						
27 Jan	Safeguarding	13	9 (69.20%)	100%	100%	100%
3 Feb	Redundancy	11	3 (27.3%)	66.7%	100%	66.7%
9 Feb	Pupil Voice & UNCRC	26	9 (34.6%)	100%	100%	100%
25 Feb	Pupil Exclusions	22	12 (54.5%)	91.7%	91.7%	100%
3 Mar	Internet Safety	19	10 (52.6%)	90%	70%	70%
8 Mar	Equality	25	16 (64%)	62.5%	62.5%	75%
18 Mar	Safeguarding	21	8 (38.1%)	100%	87.5%	100%
23 Mar	ACEs	25	15 (60%)	100%	93.3%	93.3%
Totals	8 courses	162	82			
			50.0%	88.9%	88.1%	88.1%
SUMMER TERM 2021						
18 May	Finance	21	16 (76.2%)	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%
9 Jun	ACEs	9	7 (77.8%)	85.7%	71.4%	71.4%
16 Jun	CME/EHE	15	12 (80%)	100%	100%	100%
21 Jun	H&S	11	7 (63.6%)	100%	100%	100%
8 Jul	Safeguarding	8	2 (25%)	100%	100%	100%
20 Aug	Clerk	2	2 (100%)	100%	100%	100%
Totals	6 courses	66	46 so far			
			70.4%	95.5%	93.2%	93.2%
2020/21	16 courses	283	140 evaluations			
		2020/21 Totals	140 evaluations received for 16 courses	1,484.10 divided by 16 courses = 92.76%	1,447.20 divided by 16 courses = 90.45%	1,463.90 divided by 16 courses = 91.49%

2020/21 Summary table of above data from 140 completed evaluation forms for 16 courses

Question	2020/21 % of good or very good so far
1. How well did the course meet its stated aims and objectives?	92.76
2. How useful was the course content to your needs?	90.45
3. How effective were the course providers?	91.49