

Public Document Pack

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Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraidd



To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Chairman)

CS/NG

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Amanda Bragg,
Adele Davies-Cooke, Ian Dunbar, Ron Hampson,
Stella Jones, Colin Legg, Phil Lightfoot,
Dave Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Ann Minshull,
Paul Shotton, Nigel Steele-Mortimer and
Carolyn Thomas

4 January 2013

Maureen Potter 01352 702322
maureen.potter@flintshire.gov.uk

**Carole Burgess, David Hytch, Marlene Mason,
Rita Price and Rebecca Stark**

Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
will be held in the **DELYN COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD CH7 6NA**
on **THURSDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 2013** at **2.00 PM** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

AGENDA

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**
- 3 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 10)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting.

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawau gohebiaeth yn y Cymraeg neu'r Saesneg

4 **LEISURE STRATEGY 2009 - 2014** (Pages 11 - 16)

Report of Director of Lifelong Learning

5 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 17 - 22)

To consider the draft Forward Work Programme

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO
CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The information within the report would tend to reveal expected costs to be incurred under contracts that have not yet been subject to competitive procurement.

6 **COSTS OF REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE - SCHOOL BUILDINGS** (Pages 23 - 28)

Report of Director of Lifelong Learning -

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **6 DECEMBER 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA on Thursday, 6 December 2012

PRESENT: **Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)**

Councillors M. Bateman, A. Bragg, I.A. Dunbar, R. Hampson, S. Jones, C. Legg, P. R. Lightfoot, D.I. Mackie, N. Matthews, P. Shotton, N. Steele-Mortimer and C.A. Thomas.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr. D. Hytch and Mrs C. Burgess.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors P.J. Curtis, H.T. Isherwood and P.G. Heesom

APOLOGIES: Councillors A.J. Davies-Cooke, Mrs. R. Price and Mrs. R. Stark. Chief Executive

CONTRIBUTORS: Cabinet Member for Education, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Development and Resources, Head of Culture and Leisure, Advisor for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing, Finance Manager, Arts, Culture and Events Manager, and Mr Will Pierce Energy Manager (minute no.36)

IN ATTENDANCE: Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

The Chairman advised Members of the need to declare a personal interest in school related items on the agenda if they were school or college governors. All Members present except Councillors C. Bithell, A. Bragg, R.G. Hampson, P.Shotton, I.A. Dunbar and P.R. Lightfoot (who were not school governors) declared an interest as school governors.

28. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 12 July 2012 and 20 September 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

29. VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman indicated that there would be a change in the order of the agenda and the item on the Regional School Effectiveness and

Improvement Service (RSEIS) Update would be brought forward. The remainder of the agenda would then follow in the usual order.

30. REGIONAL SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICE (RSEIS) UPDATE

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to update on progress in developing the new Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service.

The Director provided background information and advised that the North Wales school improvement approach had been in place since September 2012 with all structures scheduled to be fully operational from 1 April 2013. Consortia readiness to deliver school improvement outcomes was currently being assessed by consultants commissioned by the Welsh Government. The findings would influence a national review of structures.

During discussion the Director responded to the questions and concerns raised by Members regarding scrutiny arrangements, the process for appointment of Chief Officer and System Leaders, curriculum advice, and school modernisation.

The Director informed Members that Mrs J Dickens would be retiring at the end of December 2012. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mrs. Dickens by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee to express thanks for her hard work and best wishes for her retirement.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the update be noted; and
- (b) That a letter be sent to Mrs. Dickens by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee to express thanks for her hard work and best wishes for her retirement.

31. ESTYN LAESCYP INSPECTION – SELF EVALUATION

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to seek Member contributions to the draft 2012 self-evaluation of Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People.

The Director advised that self evaluation was based on a wide range of information about strengths and areas for improvement which was collected throughout the year. Referring to the 2012 draft Self Evaluation which was attached to the report he summarised that the key message from last year in terms of pupil achievement and attainment, continued to be good at KS3 and amongst the best at KS4. Although improving, Primary KS2 teacher assessments outcomes were not as good as they should be and too many primary schools were a cause of concern for the Authority. Standards in secondary schools were good and no secondary or special schools were

causing concern. Attendance was up and the number of permanent exclusions down.

The Director advised that Flintshire had achieved the best set of outcomes in Wales for participation 16+ with the lowest number of 'not in education, employment or training' (NEETS). However, whilst the outcomes were positive, the Authority was not complacent and he commented on the need to create more apprenticeship and employment opportunities. He added that in terms of informal learning the Duke of Edinburgh Award participation had increased significantly in Flintshire in the last year.

Councillor D.I. Mackie asked how standards in literacy and numeracy were being improved in some primary schools. In his response the Director referred to the literacy and numeracy strategies in place locally and nationally as well as the specific interventions in any school causing concern. He provided reassurance that primary strategies were most successful where carefully applied to the assessed development needs of the learner.

During discussion the Director responded to the further questions raised by Members concerning the Foundation Phase, support for pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL), the Welsh Baccalaureate, support for Welsh medium schools, and healthy schools initiative.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

32. FLINTSHIRE ARTS STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed Ms Gwenno Jones, Arts, Culture and Events Manager, to the meeting and invited her to update Members on progress with the Flintshire Arts Strategy.

The Arts, Culture and Events Manager outlined the purpose of the strategy and advised that all aims and objectives had been achieved. The current strategy covered the period 2008 to 2013 and progress to date on the actions identified in the strategy were summarised in the appendix to the report. She advised that a new strategy would be developed in January 2013 to inform future developments.

Councillor C.A Thomas commented on the excellent work undertaken by the Flintshire Arts Team and suggested there was a need for more marketing to raise awareness of the arts activities and services provided within the community and Flintshire schools.

In response to a question from the Chairman about the support available for any scheme drawn up to improve cultural tourism, the Arts, Culture and Events Manager advised that contributions varied and referred to the current budget.

Members commended Officers on their hard work and excellent achievements within the limited resources available.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

33. EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOLS UPDATE – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY 2012

The Chairman welcomed Mr. David Messum, Advisor for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing, to the meeting and invited him to present a monitoring report on exclusions from schools.

The Advisor for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing advised that data demonstrated that permanent exclusion from school was a rare occurrence in Flintshire and down to one in 2011/12. He commented on the effective communication between headteachers and the Authority to find an alternative solution to exclusion and outlined the range of strategies of support and interventions to develop the best possible standards of behaviour to promote teaching and learning.

Referring to the data for the number of fixed term and permanently excluded pupils in High schools for 2011/12 the Chairman asked if monitoring took place to ensure schools were consistent in how they applied criteria for exclusion. He also sought assurance that the procedure of using unofficial exclusions from schools did not occur in Flintshire. The Advisor for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing responded that the data presented was robust and confirmed that the use of unauthorised exclusions did not happen in Flintshire schools. He advised that work was in progress to produce guidance for schools to assist them in use and length of applying fixed term exclusions. He advised that evidence confirmed that a short term exclusion was as effective as a long term exclusion.

Councillor P. Lightfoot raised the issue of repeat offenders and asked if he could be supplied with further information regarding this matter. Mr. D. Hytch commented on the need to protect staff from violent or threatening behaviour. In response to the further concerns expressed by Members the Advisor for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing referred to the range of partnership work undertaken with the whole school community, class support, individual support, direct work with parents and pupils, and other forms of intervention to ensure every child and young person received maximum benefit to achieve their potential.

The Cabinet Member for Education commented that those schools who addressed the challenge of supporting pupils with behavioural and emotional difficulties were to be commended for their hard work and dedication.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

34. SCHOOL BALANCES

The Chairman introduced Lucy Morris, Finance Manager, and invited her to report to Members on the year end balances of Flintshire Schools and outline the action being taken by Officers to ensure that balances are maintained at an acceptable level.

The individual balances for Flintshire schools at the end of March 2012 were identified in the appendix to the report. The Finance Manager reported on the position for Flintshire schools which showed a decrease of £289k in overall balances. She also referred to a decrease of £318k in Secondary School balances, an increase in Primary School balances of £121k and an increase in Specialist school balances of £7k.

The Finance Manager advised that the Scheme for Financing Schools (section 4 – Treatment of Surpluses and Deficits) had been revised in May 2012 following extensive consultation to ensure a robust approach to dealing with this matter. She referred to the scrutiny of surplus school balances and the issue of licensed deficits and commented on the guidance set out in the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 and the action which should be taken by the Local Authority to address excess school balances.

During discussion concerns were expressed around the fixed limits set out in the Regulations for primary and secondary surplus balances and it was suggested and agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of the Committee to the Minister to request that the limit for surplus balances for schools be set at 5% of balances rather than a fixed amount.

In response to the further questions and concerns raised by Members the Finance Manager advised that School Fund Accounts were held separately from the schools delegated budget. She explained that the Authority was currently revising regulations for School Fund Accounts to assist schools in managing their private school funds and a report was to be submitted to the Audit Committee shortly to seek regulation of School Fund Accounts.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That a letter be sent on behalf of the Committee to the Minister to request that the limit for surplus balances for schools be set at 5% of balances rather than a fixed amount.

35. QUARTER 2 SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The Director introduced a report to request that the Committee consider the 2012/13 Quarter 2 service reports for the period July-September 2012.

Schools' Services

The Director highlighted the key considerations and performance across all work streams and invited Members to submit questions.

In response to a question from Councillor C.A. Thomas concerning the Music Service the Director advised there were no plans to increase charges to parents, however, there was a funding gap in the cost of service provision and he referred to a review of the service to be held next year. Councillor Thomas suggested that the Music Service be included as an item on the forward work programme for future consideration by the Committee.

Development and Resources

The Director gave an update on the school modernisation – area schools review. He reported on the outcomes of consultations based on one preferred option for the Queensferry, Shotton and Connah's Quay Area, Holywell Area, and Buckley, Mynydd Isa and Mold Area. The current period of consultations would close on 21 December 2012. The Director advised that arrangements were also in progress for consultations to be held in the New Year concerning provision for Post 16 education in the Flint and Saltney areas.

Statutory Notice had been published for the proposed closure of Ysgol Rhes y Cae and 2 objections had been received and as a result the proposal had been submitted to the Minister for consideration. The Director also reported on consultation to be undertaken regarding proposals to amalgamate Penyffordd Infants and Junior Schools.

During discussion the Director and Head of Development and Resources responded to questions concerning asset management, mobile classrooms, capital funding, and repair and maintenance of school buildings.

In response to a concern raised by Councillor D.I. Mackie regarding the proposals for sixth form provision in the future the Director advised that the Authority along with others had a strategic decision making responsibility to address Post 16 restructure. The current provision was not appropriate to ensure young people in the County had the breadth of curriculum opportunities that are needed and required by statute.

Culture and Leisure

The Head of Culture and Leisure gave an overview of key messages across work streams in Culture and Leisure highlighted performance in service areas.

Councillor C.A. Thomas referred to match funding for play areas next year. She said Town and Community Councils had received letters notifying them of a reduction in grant funding for Summer play schemes. The Head of Culture and Leisure responded that Town and Community Councils could put in additional funding, or other options included holding schemes over a 3 week period rather than 5 as attendance numbers often dropped off at the end of the school holidays.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

36. SALIX SCHEME

The Chairman invited Councillor H.T. Isherwood to join the Committee to outline her concerns regarding the Salix scheme in schools.

Councillor Isherwood explained that a number of headteachers had signed a loan agreement to go ahead with the scheme without informing their Governing Body as they had mistakenly assumed, due to the wording of the application form, that the applicant was the Authority's Energy Unit. She stated that headteachers were only able to sign agreements if empowered to do so under the School's Scheme of Delegation.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Will Pierce, Energy Manager, and invited him to respond to the comments and concerns raised by Councillor Isherwood concerning the operation of the Salix and Authority 'spend to save' schemes to support energy reduction in schools. Mr. Pierce advised that the issue raised by Councillor Isherwood had been addressed and the application form for the Salix loan agreement had been amended to also include authorisation by the Chair of Governors. He advised that the Energy Unit had developed a protocol which had just been issued to schools to ensure they had a clear understanding of the scheme prior to signing up. In conclusion Mr Pierce highlighted the positive benefits and savings to be achieved as a result of participating in the scheme which had been successfully operated in Flintshire schools for a number of years.

The Chairman welcomed the fact that a protocol had been drawn up to ensure that headteachers and schools had clarity prior to signing up to the Scheme.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

37. HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

The Head of Culture and Leisure Services introduced a report on accidents and incidents in schools during September 2011 to August 2012 and a summary of the high level actions taken by the Council to support schools in achieving healthy and safe learning environments.

During discussion Officers responded to the questions and concerns raised around the issue of road safety and parental parking outside school gates. Mr. D. Hytch commented on the model Health and Safety policy which was available on the 'moodle' website and said that bilingual provision should also be made available. In response to a question from the Chairman concerning asbestos in school roofing materials, the Director advised that the Authority had a full and active procedure in place for monitoring and addressing evidence of asbestos in schools.

It was agreed that a report on Health and Safety in Schools be submitted to the Committee on an annual basis.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That a report on Health and Safety in Schools be submitted to the Committee on an annual basis.

38. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. Members reviewed the current programme and agreed that the following items would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 10 January 2013:

- Leisure Strategy
- Healthy Schools
- Cost of repairs and maintenance – school buildings

It was also agreed that an item on school governance be included on the Forward Work Programme for future consideration by the Committee and that all Members be invited to join the meeting for discussion on the item. An item on the School Music Service would also be scheduled on the Programme for consideration by Members.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be agreed;
- (b) That an item on school governance be included on the Forward Work Programme for future consideration by the Committee and that all Members be invited to join the meeting for discussion on the item; and

(c) That an item on the School Music Service also be scheduled on the Programme for consideration by Members.

39. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and ended at 5.30 pm.

40. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the press or public in attendance.

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Chairman

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: THURSDAY, 10 JANUARY 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING
SUBJECT: LEISURE STRATEGY 2009 - 2014

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of progress to date regarding the achievement of the three key strategic priorities identified in the County Council's Leisure Strategy 2009-14.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 On 1 April 2009, the then Executive endorsed Flintshire County Council's Leisure Strategy - *an actif future* - thereby providing the Authority with a sport and physical activity vision and strategic direction for the next five years.

2.02 The Leisure Strategy identified three key strategic priorities:

- Increasing participation in physical activity and enabling the Flintshire Community to develop its potential in sport;
- Quality management of leisure facilities; and
- Renewal of the County's leisure provision.

The Strategy was underpinned by a five-year work programme which supported progress towards the delivery of the three key strategic priorities.

2.03 The Leisure Strategy is aligned to other sport and physical activity-related County Council strategies that serve as a local response to the national agenda:

LOCAL	NATIONAL
Creating an Active Flintshire 2011-14	WG Creating an Active Wales 2009
Flintshire Sports Plan	Sport Wales's Vision for Sport in Wales
Flintshire Play Strategy 2011-14	WG Play Policy Implementation Plan 2006

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 In the four years since the Leisure Strategy was published, progress relating to the achievement of the three key strategic priorities has been as follows:

Increasing participation in physical activity and enabling the Flintshire Community to develop its potential in sport

3.02 The number of visits to our leisure centres, where the visitor has participated in physical activity, has increased from 1,239,666 in 2009/10 to 1,310,685 in 2010/11 to 1,357,751 in 2011/12.

3.03 The total number of recorded attendances at school-based and club Dragon Sport sessions (7-11 years of age) has increased from 11,107 in 2009/10 to 24,774 in 2011/12.

3.04 The total number of recorded attendances at leisure centre-based Dragon Sport summer camps has increased from 1,992 in 2010 to 4,731 in 2012.

3.05 *Active 8-16*, the physical activity on referral initiative for young people aged 8-16 years with social, emotional or physical difficulties, saw a 52.5% increase between 2010/11 and 2011/12 in the number of clients completing the referral period or taking up other activities.

3.06 Disability Sport in Flintshire grew significantly between 2010/11 to 2011/12, with the number of participatory opportunities increasing from 23,387 to 28,779; the number of clubs increasing from 16 to 19; the number of club members increasing from 254 to 449; and the number of active coaches increasing from 73 to 83.

3.07 Attendance figures for the Play Unit's free access Summer Play Scheme programme increased from 26,837 in 2009 to 26,920 in 2010 to 27,806 in 2011. During summer 2012, Play Scheme attendances exceeded 30,000 for the first time ever. 32,785 visits were recorded during the 5-week summer programme.

3.08 The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) has operated in its current format since 2008 and is funded by the Welsh Government in partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association, Local Authorities, Public Health Wales and Local Health Boards. Flintshire's NERS received 658 referrals in 2011/12 compared with 509 in 2010/11. This represents the Scheme's highest number of referrals to date since the current format commenced in 2008/9. The three main referring professionals to the Scheme are GPs, Physiotherapists and Practice Nurses, with GPs accounting for 44% of all referrals. In 2011/12, 53% of all referred clients completed the Scheme's 16-week programme.

- 3.09 During 2010/11, the administration of children's swimming lesson waiting lists was centralised with the Leisure Management System Team, thereby removing individual waiting lists at the five pool sites. Though parents wishing to add their child's name to the waiting list are still able to express a site preference for swimming lessons, the centralisation of the database has increased the promotion and awareness of available places at alternative sites. This option has proved acceptable to many parents and, as a consequence, waiting lists have been significantly reduced.

Quality management of leisure facilities

- 3.10 In December 2010, *Sport Flintshire*, the County's Sports Development Team, transferred from School Services to the Leisure Services section. The integration of the Sports Development Team within Leisure Services was a key recommendation in the Leisure Strategy and has been an extremely positive move in marrying the buildings and 'space' within leisure facilities with the client base and developmental instincts of the Sports Development Team.
- 3.11 During 2011/12, the Leisure Services' presence on the County Council website was reviewed with existing web pages revamped and new web pages introduced. The number of Leisure Centres' and Sports Development web pages has subsequently increased from 18 to 38. The new web pages, together with the customer on-line booking facility, were launched in mid-February 2012.

SiteImprove website analysis reports, utilised by Corporate I.T., state that the Leisure Services' web pages received **47,697** unique hits (new and returning users) during Quarter 2 2012/13 compared with **24,737** during Quarter 2 2011/12; a **92.82%** increase.

Net income from on-line bookings during Quarter 2 was £2,510.07, a **64.56%** increase on the figure of £889.53 recorded in the previous Quarter. At the end of Quarter 2, 105 unique customers had booked and paid on-line for a leisure centre activity; this compares with 51 unique customers at the end of Quarter 1.

Renewal of the County's leisure provision

- 3.12 In June 2010, following a robust procurement process, Flintshire County Council signed a four-year Partnering Agreement with *Alliance Leisure Services* for the re-development of some of its leisure centres. To date, circa £8 million has been invested in two leisure centre sites: Deeside (£5.5 million) and Jade Jones Pavilion, Flint (£2.5 million). Deeside Leisure Centre is now a sports facility of national significance and boasts an ice rink (National Centre for Ice Sports), Afon Spa (the first day spa in Wales), and Evolution Extreme

(the first indoor extreme sports arena in Wales and one of the largest of its type in Europe). The Jade Jones Pavilion is now a regional indoor bowling centre with an 8 lane ten pin bowling alley and a 4 lane flat green bowling rink.

The five-year income share agreements for the County Council's four fitness suites, which commenced in April 2011, and the extension of *Alliance Leisure Services'* sales and marketing training to all operational leisure centre employees, has produced significant results in terms of increased income.

Leisure Services' income increased by £220,000 (or 6.13%) in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11. This was largely due to a significant increase (79%) in fitness income, a key joint target area for growth for Leisure Services and *Alliance Leisure Services*. Total income in the re-developed areas of Deeside Leisure Centre increased by 54.39% in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11.

- 3.13 Commencing in 2010/11 and continuing in 2011/12 and 2012/13, an improvement scheme for children's play areas based upon a match-funding agreement between the County Council and Town & Community Councils has resulted in the County Council contributing £275k (a match-funded total of £550k) towards enhanced fixed play provision. By the end of 2012/13, 44 children's play areas, a quarter of the County's stock, will have benefited from upgrading works.

The match-funding scheme is a response to the Play Areas Survey conducted by *Play Safe & Space Consultancy* and completed in November 2010. The survey, commissioned by Leisure Services, assessed 172 fixed equipment play areas and 26 link sites for usage, quality, condition, access and wider strategic importance, and provides the County Council with a considerable evidence base to inform its future investment programme for children's play areas.

- 3.14 Leisure Services faces a number of ongoing challenges. The financial performance of the new facilities developed in partnership with Alliance Leisure Services, although encouraging, has not yet met the original income projections as presented to Executive in 2011. Projections are being revised based on actual trading data. There are a number of other financial pressures including increasing costs for goods and services, reduced income from the ice rink and a delayed staffing restructure which is being reviewed to achieve a sustainable staffing budget and structure.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to receive the progress report and note its contents.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 No direct implications as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The initiative described at 3.07 provides free access to quality play provision throughout the County.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 No direct implications as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The initiatives described at 3.05 and 3.06 improve access to leisure services for disabled people.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 No direct implications as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None required as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None in the production of this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **10 JANUARY 2013**

REPORT BY: **LEARNING & SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

SUBJECT: **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Executive for consultation purposes, or by County Council, or Directors. Other possible items are identified from the Executive Work Programme and the Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges.

2.02 In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful or a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:

1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?
2. Are there issues of weak or poor performance?
3. How, where and why were the issues identified?
4. Do local communities think the issues are important and is there any evidence of this? Is there evidence of public dissatisfaction?
5. Is there new Government guidance or legislation?
6. Have inspections been carried out?
7. Is this area already the subject of an ongoing review?

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work Programme of the Committees of which they are members. By reviewing and prioritising the forward work programme Members are able to ensure it is member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 and approve/amend as necessary.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

N/A

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

Contact Officer: Margaret Parry-Jones
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Email: Margaret.Parry-Jones@Flintshire.gov.uk

DRAFT

Date	Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/ Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
14 February	Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire Schools	Annual update report to review progress	Monitoring Report	Director of Lifelong Learning	4 February
	Pupil Attainment	To provide members with a summary of pupil attainment across primary and secondary school phases for the school year.	Monitoring Report	Director of Lifelong Learning	
	Saltney Library update	To provide members with a report on the progress made regarding the planning and funding for the relocation of Saltney Library.	Progress report	Director of Lifelong Learning	

Date	Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/ Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
21 March Joint meeting With Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny	Q3 Performance Reporting	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring	Performance Monitoring	Director of Lifelong Learning	11 March
	Educational attainment of Looked After Children	To receive the annual educational attainment report	Performance Monitoring	Director of Lifelong Learning	
	Children and Young People Partnership	To provide Members with the annual update.	Progress Report	Director of Lifelong Learning	
	Corporate Parenting Activity Update	To provide an update to Members on Corporate Parenting Activity.	Monitoring Report	Director of Community Services	
	Young Carers	To inform Members how services identify and provide specialist support for young carers in Flintshire.		Director of Community Services/Director of Lifelong Learning	
25 April	To be agreed				
6 June	Q4/Year end performance reporting				
11 July	To be agreed				

Regular monitoring reports

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
February	Pupil Attainment	To provide Members with a summary of pupil attainment across primary and secondary school phases for the school year.	Director of Lifelong Learning
March	Children & Young People Plan	Monitoring report	Director of Lifelong Learning
March	Educational Attainment of Looked After Children	To receive the annual educational attainment report (joint meeting with Social & Health)	Director of Lifelong Learning
Feb/March	Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire Schools	Annual update report to review progress	Director of Lifelong Learning
November 2010 onwards	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by school at the end of the financial year	Director of Lifelong Learning
November	School Exclusions	Annual monitoring report to ensure effective mechanisms remain in place for exclusions, together with appropriate levels of intervention and support	Director of Lifelong Learning
December	Health & Safety In Schools	To receive a summary report on accidents and incidents in schools during the academic year and the actions taken to support schools in achieving healthy and safe environments. (monitoring report)	
Quarterly	Performance Monitoring	To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Chief Executive/Director of Lifelong Learning

Item to be Scheduled

Regional Transport update
 School Music Service

Special Meeting – Governance Training (March)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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