

**JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 MARCH 2013**

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Lifelong Learning and Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at Alyn & Deeside Room, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA on Thursday, 21 March 2013

PRESENT:

Councillors Amanda Bragg, Peter Curtis, Ian Dunbar, Carol Ellis, Veronica Gay, Ron Hampson, Stella Jones, Brian Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Gareth Roberts, Ian Roberts, Ian Smith, Paul Shotton, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, Carolyn Thomas, David Wisinger, David Hytch, Mrs. R. Price, Stephanie Williams and Robin Guest

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: David Hytch and Rita Price

SUBSTITUTES: Councillors Patrick Heesom (for Phil Lightfoot) and R.J.T. Guest for N.M. Matthews

APOLOGIES: Councillors Marion Bateman, Ann Minshull, Carole Burgess and Rebecca Stark.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors B. Mullin and A.P. Shotton

CONTRIBUTORS: Cabinet Member for Education, Cabinet Member for Social Services, Director of Lifelong Learning, Director of Community Services, Head of Children's Services, Children and Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator and Families First Lead.

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator, and Committee Officer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were sought for a Chairman for the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C.A. Ellis be nominated as Chairman for the meeting

2. 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 R.C. Bithell, A. Bragg, A.I. Dunbar, P.G. Heesom and P. Shotton (who were not school governors) declared an interest as school governors.

3. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report on the progress of the Flintshire Children and Young People's Plan "Making a Positive Difference 2011-2014" as the vehicle for Flintshire to deliver the Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy 2011, and as the catalyst to commission collaborative strategic projects. He invited Ann Roberts, Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Co-ordinator and Families First Lead, to give further detail on the development of the Plan.

The CYPP Co-ordinator provided background information and referred to the key considerations in the report. She advised that the Flying Start plan had been agreed by the Welsh Government and was being delivered and supporting families. The Communities First and the Health Social Care and Wellbeing plans had significant cross over to the CYPP plan with some agreed shared priorities. All three plans enhanced each other to deliver the best outcomes for children, young people and families.

The CYPP Co-ordinator referred to the Families First Plan which was a delivery plan for the CYPP and informed the CYPP about the level of vulnerable families in Flintshire. It was also informed by a mapping profile of services for families with a disabled child. The Co-ordinator explained that the CYPP took an active part in the recent Estyn Monitoring Visit to demonstrate to inspectors how the whole CYPP worked in an outcomes focussed approach to all delivery.

The Coordinator distributed copies of the Families First in Flintshire Programme Overview for members' information.

During discussion the Director of Lifelong Learning and CYPP Co-ordinator responded to the questions and concerns raised by members around how families and young people in need of support were identified and how they gained access to the information and services provided.

Councillor P.G. Heesom raised concerns regarding admission arrangements in schools, and also referred to communities which had a high number of families with recognised needs. The Director agreed to provide further explanation to Councillor Heesom on the schools admission policy following the meeting. He gave an assurance that the services which had been outlined by the CYPP Co-ordinator to help families and young people were available county wide.

The CYPP Co-ordinator commented on the need to capture the overall performance of interventions and track consistently the progress of children and young people. She referred to the benefit of early bespoke interventions with families which made measurable contributions to improved educational outcomes for learners. However, the early intervention work by wider support services with learners and their families was not known or built on by schools or school improvement services. She advised that there was a need for awareness to be raised through schools and suggested that school governing bodies could assist in this respect. Members were informed that a referral training programme was

provided to individuals and it was suggested by Councillor V. Gay that it would be helpful if this could be included in the School Governor Development Training Programme produced by the Lifelong Learning directorate.

Councillor S. Jones expressed a concern around the cost of providing referral training. The CYPP Co-ordinator explained that funding had been secured from the Welsh Government for a period of 18 months for informing and training people and that additional funding was expected in the future.

The Director of Lifelong Learning and CYPP Co-ordinator responded to the further queries raised by members concerning how families who did not wish to respond to the referral process were supported, the mechanisms in place for recording the source of referrals, and how the Local Service Board could be more demanding of the outcomes of the CYPP.

The CYPP Co-ordinator commented that it was anticipated that there would be an increase in referrals in future as a result of changes in the Welfare Reform and improved information and knowledge amongst communities.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the update be noted;
- (b) That the Families First Programme Overview attached to the report be noted; and
- (b) That a report on how the views for securing further improvement from Estyn can be implemented be submitted to a future meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. FAMILIES FIRST

The Children and Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator introduced a report to inform Members of the progress and ongoing development of the Families First Programme and the transition from the Cymorth Programme to the Families First Programme which had been completed.

The CYPP Co-ordinator provided background information and referred to the key considerations in the report. She advised that the Families First programme aimed to build on best practice in the development of integrated service models to deliver preventative and early intervention approaches which targeted families most in need. She also reported that the Family and Adolescent Support Team (FAST) provided a range of family centred interventions.

Members were informed that following guidance from the Welsh Government (WG) each local authority was required to submit a Families First Plan. An updated Flintshire Families First Plan had been approved by the WG for roll out in April 2013. A key element of the Plan was the development of the Team Around the Family (TAF) which had supported over a 100 families and worked with local services and support to co-ordinate a holistic whole family

support approach via the implementation of TAF meetings and interventions for the most vulnerable families. The Flintshire Families First Plan focused on national outcomes and local workstream areas. The CYPP Co-ordinator explained that evidence and data from the workstreams had informed the development of the tendering process for the commissioning of the full Families First programme to deliver the broader Flintshire Families First Plan and commissioned projects.

During discussion the CYPP Co-ordinator responded to the concerns and observations made by Councillor P.G. Heesom around co-ordination and collaborative working concerning the Families First Programme and the Children and Young Peoples Partnership. Councillor H.G. Roberts commented on the difficulties experienced in practice through collaborative working. The CYPP Co-ordinator commented that Flintshire had worked closely with Wrexham and Denbighshire Authorities to share good practice and the results of collaborative working had been positive.

Councillor H.J. McGuill asked if links had been established with the Housing service. The CYPP Co-ordinator explained that there had been a number of referrals from Housing. Councillor McGuill also asked what support was provided for families which experienced very difficult and unsettled lifestyles.

The Chairman asked how the Children and Young Peoples Partnership fed into the Health Social and Well-being Care Partnership. The CYPP Co-ordinator advised that the Health Social Care and Well Being Partnership had created a shared agenda.

Councillor I.B. Roberts queried how local communities were supported when intervention with families and young people had not been successful and communities suffered disruption as a result. In his response the Director of Community Services referred to a number of approaches which could be taken to resolve the issues alluded to. He also commented on the close links established between Housing services and Families First and the policies in place to address problems caused by anti-social behaviour.

Councillor C.A. Thomas raised further questions concerning funding, access to information and services, awareness raising, consistency, and play provision. The CYPP Co-ordinator responded to the matters raised and explained that funding had been provided by the Welsh Government for 18 months and further funding for the next three years was expected.

The Head of Children's Services referred to the Integrated Family Support Services Team which operated across Wrexham and Flintshire. She outlined the remit of the Team and explained that it was only able to work with substance misuse families due to the fiscal position.

It was agreed that the CYPP Co-ordinator would provide members with contact numbers for the Families First service.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received;

- (b) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to include how challenges can and have been overcome and the impact on receiving communities; and
- (c) That the CYPP Co-ordinator would provide members with a contact number for the Families First service.

5. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Councillor I.B. Roberts proposed that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee so that the Learning Advisor for Children Looked After could be present. The proposal was seconded and when put to the vote became the resolution of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

6. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.50 pm)

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Chairman