

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 06 October 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Governor Training Report for the 2021/22 Academic Year
Purpose of Report:	To report on governor training for the 2021/22 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 2021/22 academic year. • Despite Covid 19 and its continuing restrictions, training opportunities for Vale governors were not adversely affected during the 2021/22 academic year. A record number of governors attended a record number of training sessions/courses. A summary of attendance over the last 8 years is provided within the report. • 81 virtual courses/sessions were held, and 753 Vale governors attended last academic year. This is an increase of an additional 30 courses and 71 more Vale governors trained during an academic year than the previous record in 2020/21. 	

Recommendations

1. That the 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 and its continuing restrictions it was not possible to hold any in-person governor training sessions during the 2021/22 academic year. However, we were able to offer 81 virtual courses/sessions and in total 753 Vale governors attended. That is 30 more courses than have ever been held previously and 71 more Vale governors trained during an academic year than the previous record, when 682 governors attended 51 courses during the 2020/21 academic year.
- 2.2 Although a record number of Vale governors attended training sessions during the 2021/22 academic year the completion of evaluation forms was still down on previous pre-Covid years at 60.4%, although this was up from 49.5% in 2020/21 which was also affected by Covid. This is a pattern reflected with other virtual training courses run by both the Central South Consortium (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.
- 2.3 Another factor 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 2021 and June 2022 where a total of 64 governors attended.

2.4 In terms of consistency with this report in previous years, 160 evaluations were received from 265 governors attending 21 Vale run courses during the 2021/22 academic year and a summary table of the data from these evaluations is included below. Whilst these percentages are slightly lower than in previous pre-Covid years, they all still well 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?	93.81
How useful was the course content to your needs?	92.67
How effective were the course providers?	93.61

2.5 In conclusion, despite Covid 19 and its continuing 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 2021/22 academic year as previously referenced at paragraph 2.1.

2.6 Going forward, governor training opportunities will continue to be held virtually during at least the Autumn Term 2022, but we will continue to monitor the situation going forward to inform future governor training provision and a number of new courses are being provided during the 2022/23 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%)
2021/22	93.81%	92.67	93.61	81	753	*160 (60.4%)

+This figure relates to 140 evaluations received from 283 governors attending 16 Vale courses during the 2020/21 academic year.

*This figure relates to 160 evaluations received from 265 governors attending 21 Vale courses during the 2021/22 academic year.

These figures are considerably lower than in previous pre-Covid 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 supporting and 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. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** With all training being held virtually during the 2021/22 academic year the environmental impact has been reduced due to governors and trainers no longer needing to drive to venues.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

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

Employment

- 5.2** There are no employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** 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.
- 5.4** Governor training opportunities within the medium of Welsh will continue to be available during the 2022/23 academic year.

6. 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 2021						
20 Oct	Reduced timetables/PSPs	11	10 (90.9%)	90%	90%	90%
3 Nov	Trauma Informed	22	11 (50%)	100%	81.8%	100%
9 Nov	Disciplinary Proce	26	17 (65.4%)	100%	100%	100%
15 Nov	New Curriculum	28	15 (53.6%)	93.3%	100%	93.3%
18 Nov	Substance misuse	11	8 (72.7%)	87.5%	87.5%	75%
24 Nov	Restrictive interv	12	6 (50%)	100%	100%	83.3%
7 Dec	Safeguarding L1	20	10 (50%)	100%	100%	100%
	Totals for term	130	77 (59.2%)	95.8%	94.2%	91.7%
SPRING TERM 2022						
25 Jan	Safeguarding L2	32	20 (62.5%)	90%	90%	90%
3 Feb	Clerk	1	1 (100%)	100%	100%	100%
17 Feb	Clerk	2	2 (100%)	100%	100%	100%
1 Mar	ACEs	13	7 (38.5%)	100%	100%	100%
10 Mar	CME/EHE	14	8 (57.1%)	87.5%	87.5%	100%
16 Mar	Finance/School budgets	13	8 (61.5%)	75%	62.5%	87.5%
22 Mar	Pupil Voice & UNCRC	11	5 (45.5%)	100%	100%	100%
31 Mar	Safeguarding L1	12	9 (75.0%)	100%	100%	100%
	Totals for term	98	60 (67.5%)	94.1%	92.5%	97.2%
SUMMER TERM 2022						
13 May	Clerk	1	1 (100%)	100%	100%	100%
4 Jul	H&S	8	3 (37.5%)	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%
7 Jul	Safeguarding L1	10	4 (40%)	100%	100%	100%
12 Jul	Pupil Exclusions	5	4 (80%)	100%	100%	100%
14 Jul	Safeguarding L2	12	10 (83.3%)	80%	80%	80%
17 Aug	Clerk	1	1 (100%)	100%	100%	100%
	Totals for term	37	23	91.1%	91.1%	91.1%
Overall 2021/22 totals	21 courses	265	160	1,970 divided by 21 courses = 93.81	1,946 divided by 21 courses = 92.67	1,965.80 divided by 21 courses = 93.61

2021/22 Summary table of above data from 160 completed evaluation forms for 21 courses

Question	2021/22 % of good or very good so far
1. How well did the course meet its stated aims and objectives?	93.81
2. How useful was the course content to your needs?	92.67
3. How effective were the course providers?	93.61