

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 12 October 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Governor Training Report for the 2022/23 Academic Year
Purpose of Report:	To report on governor training for the 2022/23 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 2022/23 academic year. • During the 2022/23 academic year a record number of Vale governors attended a record number of training sessions/courses. A summary of attendance over the last 9 years is provided within the report. • 87 virtual courses/sessions were held, and 756 Vale governors attended last academic year. This beats the previous record of 81 courses/sessions held and 753 Vale governors attended during the 2021/22 academic year. 	

Recommendation

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

Reason for Recommendation

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 During the 2022/23 academic year we were able to offer 87 virtual courses/sessions and in total 756 Vale governors attended. This beats the previous record of 81 courses/sessions held and 753 governors attended during the 2021/22 academic year.
- 2.2 Although a record number of Vale governors attended training sessions during the 2022/23 academic year the completion of evaluation forms was still down on previous pre-Covid years at 59.1%, although this was only slightly down from 60.4% in 2021/22. 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 in 2020, 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 2022 and June 2023 where a total of 75 governors attended.
- 2.4 In terms of consistency with this report in previous years, 127 evaluations were received from 215 governors attending 20 Vale run courses during the 2022/23 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?	94.28
How useful was the course content to your needs?	94.84
How effective were the course providers?	95.34

2.5 In conclusion, a record number of governors attended a record number of training sessions/courses during the 2022/23 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 2023, 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 2023/24 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%)
2022/23	94.28	94.84	95.34	87	756	#127 (59.1%)

+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.

#This figure relates to 127 evaluations received from 215 governors attending 20 Vale courses during the 2022/23 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 2015 Act places an emphasis on prevention, early intervention, reducing the risk children are exposed to.
- 3.3** 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
- 3.4** 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 2022/23 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 (Wales) Measure 2011, which includes provisions to allow Welsh Ministers to make Regulations to make governor training mandatory on specific issues, 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 2023/24 academic year.
- 5.5 The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on GB's to ensure the education setting meets the requirements of equality legislation.

6. Background Papers

[The Education \(Wales\) Measure 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?

8/2/2021

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 2022						
29 Sep	Clerk	1	1 (100%)	100%	100%	100%
27 Oct	Safeguarding L1	17	6 (35.3%)	100%	100%	100%
8 Nov	Safer recruitment	9	4 (54.4%)	100%	100%	100%
9 Nov	Equality	13	10 (76.9%)	90%	90%	100%
15 Nov	Young Carers	11	9 (81.8%)	100%	100%	100%
22 Nov	Attendance	15	11 (73.3%)	90.1%	90.1%	90.1%
29 Nov	Children Looked After	16	11 (68.8%)	100%	100%	100%
8 Dec	DSG's Level 2	20	9 (45%)	77.8%	88.9%	88.9%
Totals so far	8 courses	102	61 (59.8%)	94.7%	96.1%	97.4%
SPRING TERM 2023						
10 Jan	Pupil Exclusions	9	7 (88.9%)	100%	100%	100%
31 Jan	CME/EHE	10	6 (60%)	83.3%	83.3%	83.3%
7 Feb	Redundancy	12	5 (41.7%)	100%	100%	100%
6 Mar	Safeguarding	18	18 (100%)	94.4%	94.4%	94.4%
9 Mar	Clerk	1	1 (100%)	100%	100%	100%
13 Mar	Finance/School budgets	9	8 (77.8%)	100%	100%	100%
29 Mar	DSGs L2 Safeguarding	10	7 (70%)	100%	100%	100%
Totals so far	7 courses	69	52 (75.4%)	96.8%	96.8%	96.8%
SUMMER TERM 2023						
23 May	Pupil Voice/UNCRC	6	1 (16.7%)	100%	100%	100%
15 Jun	Equality	9	5 (55.6%)	100%	100%	100%
21 Jun	Internet Safety	6	3 (50.0%)	100%	100%	100%
4 Jul	ACEs	12	3 (25%)	100%	100%	100%
10 Jul	H&S	11	2 (16.7%)	50%	50%	50%
Totals so far	5 courses	44	14 (31.8%)	90%	90%	90%

Overall 2022/23 totals	20 courses	215	127 (59.1%)	1,885.60 divided by 20 courses = 94.28	1,896.70 divided by 20 courses = 94.84	1,906.70 divided by 20 courses = 95.34
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2022/23 Summary table of above data from 127 completed evaluation forms for 20 Vale courses

Question	2022/23 (% of good or very good)
1. How well did the course meet its stated aims and objectives?	94.28
2. How useful was the course content to your needs?	94.84
3. How effective were the course providers?	95.34